



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

**MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Scottsdale Fire Station 602 Community Room  
7522 E. Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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

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

**GUESTS:** Joan Fudala

**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 March 1, 2023 commission meeting minutes**

VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 1, 2023 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MAZZARELLA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JACKSON, VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **4. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding future oversight of the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen**

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, said that the purpose of the discussion was to ask the Commission to direct the staff liaison to work with the memorial committee to determine a set of criteria for adding names in the future. The draft would then be brought before the Commission for final review and approval.

Joan Fudala, member of the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen Committee, provided background on the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen Committee, which was initially formed in 2014 by Jim Geiser. She noted that a couple of years ago, the fund collection and management of the memorial was turned over to the Arizona Community Foundation. Ownership of the monument and funds were officially turned over to the City of Scottsdale, with a resolution accepting the monument on August 23, 2022. The Committee feels that their work has been completed and due to the fact that Mr. Geiser passed away in August and the majority of the Committee members are of an elevated age, they are interested in disbanding and dissolving the 501(c)3 as soon as it has been confirmed that all obligations have been resolved.

Discussion ensued about the process used to identify names to be placed on the memorial, what that process should be for adding names in the future, and the eligibility criteria. Mr. Corsette noted that based on recommendation from Assistant City Attorney Luis Santaella, the future process would be for the Commission to approve a list of guidelines and names to be added administratively based on those criteria. If there were any question about whether a nominated person met the criteria, staff would bring the name to the Commission for guidance.

CHAIR JACKSON MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH THE SCOTTSDALE MEMORIAL FOR THE FALLEN COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A DRAFT LIST OF CRITERIA FOR ADDING NAMES TO THE SCOTTSDALE MEMORIAL FOR THE FALLEN. COMMISSIONER STEMPIL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JACKSON, VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **5. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding the Veterans Advisory Commission sunset review scheduled at 4 p.m. Monday, May 15**

Mr. Corsette presented information to be forwarded to the Audit Committee for their consideration in reviewing the Veterans Advisory Committee sunset review on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. He noted that the sunset review process is standard every few years for all City boards and commissions.

CHAIR JACKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY STAFF BE FORWARDED TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER LAYMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JACKSON, VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Commissioner Palmer recalled the Commission forwarding a recommendation to City Council recommending an expansion of the Commissions purview, to include National Guard and Military family members. Mr. Corsette

explained that City Council cancelled their discussion about boards and commissions, which could have included that conversation, due to the pandemic. He will ask whether that discussion will be rescheduled.

## **6. Discussion, updates and possible recommendations regarding the Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan**

Commissioner Layman spoke about several items under the work plan that could be discussed further during future meetings, including the following:

- 1.2.1 – FDIC "Money Matters" program provides federally approved training on financial matters.
- 1.2.2 – scheduling an agenda item to discuss fundraising to address housing issues and expand outreach.
- 2.2.1 – Reaching out to the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce about the Veteran and Military Affairs Committee.
- 2.2.2 – Expanding broadcasting on social media.
- 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3 – Increasing educational outreach to City departments.

Commissioner Mazzarella noted that his contact at Luke Airforce Base recommended a book addressing strategies for financial literacy that could be helpful to the Commission in their financial training efforts. Chair Jackson said that all military branches have an exit program that offers financial literacy classes to members who are being discharged. Vice-Chair Anderson mentioned that all separating military personnel are required to attend financial literacy counseling as a part of their transition assistance program. The Veterans' Administration offers free one-on-one financial and credit counseling services for veterans.

Mr. Corsette said that if Commissioner Mazzarella finds the book that was recommended to him worthy, the Commission would have the ability to host a public event featuring a question and answer with the book's author.

## **7. Commission members' reports, updates, and suggestions for future agenda items**

Future meeting agenda items include:

- Presentation from Colonel Dana Allmond, Director of Arizona Department of Veteran Services.
- The possibility of getting badges or nametags for Commissioners.

Commissioner Layman said he recently joined the Northeast Region Public Health Coalition. He invited Commissioners to contact him with any thoughts relating to veterans' issues that could be shared with that group.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

## **7. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER MAZZARELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER STEMPIL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR JACKSON, VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA,

PALMER, AND STEMPLIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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