



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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 1, 2023

Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E Indian School Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Jackson; Commissioners Mark Ashley, Patrick Mazzarella, and Joe Stempel

ABSENT: Vice Chair Land Anderson and Commissioner Pete Palmer

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

GUESTS: Justin Layman

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

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

Members present as listed above.

2. Public Comment

3. Discussion and possible action to approve February 1, 2023 commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 1, 2023 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR JACKSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Updates regarding upcoming veterans' events in the community

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, reminded Commissioners that the dedication for the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2023, starting at 10:30 a.m. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band will start off the event and the ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. Joan Fudala will provide a history and background of the event, Mayor David Ortega will speak, and the names of each of the fallen being honored will be read. Representatives from Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and State of Arizona will each be given an opportunity to lay a wreath in honor of the fallen. In case of rainy weather, the event will be moved to City Hall. Channel 5 will do a report about the event on Friday, March 17th. Mr. Corsette noted that staff is in the process of arranging for the location to be renamed "Civic Center Memorial Lawn."

Scottsdale Thanking Vietnam Veterans event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at Scottsdale Civic Center, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. The event will be a social hour with live music and food, featuring Vietnam veterans who were identified through the Veterans project and will each speak to small groups about their experiences. Vietnam Veterans pins will be made available, but will not be presented as part of a ceremony. Mr. Corsette thanked Justin Layman for his assistance in planning the event.

Mr. Corsette mentioned that he will be contacting the groups who have held Memorial Day events at the Chaplain sculpture in the past, and suggest they come and see the new space so that they can adjust their event planning.

5. Discussion, updates and possible recommendations regarding the Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan

Discussion ensued regarding financial education for veterans. Mr. Corsette said that following the last meeting, he did some research, hoping to find a DOD-blessed financial literacy course. The Office of Financial Readiness suggested he contact Luke Air Force Base to see if they had a program. Commissioner Stempil spoke with the base PIO and is waiting for a return call regarding programs they may offer. Commissioner Mazzarella expressed concern about the presentation they received during the last meeting, opining that Mr. Goldstein was focused on sales and misrepresented himself as a fiduciary. Chair Jackson said that all military branches have an exit program that offers financial literacy classes to members who are being discharged. Commissioners and staff discussed options for connecting veterans with financial education, including contacting the Air Force Base's community care group and reaching out to Scottsdale Community College about offering a financial education class tailored to veterans.

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

Commissioner Ashley said that the Arizona Veterans Choir had their first meeting last night. The group is partnering with the ASU Office of Academic Veteran and Military Academic Expansion. The group is accepting applications for new members.

Future meeting agenda items include:

- Presentation from Colonel Dana Allmond, Director of Arizona Department of Veteran Services.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR JACKSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, 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 5:34 p.m.

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