



TEXAS VETERANS
COMMISSION

MINUTES

of the

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

VETERANS COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 25, 2021

Texas Veterans Commission

Microsoft TEAMS

1-(512)-593-2908

Access Code # 205 145 254

10:30 a.m.

A meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee was held via Microsoft TEAMS at 1-(512)-593-2908 access code #205 145 254 at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Ted Oats at 10:30 a.m., Monday, January 25, 2021 and the following people were in attendance.

Committee Members in Attendance via Microsoft TEAMS

Laura Clark Melissa Castillo

Al Dos Santos Spencer Kimball

Ruben Gonzales Ted Oats

Michael Hernandez

Committee Members attending by Phone:

None

Committee Members not in Attendance

Leo Gonzalez Richard Sanchez

Public attending in person:

none

Public attending by Phone:

Laura Koerner – Chairwoman, Texas Veterans Commission

Juan De La Cerda Frederick Jones

Linda Hargrove Paul Baker

Willie Andino Joseph Rivera

Stanley Victrum Kristen Errington

Luis Martinez III Troy Crosby
Tami King Kelly Haese
David Libby Damien Crawley
Ken Kunkel Wellona Robertson
Tom Ornberg Carl Dwyer
Cassie Gibson Jeff Gottlob
David Garza Domineck Lavette
Margo Foley James Henderson
Lavette Domineck Tomika Nowlin
Valirie Nash Charles Van Etten
Salvador Castillo Donald Glover
Ed Hernandez Tom Ornberg

Texas Veterans Commission Staff in Attendance


Thomas Paladino - Executive Director
Charles Cato – Director of Program Operations
Wes Bryant – Claims Director
Gary Ivy – Northwest District Manager

Shawn Deabay- Deputy Executive Director
John Goodell – General Counsel
Laura Bivens - VCSO Liaison

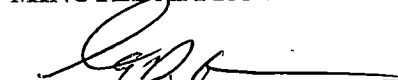
- I. Call to Order. Ted Oats called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
- II. No public comments.
- III. TVC Chairwoman Laura Koerner thanked the VCSO Advisory Committee for the outstanding job and thanked the VCSOs for an outstanding job and continued support to TVC.
Executive Director Thomas Palladino spoke about the excellence awards with the VCSO ranks. He expressed his gratitude for an outstanding job on helping veterans/dependents and communication with TVC.
- IV. Ted Oats introduced new Advisory Committee member, Michael Hernandez.
- V. Melissa Castillo nominated herself and Laura Clark nominated Spencer Kimball for Chair. By a vote of 5 to 1 Spencer Kimball won the nomination as Chair.
Laura Clark nominated Melissa Castillo as Vice Chair. By a vote of 6 Melissa Castillo was voted as Vice Chair.
- VI. Wes Bryant introduced John Goodell, new General Counsel for Texas Veterans Commission. John Goodell went over a Quorum is made up of at least 5 people on the Committee.
New Committee members must complete training within 90 days of being on the Committee.
If a subject is not on the meeting it can be added 7 days (5 business days) prior to the meeting.
Discussed the legal process and how each item is to be completed.
- VII. The minutes from November 02, 2021. were approved by Laura Clark and seconded by Al Dos Santos.

- VIII. Thomas Palladino informed everyone that TVC is working with the VCSO Association (VCSOAT) and he had a meeting with the President of VCSOAT, Salvador Castillo and Vice President Melissa Castillo to ensure the Association of any information TVC receives it will be distributed to all VCSO's updated regarding legislation or Government Relations. He stated that anything that will increase the services or support VCSO's "we are doing it."
- IX. Wes Bryant announced Ruben Villarreal, Operations Manager and announced the new IT/CMS Administrator/Special Project Coordinator will be Lee Bowman beginning February 01, 2021.
Wes Bryant reminded everyone that the next monthly training for VCSO's will be February 17, 2021 at 2:00pm. Via Microsoft Teams. The discussion for that training will be Education/G.I.Bill.
- X. Salvador Castillo reiterated the meeting with Thomas Palladino and TVC staff was a success. He stated, "we are all working well together."
- XI. Laura Clark stated that everyone can obtain their required training hours online within the Learning Management System (LMS) provided by TVC free of charge to all VCSO's.
Al Dos Santos stated "TVC is doing a great job with the online training and would prefer in person training but since it is not possible at this time TVC is doing well with what we have to work with now." Al also reminded everyone of the upcoming trainings and deadlines. He requested a flyer be sent out referring to free training. Laura Bivens ensured the email was sent to all VCSO's.
- XII. No updates from Communication subcommittee.
- XIII. Ted Oats stated they have not been able to provide mentoring due to COVID.
- XIV. Laura Clark asked if the Open Meetings Act (OMA) had been discussed and what was the outcome. Ted Oats stated that he voiced his concern at the last Commissioners Meeting. Ted stated he is wanting to talk to the new General Counsel about the OMA.
Laura Bivens requested information about the OMA from the past General Counsel, Madeleine Connor, and received a response on September 19, 2020 and the information was forwarded to Ted Oats. Today, Laura Bivens distributed the email to all VCSO's.
Melissa Castillo stated the DAV has meeting for virtual board hearings.
Laura Clark stated that the Wise County Office has completed several BVA hearings with no issues.
- XV. No discussion of agenda items for the next committee meeting.
- XVI. Chair did not have anything to report. - *see comments*
- XVII. Discussion to set date, time, and location of the next Committee meeting.
Date and time are pending due to not having the exact date of the Commissioners Meeting date.
- XVIII. Meeting adjourned at 11:99 a.m. by AL Dos Santos and Laura Clark second the motion.

MINUTES DRAFTED BY:


 Laura Bivens
 Texas Veterans Commission
 VCSO Liaison

MINUTES APPROVED BY:


 Ted Oats
 Hunt County
 Chairperson

Laura,

I guess the information I shared about pensions under my report did not meet the OMA guidelines. If I was ok to make the comments, I would like them added.

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