



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

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT: Chairperson Pete Palmer; Vice Chair Denise Pulk; Commissioners Marie Monroe, Mike Ragole, Joel Stempel and Steve Ziomek

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

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

2. Discussion and possible action to approve December 9, 2020 Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2020 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RAGOLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, STEMPI, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Presentation and discussion about veterans' benefits available through the Phoenix VA Health Care System

Debbie Dominick, chief of social work at Phoenix VA, gave a presentation outlining benefits available through the Phoenix VA Health Care System. She reviewed the three branches of the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs; provided contact information to the Benefits Administration regional office; and reviewed eligibility requirements and the enrollment process, noting that all medical records are electronic, making them conveniently available at any VA facility. Services available include community based outpatient clinics (CBOC); mental health services; a substance use disorder clinic; a community resource and referral center (CRRC); a post-deployment clinic transition and care management program; and a variety of specialty programs, including supportive housing, compensated work therapy, women veterans health care, sexual trauma services, PTSD care, recreation therapy, caregiver support program, Veterans Justice Outreach, psychosocial rehabilitation, and mental health intensive case management. There are VA Center locations throughout the Valley and the state.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Dominick said that approximately 2,000 VA healthcare providers and members of the Community Living Center have received the Pfizer COVID vaccine thus far. Phase 1B will begin on Monday, January 11th.

Ms. Dominick described the Caregiver Support Program. She explained that the program originated during the Obama administration and was focused on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' family members who were forced to leave their jobs to provide care. In October of 2020, the program was expanded to include Vietnam era and prior veterans. It is expected that in two years the program will integrate veterans from other theatres.

Ms. Dominick said that the VA has a robust women's' healthcare clinic that offers all levels of care, with the exception of delivering babies. Women veterans are offered the choice to receive all care through the VA clinic, to be assigned to a private clinic, or a combination of both. Vice Chair Pulk stressed the importance of marketing for the women's' healthcare clinic, because many women veterans are not aware of the opportunity. She said that she personally found out about the opportunity through a social media site.

The detailed PowerPoint presentation given during this segment will be made available on the Veterans page of the City's website.

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

Commissioner Stempil said that he connected with a financial planner from Charles Schwab who is willing to offer financial planning education to veterans. He asked that an item be agendaized for the February VAC meeting to meet with the Charles Schwab representative and further discuss the opportunity to offer a link to this service on the Veterans Advisory Commission page on the City's website. Commissioner Stempil assured the Commission that there will be no "selling" as part of the presentation, just education. Mr. Corsette will contact the individual at Charles Schwab and research the opportunity further.

Election of officers will be agendaized for the February meeting.

5. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER RAGOLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, STEMPIL, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

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