



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

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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

**PRESENT:** Chair Land Anderson; Vice-Chair Justin Layman, Commissioners Mark Ashley, Steven Jackson, Patrick Mazzarella, Pete Palmer (MS Teams), and Joe Stempil

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

**1. Call to Order/ Roll Call**

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**3. Discussion and possible action to approve January 3, 2024, commission meeting minutes**

CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 3, 2024, VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ANDERSON, VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, STEMPIL, AND JACKSON VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**4. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations: Abe Mcann, city of Tempe Veteran Services Coordinator**

Item tabled.

**5. Discussion and updates to the Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan**

Commissioners reviewed the VAC work plan and discussed priorities for 2024 and made edits to existing priorities. Areas of discussion included:

- Gathering information about veterans' populations by reviewing the current Point in Time Count of the homeless population in Scottsdale and U.S. Census information regarding veterans. Commissioner Palmer expressed concern on how to meet needs for younger veterans. Mr. Corsette noted that he has the ability to send out an online questionnaire to citizens for community feedback regarding veterans' issues, programs, and awareness.
- Homeless veterans and monitoring utilization of HUD housing vouchers.
- Continuing to study and promote organizations and caregivers who provide veterans' care.
- Veterans AZ programming.
- Monitoring the status of the Skill Bridge Program with a goal of supporting the program.
- City of Scottsdale Veterans website maintenance.
- Quality of Life Resource Guide.
- Expanding social media platforms.
- Sustain and expand remembrance programs such as Scottsdale Salutes.
- Honoring Vietnam veterans by renaming a Scottsdale city park or some ramadas within the parks.
- Engaging with neighboring cities veterans' commissions.

#### **6. Discussion and possible recommendations for a Vietnam Veterans event March 29, 2024**

Discussion ensued regarding holding a Vietnam Veterans event on March 29, 2024. Mr. Corsette said that he is waiting for a response regarding available venues in the Civic Center on that date. He said the Commission participated in the Parada del Sol, held last weekend and they are now ready to focus on the Vietnam Veterans event. Vice-Chair Layman gave an overview of the Vietnam Veterans day event last year, which was not a VAC sponsored event, and he volunteered to take the lead this year. Commissioners talked about possible alternate venues, including the Little Red School House, what time of day would draw the most attendance, and the possibility of changing the date to Saturday or Sunday, if necessary. Mr. Corsette and Vice-Chair Layman will begin organizing and will bring forward more information at the March meeting. Mr. Corsette said that he hopes to have enough information to begin publicizing the event prior to the March meeting.

#### **7. Commissioner reports, staff updates, and suggestions for future agenda items**

Kelly Corsette gave an update on the VAC's participation in Parada del Sol on Saturday, February 3rd. He said there were approximately 25 participants, including Scottsdale Salutes honorees, Veterans from the Chamber, members of the Military Affairs Committee, and City employees. They distributed 500 Scottsdale Salutes stickers. He thanked Neighbors Helping Neighbors for supplying the truck and trailer, a driver, food, and a place to organize. Chair Anderson acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Corsette and staff in coordinating the VAC's participation in the event. Mr. Corsette suggested that making Parada del Sol workplan a priority would enable staff to put more time into planning for the parade, possible participation in the Trail's End Festival, and to formalize the partnership with Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Commissioner Ashley made a suggestion that the Commission consider contacting someone with the Arizona National Guard to offer their well wishes for their members injured during the drone

strike in Syria. Mr. Corsette said that the Commission has the ability to authorize the Chair or Vice-Chair to author an appropriate message to be sent to the organization. He will reach out to the guard for the PAO to determine what might be appropriate. He will also look into whether passing a formal resolution regarding the situation is appropriate under the commission's powers and duties.

Commissioner Stempil mentioned an article in the Arizona Republic regarding Glendale starting a project to build mini-houses for veterans. Brief discussion ensued regarding getting more information about Glendale's program, status of Scottsdale HUD vouchers, and VA housing options.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

## **8. Adjournment**

CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ANDERSON, VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, STEMPIL, AND JACKSON VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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