



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

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

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

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

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Steven Jackson

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

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

Vice-Chair Anderson 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 December 6, 2023 commission meeting minutes**

VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 6, 2023 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPILO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSIDENTING VOTES.

**4. Nomination and election of chair to serve for calendar year 2024**

Nominations for the position of chair were made during the December meeting.

LAND ANDERSON WAS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Vice-Chair Anderson took over the position of chair immediately following the vote.

#### **5. Nomination and election of vice chair to serve for calendar year 2024**

Nominations for the position of chair were made during the December meeting.

JUSTIN LAYMAN WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Commissioner Layman took over the position of vice-chair immediately following the vote.

#### **6. Discussion and possible action to adopt the Veterans Advisory Commission 2023 Annual Report**

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. CHAIR ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ANDERSON, VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, MAZZARELLA, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **7. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations: Veteran Census update**

Commissioner Palmer gave an update on Scottsdale's veterans' statistics resulting from the 2022 Census. The presentation highlighted the number of veterans living in Scottsdale and the period of time they served, current age, ethnicity, educational attainment, employment status, property levels, and disability status. Commissioners directed Mr. Corsette and Chair Anderson to draft a memo highlighting the Veteran's Census information, to be forwarded to City Council.

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

Chair Anderson said that the February meeting will include an in-depth discussion on the VAC work plan and identify priorities for the upcoming year. Commissioners were asked to review the current work plan prior to the meeting and consider which areas they would like to be responsible for.

Mr. Corsette gave an update on the Veteran's AZ program. He noted that two more episodes have been completed, one with the Arizona Veterans Commission Group and one with the ASU Pat Tillman Center. Three additional episodes are in the planning stages.

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

Commissioner Palmer suggested that the new Chair and Vice Chair plan to meet with the Mayor to introduce themselves and give an update on the work plan.

Vice-Chair Layman suggested that the Commission start planning a celebration for Vietnam Veterans Day, which is March 29th. He gave an overview of last year's event, noting that suggestions are welcome. It was suggested that in the future the Vietnam veterans could be given a parade. Mr. Corsette suggested that a possible alternative might be for the Commission to host a Vietnam veterans float in the Parada del Sol. He will look into whether or not there is still time to participate in the 2024 parade.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

## **10. Adjournment**

CHAIR ANDERSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR ANDERSON, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, LAYMAN, 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 5:30 p.m.

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