

# Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting (FY 2018)

December 13, 2017

## I. Call to order.

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the Special Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2017 at John H. Reagan State Office Building, Room 120, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman  
Richard A. McLeon IV, Vice Chairman  
Dan Moran, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag was led by Commissioner Moran. Vice Chairman Richard McLeon led the opening Prayer.

**MOTION:** Excuse Secretary Jake Ellzey and Commissioner Kevin Barber from attending the Special Commission Meeting.

**MADE BY:** Vice Chairman Richard McLeon

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Dan Moran

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

## II. Public Comment.

No public comment was received.

## III. Executive Session.

Executive Session started at 09:10 am

Executive Session ends at 9:50 am

## IV. Discuss and take possible action on the items considered in Executive Session.

None.

V. **Report, presentation, and/or action on investigation findings regarding Fund for Veterans' Assistance complaint.**

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director, summarized the findings of each of the allegations and covered the evidence of findings behind each allegation. Based on the allegations in the complaint, Mr. Montemayor and Ms. Madeleine Connor, General Counsel developed a list of relevant questions, which were asked of all those interviewed, reviewed the following materials, and interviewed the following persons. It is the finding of this investigation that the formation of the FV AAC subcommittee did not violate the Open Meetings Act; however, the FV AAC subcommittee did violate the Act in one regard, in that it discussed and reported on items that were not listed on the public agenda during the August 8, 2017, FVAAC meeting. Importantly, this single violation did not result in any action taken by the Commission at its September 2017, meeting. It is recommended that the FV AAC, at its next open meeting on January 29-30, 2018, acknowledge its error and retract any and all recommendations made beyond the scope of the subcommittee's charge during the August 8, 2017, meeting.

Further, there was no evidence that the subcommittee ever acted as a quorum, which was never alleged by Complainant in any event.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, the investigation found that there was no additional violation of the Open Meetings Act regarding the composition or the conduct of the subcommittee.

**MOTION:** Approve the recommendation on investigation findings regarding Fund for Veterans' Assistance complaint and that a copy of this record submitted to the Agency.

**MADE BY:** Vice Chairman Richard McLeon

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Dan Moran

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Report, presentation, and/or action regarding administrative rules, policies and procedures for Advisory Committees.**

Chip Osborne, Director of Resource Management, briefed the Commission on the recommendations for the Advisory Committees.

- Membership; Members should serve 1 - Term for 4 years of service.
- Subcommittees; No, advisory committees are required to inform the Commission that a Subcommittee has been fanned and state their task and purpose.
- Should the advisory committees continue to present an oral report or written report to the commission. No, the advisory committee should submit quarterly written reports to the Commission. Advisory Committees shall present an Annual Report focused on major achievements or critical issues with recommended solutions for Commission's decision.

- Should the committees be limited to meeting on a quarterly basis? Yes, since we now reimburse for travel, they should only meet once a quarter. However, they should have a method to request a special meeting when required by their advisory Chair.

**MOTION:** Approve the recommendation on administrative rules, policies and procedures for Advisory Committees. And draft rules within 45 days of this meeting and have them presented on February Commission Meeting.

**MADE BY:** Vice Chairman Richard McLeon

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Dan Moran

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Adjournment.**

Chairman Cantu asked each Commissioner for closing statements. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for all their support and hard work in serving our Texas Veterans.

**MOTION:** Adjourn.

**MADE BY:** Vice Chairman Richard McLeon

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Dan Moran

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:

  
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Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

2/7/2018

**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**

Special Commission Meeting

FY 2018 – December 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. – John H. Reagan State Office Building, Room 120, Austin, Texas 78701.

Speakers and Visitors

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NONE

