



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

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

PRESENT: Vice Chair Land Anderson, Commissioners Andrew Edwards (arrived at 5:11 p.m.), Patrick Mazzarella, Pete Palmer, Joel Stempil

ABSENT: Chair Steven Jackson, Commissioner Mark Ashley

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

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

Members present as listed above.

2. Public Comment

A member of the public introduced himself, but had no comments.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve December 7, 2022 Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 7, 2022 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER EDWARDS WAS NOT YET PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Nomination and election of chair to serve for calendar year 2023

Mr. Corsette noted that Steven Jackson was nominated for the position of Chair during the last meeting. No other nominations were submitted.

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO NOMINATE AND ELECT STEVEN JACKSON FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023. COMMISSIONER STEMPLI SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPLI VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER EDWARDS WAS NOT YET PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Nomination and election of vice chair to serve for calendar year 2023

Mr. Corsette noted that Land Anderson was nominated for the position of Vice Chair during the last meeting. No other nominations were submitted.

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO NOMINATE AND ELECT LAND ANDERSON FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023. COMMISSIONER STEMPLI SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPLI VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER EDWARDS NOT YET PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve the Veterans Advisory Commission 2022 Annual Report

Mr. Corsette gave Commissioners an opportunity to comment on corrections made to the draft Veterans Advisory Commission 2022 annual report. No additional comments were made.

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER STEMPLI SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPLI VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER EDWARDS WAS NOT YET PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

7. Presentation and discussion: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Glenn Martin, founding member of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, gave a presentation outlining the history of the organization and its purpose and goals. The group is a grass-roots non-profit organization that serves veterans, disadvantaged children, and seniors by working with organizations that are already serving these people. They offer financial support as well as hands-on service provided by their over 50 members. Funds are raised through some fundraisers, by word-of-mouth and website donations. Mr. Martin mentioned that the group has worked with the City's Operation-fix-it group in the past. Information about the organization can be found on NHNArizona.org.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Corsette offered to list Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the section of the City's website. It was noted that the City of

Scottsdale does not directly vet veterans and provide services, but does offer information to connect them with organizations that can help. It was suggested that Mr. Martin contact Veterans Furniture Center; BeConnectedAZ.org, which is part of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services; and Arizona Coalition of Military Families

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

Commissioner Palmer gave an update on the work plan, highlighting his efforts working on section 3.1.1, liaison with other veterans commissions in the region. He said that at some point he will put together a plan on how best to go about connecting with other organizations that provide services and support for veterans.

Commissioner Stempil noted that as part of his efforts on Task 1.2.1, he has spoken with Richard Goldstein from Primerica Financial Services about developing a financial literacy program. He suggested that the Commission invite Mr. Goldstein to speak during a future VAC meeting.

Mr. Corsette reported that a question about veteran status has been included on the Community Survey which is currently under way and is being sent to a random sample of 5,500 Scottsdale households. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of including additional questions about veterans in future surveys. Mr. Corsette explained that the Community Survey focuses on customer feedback on City services. He does have the resources to do a non-statistically valid survey about veterans issues at any time. Commissioner Palmer suggested that the Commission consider explore the idea of requesting additional funding from City Council for the purpose of conducting a veterans survey every five years, midway between the National Census schedule. Mr. Corsette said that the results of the Community Survey will be available for the Commission to review in spring/summer of 2023. The City recently hired a full-time data scientist who will be available as a resource.

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

Commissioner Edwards announced that he will be resigning from the Commission immediately. He offered to review what he has done so far on Task 3.1 with the person taking over his work plan tasks. Mr. Corsette said that City Council will go through the Commissioner nomination and selection process again soon.

Mr. Corsette said that it was recently suggested to him that the City put together a Vietnam Veterans recognition event. He noted that the City of Scottsdale is a Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Partner and asked that Commissioners share any ideas they may have for doing some kind of recognition. Brief discussion ensued regarding ideas for a recognition event. Suggestions included scheduling something on Vietnam Veterans Day, which is March 29th, or during the Civic Center reopening dedication in April.

10. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS EDWARDS, 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 6:11 p.m.

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