



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

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

PRESENT: Chair Steven Jackson, Vice Chair Land Anderson, Commissioners Mark Ashley, Patrick Mazarella, Pete Palmer, Joel Stempil

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

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

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

3. Discussion and possible action to approve January 4, 2022 Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 4, 2023 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JACKSON, VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendation: Financial Wellness for Veterans

Richard Goldstein from Primerica Advisors gave a presentation regarding ways in which he could contribute to veteran community by hosting classes on simple financial concepts for veterans, focusing on how to budget money, getting out of debt quickly, and protecting themselves financially. He would prefer to do in-person or Zoom live presentations and would be unwilling to create a recorded presentation to be posted on the Veterans website for public viewing. He reviewed his credentials and the potential of tailoring his presentation to be specifically focused on Veterans' financial issues.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of creating an informational program focused on veterans' financial issues. Commissioners discussed the possibility of posting a presentation on the City's Veterans video channel, in person, or online; the importance of ensuring that merchandise or services advertisement is not part of any program; having City staff go through the process of vetting a person or group before engaging them to help develop a program; including financial education as part of the VAC work plan researching the financial needs of veterans in Scottsdale; and agendaizing discussion about creating an outline of what types of topics could be included in a program.

Mr. Corsette reminded Commissioners that discussion about addressing financial needs of veterans has been ongoing since inception of the Commission. Recently the Department of the Army and the DOD made financial literacy websites available. He offered to reach out to see if there are any DOD vetted local resources that might be available to do programming in the Scottsdale community.

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

Commissioner Palmer said that as part of the efforts to do outreach to other communities and commissions, he attended a meeting of the East Valley Veterans Coalition, which includes representatives from Gilbert, Chandler, and Mesa. The group is interested in developing programs from an East Valley perspective. They will be meeting regularly and welcome a representative from the Scottsdale VAC to participate in the meetings.

Commissioner Mazzarella gave an update on activities of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors organization, including fundraising activities and recent donations to MANA House.

Vice-Chair Jackson gave a brief update on items under Work Plan 3.2, which he has taken over since the resignation of Commissioner Edwards. Based on discussions with Commissioner Edwards he would suggest that the networking group be deprioritized and that the Commission focus on using the website and other resources to promote greater awareness instead.

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

Commissioner Palmer noted that the Point in Time count was conducted in January. He talked about discrepancies between the numbers produced through that survey compared with the Scottsdale Police Department reports. He suggested that once the new Park Ranger program has started, they be asked to do an informal survey of people experiencing homelessness so might gain a more accurate indication of those who are veterans. Chair Jackson stressed the

importance of emphasizing that the perception that the homeless population is made up of veterans is not accurate.

It was suggested that Commissioners bring forward for discussion any information they might have on veteran-related legislation the Commission could support.

Mr. Corsette announced that the Veterans Heritage Project Annual Gala is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Chateau Lux in Phoenix, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The City has purchased a table for the event and has seats available for anyone who is interested in attending.

Construction of the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen is nearing completion. A dedication is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2023, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Corsette has been working with Mr. Layman and staff from Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) to put together an event to honor Vietnam Veterans. The event will be held at Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River on the evening of Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Mr. Corsette said that the VAC is up for their tri-annual sunset review on Monday April, 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. The review is standard procedure and Commissioners do not need to attend.

Commissioner Palmer said that he is working on the final draft of the Quality of Life Manual. He asked that if anyone has anything updates or information to add, they send him the information.

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Financial Education program
- Work plan updates

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER MAZZARELLA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JACKSON, VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, 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 6:07 p.m.

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