Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Commission Meeting (FY 2012)
June 12, 2012

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cantu called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 8:00 a.m. on June 12, 2012, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building at 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman
James H. Scott, Secretary
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Member
Daniel P. Moran, Member
J.K. "Jake" Ellzey, Member

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Commissioner McLeon gave the opening prayer. Commissioner Ellzey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Commissioner Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag.

Chairman Cantu welcomed visitors to the meeting.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Election of Vice Chairman and Secretary of Commission

Nomination was made on election of Vice Chairman of the Commission.

MOTION: To elect Commissioner James H. Scott, as Vice Chairman.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Nomination was made on election of Secretary of the Commission.

MOTION: To elect Commissioner Richard McLeon, as Secretary.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Commission Travel Policy

The Commissioners reviewed the Commission Travel Policy that was previously provided, including a revision provided in a handout. After discussion of changes, Chairman Cantu entertained a motion to adopt the travel policy as distributed, effective today.

MOTION: Approve the Commission Travel policy as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

V. Report, Presentation and/or Action on Agency Strategic Plan

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a brief review of the agency Strategic Plan. After discussion of minor revisions Chairman Cantu requested a motion to allow staff to incorporate changes as discussed and approve draft plan.

MOTION: Approve draft plan with administrative changes.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding procedures, rules and solicitation for Fund for Veterans' Assistance grants

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided an update on the agency's current procedures. Sarah Tillman, Interim Director for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented the proposed changes to the grant procedures. Brigadier General Thomas G. Smith (retired), Chair of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee,

presented his recommendations to the grant procedures. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to an additional revision by lowering the minimum grant request from $10,000 to $5,000. Based upon the recommendations and discussions, Chairman Cantu asked for a motion to approve the changes to the grant procedures, as discussed.

MOTION: Approve grant procedures as amended.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion of Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting

A Legislative Appropriations Request Workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building.

Chairman Cantu also reminded the Commission of the Fourth Quarterly Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2012, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building.

XV. Adjournment

The Commissioners extended their gratitude to General Smith and the members of the FVA Advisory Committee and to TVC Staff for all their dedication and support. Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
Special Commission Meeting
FY 2012 – June 12, 2012
8:00 a.m. SFA Bldg. -- Room 170

Speakers & Visitors

Emily Amps
Senator Jose Rodriguez's Office

Chelsea Buccholtz
Governor's Advisor
Office of the Governor

Carmen Cernosek
Office of the Lt. Governor

Thomas G. Smith
Chair, Fund for Veterans' Assistance
Advisory Committee

Ken Wallingford
Veterans Liaison
Texas Veterans Land Board