



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

**Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Chairperson Pete Palmer; Vice-Chair Denise Pulk; Commissioners, Land Anderson, Mark Ashley, Deborah Dominick, Steven Jackson, and Joel Stempil

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. Welcome new Members

Chair Palmer welcomed new VAC members, Land Anderson, Mark Ashley, and Steven Jackson. Each Commissioner introduced themselves and gave a brief background of their experience and interest in the Commission.

Mr. Corsette introduced himself and reviewed his background and his role with the City of Scottsdale.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve November 3, 2021, Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2021 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER DOMINICK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR

PULK, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, DOMINICK, JACKSON, AND STEMPLIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt the calendar year 2022 meeting schedule

Mr. Corsette presented the proposed 2022 meeting schedule.

VICE-CHAIR PULK MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE. COMMISSIONER STEMPLIL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, DOMINICK, JACKSON, AND STEMPLIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and possible action to nominate commission chair and vice chair to be elected at the January 2022 meeting

Chair Palmer noted that nominations for officers can be made at any time prior to the January meeting. Final nominations and a vote are conducted during the first meeting of the calendar year.

CHAIR PALMER NOMINATED DENISE PULK TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

VICE-CHAIR PULK NOMINATED DEBBIE DOMINICK TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

6. Discussion of the draft 2021 Annual Report to be considered for adoption at the January 2022 meeting

Mr. Corsette noted that Commissioners received the draft 2021 Annual Report in advance of the meeting. Amendments can be suggested at any point prior to the January approval. Suggestions can be forwarded to Mr. Corsette or brought forth during the January meeting.

Vice-Chair Pulk requested that a note explaining that some work plan tasks were not completed during FY 2020/21 due to pandemic restrictions. Mr. Corsette noted that City boards and commissions have different roles, and most do not have the type of work plan that the VAC has created to address veterans' programs and opportunities.

7. Update on Veterans Administration programs and initiatives

Commissioner Dominick said that the Veterans Administration is continuing efforts to provide COVID vaccines and boosters and flu shots on a walk-in basis. She mentioned that those veterans who are not already enrolled can do so online at VA.gov.

She said that the caregiver support program is opening up to additional Arizona veterans. By October of 2022, the program will be open to all veterans.

Because outlying hospitals are having difficulty with capacity, the VA is accepting approximately three humanitarians infected with COVID-19 at a time, based on bed availability.

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

Chair Palmer asked that Commissioners review the recently approved draft Arizona Veteran Quality of Life Manual and provide feedback on the document specific to Arizona.

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

Mr. Corsette said that the January 5, 2022 meeting will be at a different location, because a permanent AV system is being installed in the Design Studio and the work is expected to continue through the end of January.

Discussion ensued regarding possible meeting locations and the possibility of having a Zoom meeting instead of a hybrid meeting. Commissioners agreed to hold a hybrid meeting if possible.

Commissioner Stempil mentioned that during his reappointment interview, a Council Member asked what the Commission was planning to do about the veteran homeless population. Mr. Corsette said that he will make efforts to find out if there was specific information the Council person was hoping for. He noted that the point-in-time count would be held again in January. He will update the Commission as information comes available. It was mentioned that the City of Scottsdale has committed five HUD vouchers to house veterans.

Commissioner Stempil expressed interest in furthering the conversation about connecting veterans with financial education opportunities.

Commissioner Stempil noted that the Korean War Veterans meeting lodge has been closed indefinitely.

Vice-Chair Pulk said that on November 10, 2021, she attended a virtual meeting with Phoenix Workforce Development Board. The meeting included guest speakers and employer representatives who talked about initiatives to hire veterans.

She thanked Mr. Corsette and City staff for coordinating an exceptional Veterans Day event at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. She announced that Phoenix Veterans job fair is scheduled November 2, 2021 at State Farm Stadium from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Jackson mentioned that one of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners is lobbying for a community garden at one of the Scottsdale parks that could include a veterans' memorial. There could be an opportunity to work with an organization that is interested in putting together a memorial. He asked that the Parks and Recreation Commissioner be invited to speak at a future meeting.

Mr. Corsette mentioned that as part of the Communications department budget request, he has included a request for an additional \$5,000 to fund VAC programs.

10. Adjournment

VICE-CHAIR PULK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DOMINICK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER,

VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, DOMINICK, JACKSON, 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 5:52 p.m.

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