

**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 JUNE 20, 2019, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Members present: Leigh-Anne Byrd Stewart, Fernando Chavez, Mike Christian, Liesa Hackett, Wayne Keen, Shane Loosier, John McManners, Robert Tucker  
Members absent: Bill Butler, Terry Batson, Tom Fordyce, Mark Robinson, Leta Reiner  
Guests present: Lt. Colonel Joe Contreras, Geanie McManners

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – Wayne Keen 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 and May 2019 minutes were approved without objection.

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

Chairman Wayne Keen spoke about his and Fernando Chavez’ interviews regarding Huntsville being a standout community, ranked #10 for veteran’s affairs in a state-wide publication.

Liesa Hackett reported the Veterans Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of the month at H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum, still needs sponsors and is having good attendance. Liesa added she has been visiting with hospice veterans to ensure they have their records in hand before they need them. She invited the board members to H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum 4<sup>th</sup> of July event from 10 am – 5 pm.

Leigh-Anne Byrd Stewart gave an update on the American Legion’s fundraiser *Poppies for Veterans*. It was a big success, with city employee Stacy Lawler’s 8-year-old daughter participating and taking in great donations. Leigh-Anne invited everyone to come to the Legion for July 4<sup>th</sup> events. She added that she will be attending a department convention in Irving in July.

Fernando Chavez announced that he Veterans Administration’s Houston Regional Executive Director (Robert Worley) will be visiting the VA Resource Center office at SHSU on June 21 to discuss bridging the gap with SHSU, VA, and the community. He added that summer graduation will be held July 18<sup>th</sup> at the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum at 6:30 p.m.

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

**d. Items of Community Interest** – SHSU Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. Joe Contreras said SHSU is currently holding freshman orientations to include ROTC members, with the program up featuring almost 85 participants. He is hoping to increase to 100 participants in the future.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

**Tracie Demura, Deputy City Secretary**