



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT: Chairperson Pete Palmer; Vice- Chair Denise Pulk; Commissioners Marie Monroe, Mike Ragole, and Joel Stempil

ABSENT: Commissioners Debbie Dominick and Steve Ziomek

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve May 5, 2021 Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2021 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RAGOLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSIDENTING VOTES.

3. Presentation and discussion – Arizona Coalition of Military Families

Kathy Gallowitz, Lt.Col.(Ret.), representing Arizona Coalition of Military Families, gave a presentation introducing the BeConnected Faith Network. She explained that the project focuses on encouraging faith communities to build veteran-focused ministries within their congregations. As part of her presentation, she talked about challenges faced by veterans and the importance of supporting veterans in finding meaning, purpose, and spirituality. She

explained that faith communities are unique in that they have specialized knowledge and tools to help veterans with spiritual and psychological wounds and fostering a sense of belonging. The group recently started VETConnect, which supplies support, encouragement, and friendship to veterans through biweekly meetings. Additional information can be found at www.Beconnectedaz.org, Arizonacoalition.org, Community@ArizonaCoalition.org, or at 1-866-4AZ-VETS.

Commissioners were invited to attend the public launch on June 9, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Quarterly meetings of the group will begin in September 2021.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Gallowitz explained that a faith community is described as an individual place of worship. A faith group could also include an association as long as they have the resources and knowledge to understand spiritual ways to promote healing and have sensitivities to struggles faced by families.

Commissioner Stempel invited Ms. Gallowitz to speak at the Scottsdale Korean War Veterans sometime in the fall. Commissioner Ragole thanked Ms. Gallowitz for being a member of Post 44.

4. Update, discussion and possible direction regarding the VAC Work Plan

Chair Palmer reviewed the progress the Veterans Advisory Commission has made on the work plan. Tasks he reviewed included the following:

- Advising City Council – it was noted that Scottsdale census data information should be available by September/October 2021
- Identifying veteran-owned businesses in Scottsdale – Commissioners were asked to share ideas on identifying veteran-owned businesses
- Educating the community on military efforts
- Identify and recommend programs and agencies – accomplishments include the veterans' page on the Scottsdale website; veteran-focused organizations presenting to the VAC; and the Cable 11 veteran-focused interviews

Chair Palmer noted that there could be an opportunity to participate in Scottsdale's anniversary celebration. Mr. Corsette said that there will be a celebration entitled "Legacy Quest" on the night of the City's 70th anniversary of incorporation, June 25, 2021. Joan Fudala will give a presentation on Scottsdale's history at Civic Center Library on June 23, 2021.

5. Commission members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items

- Discussion of summer meeting schedule

Commissioners discussed the summer meeting schedule. Commissioners were in consensus to recess meeting during July and August and returning to the regular meeting schedule on September 1, 2021.

Mr. Corsette noted that commissioners whose terms are expiring in October will be contacted by the City Clerk's office with information on how to apply for a second term.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR PULK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.