



Veterans Advisory Committee Minutes

April 16, 2026, 10 AM
Thorman Room City 3 & Live Streamed
via City's website:
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>
Television on City 15
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

MINUTES

Members Present

Ron Jackson
Ron Baker
George Elsaesser
Gina Lewis
Melissa Harcrow
Ruben Ramirez
Donald Brown

1. Roll Call

Members Absent: Donna Juarez.

A quorum was established after additional members arrived.

2. Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of: March 19, 2026

Motion: Approve March 19, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion made by: Ruben Ramirez.

Seconded by: Ron Baker.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. Citizen Comment Period

No citizen comments were provided.

No action was taken.

4. El Paso VA Health Care System Update

Presenter: Amin Enriquez, El Paso VA Health Care System.

The Committee received an informational update regarding:

Veteran town halls

Community care processes and authorizations

Dental eligibility and services

Pharmacy updates and medication access

Upcoming VA events

Food distribution programs

Youth volunteer opportunities

Facility construction and expansion projects

Mental health staffing concerns

No action was taken.

5. El Paso County Update

Presenter: Antoinette Hunt, El Paso County Veteran Service Officer.

Luther Jones – Veterans Program Coordinator

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The Committee received an informational update regarding:
Fabens Veterans Memorial ribbon cutting and resource fair
Month of the Military Child event
County participation in Honor Flight recognition
Upcoming claims clinic events
Texas Veterans Commission advocacy efforts
Upcoming Veterans Advisory Board activities
No action was taken.

6. Discussion: Community Update – AccentCare

Presenter: Erica Palacios, AccentCare.

The Committee received an informational presentation regarding caregiver services, respite care, transportation assistance, veteran support resources, and partnerships with community organizations supporting veterans and families.
No action was taken.

7. Discussion and Action: Vote to Excuse Absence of Ruben Ramirez from March VAC Meeting

Motion: Excuse absence for Ruben Ramirez.

Motion made by: Ron Baker.

Seconded by: Donald Brown.

Vote: Motion carried by voice vote.

8. Discussion and Action: Vote to Excuse Absence of Donald Brown from March VAC Meeting

Motion: Excuse absence for Donald Brown.

Motion made by: Ron Baker.

Seconded by: Melissa Harcrow.

Vote: Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion: Monthly Update from VAC Subcommittees

a. Employment Subcommittee

Update provided regarding:

Strategic planning efforts

Veteran discount initiative

Veteran business listings

Legislative priorities

Workforce licensing concerns

Childcare issues affecting military families

b. Homelessness Subcommittee

Discussion included:

Housing assistance concerns

Program reductions affecting veterans

Need to monitor homelessness resources

c. Mental Health Subcommittee

Update provided regarding:

Veteran resource webpage improvements

Mental health resource validation efforts

No action was taken.



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10. Discussion and Action: Nominate and Elect Chair for Veteran Homelessness Subcommittee

Motion: Elect George Elsaesser as Chair of the Homelessness Subcommittee.

Motion made by: Ron Baker.

Seconded by: Melissa Harcrow.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. City of El Paso Veteran and Military Affairs Update

Presenter: Luther Jones, Veterans Program Coordinator.

The Committee received updates regarding:

Veteran & Military Affairs Liaison position opening

Rio Grande Honor Flight departure and return

Our Community Salutes event

Veteran discount and veteran-owned business initiative

Veteran Needs Assessment progress

Community partnerships and outreach efforts

No action was taken.

12. Announcements: Limited to Veteran and Military Events Pertinent to the El Paso Region

Announcements included:

Veterans Breakfast Club event

Women Veterans enrollment initiative

Women Veterans Day planning efforts

Gold Star Family Memorial fundraiser

Community veteran events and outreach opportunities

No action was taken.

13. Discussion on Proposed Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The Committee discussed adding Donald Brown back to the Homelessness Subcommittee membership.

The Committee was informed this would be added as a future discussion/action item.

No action was taken.

14. Next VAC Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2026 — 10:00 AM

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ron Baker

Second: Ruben Ramirez

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned.

Approved By:
