

Veterans Commission Update

2026 Commission
accomplishments and
next-year priorities
August 17, 2026



Quality Community for a Lifetime





Our Mission

1. Advise City Council on matters related to the veteran community.
2. Foster greater understanding of the veteran community.
3. Increase visibility of veterans and veterans' issues.
4. Increase community engagement by veterans.
5. Inform the veterans community of available services, programs, and resources.
6. Advocate for issues of importance to veterans.
7. Help plan the City's annual Memorial Day Parade.





Active Commission Members

- **Regular members**
- Harvest B. Thomas III | Tim S. Skolyak
- Edward S. Bruns | Virginia Luna
- Robert S. Hogg | Tramaine Mitchell
- Gustavo J. Perez | Scott A. Hefty
- Travis Watkins
- **Alternate member** - Inez Allen
- **Councilmembers** - Craig Kim | Rocky Teter





Four goals guided our year

1. Recruitment - build a full volunteer roster and dependable quorum.
2. Partnerships - connect with veteran organizations and JROTC.
3. Visibility - show up consistently at civic events and ceremonies.
4. Stewardship - use the budget to expand awareness and service.





Recruitment is Now a Strength

- When this goal began, the commission often struggled to make quorum. Today, the volunteer roster is full improving continuity, expanding perspectives, and giving the board the capacity to follow through.

Next:

- Member engagement -now that the Commission is fully staffed, our focus will shift from recruitment to meaningful participation. We will connect members with community organizations, local boards, veteran groups, and public events to better understand veterans' needs and identify opportunities to serve.
- Member ownership -encourage each commissioner to take an active role in partnerships, events, outreach, or specific initiatives.
- Community listening -create more opportunities for commissioners to hear directly from veterans and their families.
- Follow-through -turn the needs and opportunities identified through outreach into practical projects, referrals, partnerships, and recommendations to City Council.

Partnerships Are Extending Our Reach

- **VFW** -a commissioner now brings a direct connection to the organization.
- **American Legion** - partnership development is underway.
- **JROTC** -the commission has partnered on several hosted and community events.
- **Why it matters** -these relationships connect the commission with established networks and new generations of service.





We Show Up Year-Round

- Veterans Day - held the annual flag raising and collaborated with Eagle Point for lunch and activity.
- Memorial Day - supported planning, the pre-parade program, and speech judging.
- Music in the Park - maintained a presence at every event.
- Juneteenth – participated in City event.
- Toys for Tots and Clothing Drive – donated Toys to Daniel Chappie James Jr Military Lodge #27.
- Board partnerships - whenever possible support and attend events hosted by other boards and commissions.
- Annual VFW breakfast - create a welcoming opportunity for veterans, their families, and allies to meet commissioners, share their experiences, and help us identify community needs and opportunities to serve.



The Budget Supports Visible Service

- Outreach materials help commissioners start conversations at community events.
- A planned VFW fundraiser and the annual Toys for Tots contribution create additional opportunities to serve and raise awareness.

Short Term Goals				
Category	Budget	Actuals	% Spent	Notes
Marketing + Outreach	\$4,000.00	\$-	0%	To help sponsor Veteran's events
Toys for Tots Donation	\$1,500.00	\$-	0%	To buy toys for <u>kids</u> toy drive
Short Term Goal 3		\$-	#DIV/0!	
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
Total	\$5,500.00	\$-	0%	
Long Term Goals				
Category	Budget	Actuals	% Spent	Notes
Long Term Goal 1		\$-	#DIV/0!	
Long Term Goal 2		\$-	#DIV/0!	
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
Total	\$-	\$-	#DIV/0!	
Incidentals				
Category	Budget	Actuals	% Spent	Notes
New Polos for Members	\$1,000.00	\$620.00	62%	
Planning Meetings Budget	\$1,000.00	\$-	0%	expenses for Veterans Retreat/Planning Meetings
Swag	\$5,000.00	\$3,530.00	71%	for stuff to hand out at concerts in the park & other events
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
		\$-	#DIV/0!	
Total	\$7,000.00	\$4,150.00	59%	

Budget \$12,500	
Short Term Goals	\$5,500.00
Long Term Goals	\$-
Incidentals	\$7,000.00
Total	\$12,500.00

Actuals	
Short Term Goals	\$-
Long Term Goals	\$-
Incidentals	\$4,150.00
Total	\$4,150.00



Next Year: Deepen the Impact

- Sustain full membership and reliable quorum.
- Formalize veteran-organization partnerships and expand JROTC collaboration.
- Maintain a year-round calendar of ceremonies, service, and resource outreach.
- Connect each budget decision to a clear community benefit.



Stronger Connections Greater service.

Questions and Discussion.