Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Commission Meeting (FY 2012)
July 10, 2012

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cantu called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 2:00 p.m. on July 10, 2012, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building at 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman
James H. Scott, Vice Chairman
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Secretary
Daniel P. Moran, Member
J.K. "Jake" Ellzey, Member

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Commissioner McLeon gave the opening prayer. Commissioner Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Commissioner Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag.

Chairman Cantu welcomed visitors to the meeting and introduced the new Director of Finance for TVC – Chip Osborne.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes from May 30, 2012 Third Quarterly Meeting

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION:	Approve the minutes of the Third Quarterly Meeting held on May 30, 2012, as presented.
MADE BY:	Commissioner McLeon
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2012 Special Meeting

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 12, 2012, as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding request to exceed the Full-Time-Equivalent Employee (FTE) limitation for the Agency

The Commissioners reviewed the Memorandum regarding the Request to Exceed Limitation on State Employment Levels that was previously provided. After discussion, Chairman Cantu asked for approval based on Mr. Palladino's recommendation, of the Request, as presented.

MOTION: Approve the Request to Exceed Limitation on State Employment Levels as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

V. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Legislative Appropriations Request

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, called upon each Director to explain their proposed exceptional item(s) for the Legislative Appropriations Request of the Texas Veterans Commission. Each Director provided an overview and justification for each item. Mr. Palladino recommended the following exceptional items be approved by the Commission:

Claims – Expansion of Claims Services
Employment – State Employment Initiative
Central – Online Training Initiative (Blackboard)

FVA – Housing4TexasHeroes
Outreach – Texas Veterans Entrepreneur Program
Central – Centralized Accounting and Payroll/Personnel System

Based on Mr. Palladino's recommendation, Chairman Cantu called for a motion to approve the draft plan of the six exception items.

MOTION:	Approve the LAR proposed exceptional items.
MADE BY:	Commissioner Scott
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner Ellzey
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion of Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting

Chairman Cantu also reminded the Commission of the Fourth Quarterly Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2012, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building to begin at 3:00 p.m.

VII. Executive Session

Chairman Cantu adjourned into Executive Session at 3:03 p.m.

Chairman Cantu reconvened in Open Meeting at 3:21 p.m.

VIII. Discuss and take Possible Action on the Items considered in Executive Session

Chairman Cantu reported there was no action taken in Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Scott noted the outstanding letter sent by Mr. Palladino to local newspapers regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance lottery ticket, and requested that the letter be included as part of the minutes. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to TVC Staff for all their hard work with the LAR and their dedication and support. Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
Special Commission Meeting
FY 2012 – July 10, 2012
2:00 p.m. SFA Bldg. -- Room 170

Speakers & Visitors

Chelsea Buccholtz
Governor's Advisor
Office of the Governor

Bill Wilson
Director
Veterans Affairs & Military Installations Committee
Senator Van de Putte's Office

ELISEO "AL" CANTU, JR.
Major, US Army (Retired)
Chairman

JAMES H. SCOTT
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Vice Chairman

THE REV. RICHARD A. McLEON, IV
US Army Veteran
Secretary

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

DANIEL P. MORAN
Captain, USMC (Retired)
Member

J.K. "JAKE" ELLZEY
Commander, US Navy (Retired)
Member

THOMAS P. PALLADINO
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Executive Director

July 4, 2012

Dear fellow Texans:

This 4th of July, we once again celebrate our freedom as a nation. In 1776, our forefathers wrote these simple words and declared our independence to form the United States of America:

"All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Our military men and women continue to protect these freedoms, and we, as Texans, need to show our support for their sacrifices today and every day.

At the Texas Veterans Commission, the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) awards grants to non-profit and local government organizations that provide direct services to Texas Veterans and their families.

Funding for FVA is made possible by you. By purchasing a *Veterans Cash* scratch-off lottery ticket or donating on your vehicle registration, you can celebrate our freedom and honor those who have courageously served our country.

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. PALLADINO
Executive Director

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