



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

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

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

PRESENT: Chairperson Denise Pulk; Vice-Chair Steven Jackson; Commissioners Land Anderson, Mark Ashley, Pete Palmer, and Joel Stempil

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

Chair Pulk called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve February 2, 2022 commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2022 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PULK, VICE-CHAIR JACKSON, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSIDENTING VOTES.

3. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation regarding the Work for Warriors Arizona Program

Geoff Partridge from Arizona National Guard gave a presentation about Work For Warriors Arizona Program. He said the program originated in California approximately eight years ago and is now available in 12 states. The program is designed to provide service members, veterans and their families the opportunity to participate in a free job placement program

through the National Guard. Arizona has a partnership with California, which allows them to post on the California employment board. Currently 83 companies are actively participating in the program. Mr. Partridge reviewed the 2021 program statistics, outlined his primary responsibilities, and the responsibilities of other members of the staff.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Discussion ensued regarding counseling of participants, mentoring, and resume writing. Mr. Partridge noted that areas of emphasis for the program include resume preparation, interview preparation, employment outreach, military skills translation, apprenticeship, and certifications. It was noted that the City of Scottsdale has a Veterans page on their website where information about the program could be listed.

Mr. Corsette undertook to have information about the program posted on the Scottsdale Veterans section of the City website and will connect with Mr. Partridge about setting up an interview for the VeteransAZ video series. He commented that service members would be well suited to work in the City's water department. He noted that he and Scottsdale Water Executive Director Brian Biesmeyer would be interested in finding National Guard members to fill positions in the water department.

Chair Pulk commented that Mr. Partridge's wife is a member of the City of Surprise Veterans Commission. She will reach out to her as part of the work plan guidance to liaise with more veterans' commissions from different cities.

4. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to adopt the 2022 Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan

Chair Pulk asked if everyone had a chance to review the work plan. Commissioner Palmer commented that the plan is well put together and has achievable goals.

Discussion ensued regarding implementation of the work plan. Mr. Corsette suggested that the Commission assign a lead conditioner to each of the items. Staff is available to assist, but some of the items require substantial work that would be difficult for staff to make a priority. He is willing to meet with Commissioners to talk about ideas for moving forward with each task. Mr. Corsette said he is optimistic that as part of the City budget planning, the Commission will be given a small budget for next fiscal year.

Commissioners discussed whether the Commission would be allowed to solicit monetary and/or in-kind donations to put towards things such as printing costs. Mr. Corsette said that there are processes under which donations could be accepted. It was pointed out that the Commission should be careful not to violate the gift policy.

Mr. Corsette explained that the Commission does not need to gain approval from City Council for each task they work on. Their work falls under the enabling ordinance adopted by City Council.

Chair Pulk asked if it would be possible to learn more about how the Communications Department puts together the VeteransAZ program. Mr. Corsette said he will agendize a discussion item for a future meeting.

Commissioners were asked to email Mr. Corsette regarding which tasks they would be interested in working on.

VICE-CHAIR JACKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE 2022 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN. COMMISSIONER STEMPIL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PULK, VICE-CHAIR JACKSON, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Chair Pulk thank the Commission for their efforts in creating an achievable work plan.

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

Mr. Corsette said that the City is a sponsor of the Veterans' Heritage Project. He invited Commissioners to contact him if they would be interested in attending the event.

Chair Pulk said that a local public radio station has put together a podcast and interview series for Arizona Veterans. She encouraged everyone to log into their website and listen to the program.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2022.

6. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PULK, VICE-CHAIR JACKSON, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, 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 5:59 p.m.

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