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Chairwoman

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US Army Veteran
Vice Chair

KEVIN BARBER
US Army Veteran
Secretary



MIKE P. HERNANDEZ
Corporal, US Marine Corps (Retired)
Member

CHUCK WRIGHT
US Marine Corps Veteran
Member

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

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Fund For Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee (FVAAC) Welcome & Training Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., George H.W. Bush Building
1801 Congress Ave, Conference Room 14.102, Austin, TX, 78701
Zoom Link: [FVAAC Welcome and Training Meeting](#)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.

a. The meeting was called to order by Peter Rispoli, Chair, at 10:04 a.m., on February 12, 2025, at the George H.W. Bush Building, 1801 Congress Ave., Suite 14.102, Austin, TX 78701.

b. Roll call of Committee members.

1. Peter Rispoli (Chair), "here."
2. John Perez, "here."
3. James "Dusty" Johnston, "here."
4. Richard Delgado, Jr., "here."
5. Omar Williams, "here."
6. Mike Griffin (NEW), "here."
7. Christian Price (NEW), not present (present at 10:42 a.m.)
8. Jim Brennan (NEW), "here."
9. Cheryl "Tori" Seals, "here."

c. Peter Rispoli, Chair, declared, "With 8 members present during roll call, a quorum has been established (5 or more establishes a quorum)." John Perez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag, and J. Dusty Johnston led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

II. Introduction of new committee members.

a. Chair Rispoli asked the new committee members to introduce themselves.

b. Chair Rispoli, asked the returning committee members to introduce themselves.

III. Approve minutes of the April 10, 2024, FVAAC Recommendation Meeting.

Richard Delgado, Jr. motioned to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2024, FVA Advisory Committee Recommendation meeting. Omar Williams seconded the motion. No discussion.

MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

IV. Discussion and/or action on recommendations to the Commission for FVA 2024-2025 grant applications. Order of discussion will be decided by the Committee.

- a. The Vice Chair plays an important role in supporting the committee's leadership. This individual will shadow the Chair, step in when the Chair is absent, and is expected to consider nominating themselves for Chair when their term is up or in the current Chair's term concludes.
- b. Chair Rispoli opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Richard Delgado, Jr., nominated himself. No other nominations were heard.
- c. Chair Rispoli motioned to elect Richard Delgado, Jr. as FVAAC Vice Chair. Jim Brennan seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, 0 nays.**

V. General Counsel presentation of policies and statutes regarding conflicts of interest, non-disclosure, Public Information and Open Meetings Acts.

- a. Chair Rispoli introduced the TVC General Counsel, Kirstin Erickson and yielded the floor to her for this training.
- b. Committee Member Christian Price arrived at 10:42a.m.
- c. TVC Executive Director, Mr. Palladino, introduced himself and welcomed the committee. He reiterated the importance of their role and expressed appreciation for their service.
- d. General Counsel Erickson yielded the floor back to Chair Rispoli.
- e. Chair Rispoli asked everyone to take a break. Training stopped at 11:12 a.m. and resumed at 11:24 a.m.

VI. Presentation and discussion of the 2025-2026 Request for Applications.

- a. Chair Rispoli introduced FVA Director Elaine Zavala and yielded the floor to her so she could provide an overview of the current Request for Applications pertaining to the next grant cycle.
- b. The Texas Veterans Commission, through the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA), awards reimbursement grants to organizations that provide direct services to Texas veterans and their dependents. These grants support charitable organizations (nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations), local government agencies (city and county), and veteran service organizations (i.e., VFW's, American Legions, and similar groups).
- c. The role of the advisory committee is to carefully review and evaluate applications to determine which organizations should receive funding. Your recommendations help ensure that the most impactful and sustainable programs receive support. These recommendation decisions are based on the following key goals:
 1. Support and resources where veterans live – Improve quality of life and community integration.
 2. Responsiveness – Address both acute and long-term needs of veterans and their families.
 3. Measurable impact – Fund programs with clear, positive outcomes.
 4. Statewide availability – Ensure services are accessible across Texas.
 5. Diversity of services – Support a range of programs in different geographic regions.

6. Alignment with Needs Assessment – Fund projects that meet identified gaps and Commission-approved program goals.

d. The Texas Veterans Commission administers the FVA to support programs that provide direct services to Texas veterans. This year, we received 229 applications requesting approximately \$62 million in funding. The application period opened on September 12, 2024, and closed on November 12, 2024.

e. Grant programs under review:

1. General Assistance – Broad support for veteran services.
2. Housing for Texas Heroes – Housing assistance and home modification.
3. Veterans Mental Health – Counseling, peer support, and service dog pilot program.
4. Veterans Treatment Court – Specialized support for veterans involved in the justice system.
5. Veteran County Service Office (VCSO) – Services that may align with any program except Veterans Treatment court.

VII. Presentation of the 2025-2026 grant application materials to be provided to FVAAC members.

a. Director Zavala presented to committee members the location of the 2025-2026 Request for Applications along with the 2025-2026 Grant Program Requirements. Additionally, she provided the location of the Grants Portal (Fluxx) login. These items are in the TVC website on the Grants page at <https://tvc.texas.gov/grants/grantseekers/>.

b. Director Zavala yielded back to Chair Rispoli.

VIII. Presentation of the electronic grants management system – Fluxx.

a. Chair Rispoli introduced FVA Operations Manager Ervey Leos, Jr., and yielded the floor to him so he could provide training on the Fluxx system, login procedures, and the application review process.

b. Manager Leos yielded the floor back to Chair Rispoli.

IX. Inform committee members about the process and discuss hotel accommodations for the Presentation Meeting on March 4-5, 2025.

a. Chair Rispoli yielded the floor to Director Zavala to discuss the Presentation Meeting.

b. Director Zavala explained the purpose of the voluntary Presentation Meeting – provides an opportunity for the grant applicant to describe their grant project, their application, and their requested budget either in person or virtually to the committee prior to the Recommendation Meeting. She reminded the committee that whether an applicant chooses to present during this meeting does not impact their application on being recommended to the Commission for a grant award.

c. Director Zavala yielded back to Chair Rispoli.

X. Inform committee members about the process and discuss hotel accommodations for the Recommendation Meeting on April 16, 2025.

- a. Chair Rispoli yielded the floor to Director Zavala to discuss the Recommendation Meeting.
- b. Director Zavala explained the purpose of the Recommendation Meeting – committee members will vote on all grant applications to be recommended or not recommended to the Commission.
- c. The Advisory Committee does not consider the amount of funding available.
- d. Director Zavala yielded the floor back to Chair Rispoli.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Rispoli requested a motion to adjourn, Richard Delgado, Jr., motioned, and Omar Williams seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 9 yeas and 0 nays.**



Chair, Peter Rispoli

3/4/25

Date