

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL, 1212 AVENUE M, HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 16, 2019, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Members present: Bill Butler, Leigh-Anne Byrd Stewart, Mike Christian, Liesa Hackett, Robert Tucker, Leta Reiner

Members absent: Terry Batson, Fernando Chavez, Tom Fordyce, Shane Loosier, John McManners, Wayne Keen, Mark Robinson

Guests present: Captain Cody Holmes (SHSU ROTC), Charlotte Oleinik (HEARTS Museum), Terry Dartez, Daniel Ranger,

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Member Leigh-Anne Byrd Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.**

**2. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**The Board met to discuss, hear presentations and/or reports and potentially take action on agenda items.**

**a. Approve minutes of last meeting** - The April 2019 minutes were reviewed with recommended corrections to attendance.

**b. Hear reports from committee members –**

Mike Christian reported the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post is helping a local veteran improve his house which needs extensive repairs and they are helping him get to medical appointments. Leta Reiner said she is visiting sponsors in community asking for donations to help with travel for the Army 10-miler marathon in DC in October and forms are available now to register.

Liesa Hackett reported the Veterans Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of the month at H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum, has an increase in attendance and has veteran-based vendors along with a DAV representative present. While there are different organizations helping sponsor food, she said they do need more sponsors and invited the board to attend and asked for community support to help set up/clean up and serve breakfast.

Leigh-Anne Byrd Stewart said the American Legion Sons & Riders *Chili Cook-off* was held despite the weather. She added she will no longer be the American Legion's Ladies' Auxiliary President, but still actively involved. In July, the American Legion will have the *Commanders & Presidents Ball* to present awards to officers/members. She reminded the board to look for the VFW groups handing out *Poppies for Veterans* (and accepting donations) on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at Huntsville Kroger's and other stores nationwide.

**c. Future items, projects, and proposals.** – None.

**d. Items of Community Interest –**

CPT Cody Holmes, Senior Assistant Professor of Military Science at SHSU ROTC, provided updates on ROTC program. He informed the board now that the semester is over, the junior level members are gone to Combined Training in Kentucky. Over the summer there will be repairs to their SHSU ROTC building which will mean temporary relocation to Templeton building, then to Arts building, and then back to their original building.

Charlotte Oleinik congratulated Liesa Hackett on her appointment to the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum board. Charlotte added moving forward, the museum will sponsor ROTC ceremonies at the Veterans Conference Center (aka storm shelter). She also invited board members to the *Memorial Day ceremony* May 27<sup>th</sup> with General Richard Mills and the *D-Day program* June 6<sup>th</sup>. Congressman Brady will also attend Memorial Day and specifically asked for the Conroe High JROTC to attend as well.

Guest Daniel Ranger introduced himself. He is from Alvin, Tx and served from 84-86. He has extensive weather damage to his house so he, his wife and dogs have been staying at the state park for over 3 weeks. He is asking for resources and assistance for a hotel for a few days for his ill wife. Members took his info and will speak to him after the meeting to provide information.

Guest Terry Dartez introduced himself. He is retired Air Force and wanted to see what the Advisory Board does. He said he is not happy with Veterans Affairs (VA). Charlotte invited him to H.E.A.R.T.S. to visit with VA member that comes once a week. He mentioned the City of Katy is bulldozing a friend's house and wondering about resources for this friend. The board offered to address those questions after the meeting.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Tracie Demura, Deputy City Secretary