



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

**MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 7, 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:** Dave Rosenfeld, Veterans Medical Leadership Council

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

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:03 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 May 3, 2023 commission meeting minutes**

COMMISSIONER STEMPIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 3, 2023 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. 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.

#### **4. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations: Veterans Medical Leadership Council**

Dave Rosenfeld, from Veterans Medical Leadership Council (VMLC), gave a presentation outlining the purpose and goals of the Veterans Medical Leadership Council and the history of the group. The 501(c)3 focuses on supporting veterans in need of assistance in crisis situations. Recipients are required to be registered with the Veterans Association (VA) and are referred to the organization by a VA social worker. Mr. Rosenfeld gave examples of times where exceptions have been made, allowing referrals to come in from other 501(c)3 organizations. Typically, assistance is limited to a maximum of \$2,500 to go towards things such as car payments, rental assistance, auto repair, or air conditioning repair. Mr. Rosenfeld talked about statewide fundraising efforts and the VMLC's relationship with the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. He invited the Commissioners to purchase a table at the Heroes Luncheon at the Biltmore on November 7, 2023. This year's keynote speaker will be a female colonel A-10 fighter pilot.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Rosenfeld reviewed the 2023 goals listed on page 4 of the document he provided to the Commission, which states that the VMLC is hoping to increase donations to \$750,000 this year to fully support any medical center social programs. He explained that in addition to working with VA social workers, the VMLC works with a program called Boulder Crest in Sonoita, an in-house facility supporting veterans with PTSD. He noted that the program is hoping to expand in order to remain qualified for government grant funding. Donors may request that their donations go to support veterans in a specific VMLC location.

#### **5. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen:**

- a. Transfer of Funds from the SMFTF Board to the City for purposes of maintaining and updating the memorial

Mr. Corsette said that the SMFTF Board is still working to reconcile the remaining funds. Their ultimate goal is to shut down as a 501(c)(3), because they have completed their purpose of building the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen. City Council has approved a donation and maintenance agreement with the SMFTF Board. Going forward the City will maintain the memorial. Once the account has been reconciled, the remaining funds will be transferred to the City through an accounting action. Mr. Corsette anticipates that additional information will be available for the September meeting.

- b. Status of developing criteria and process for adding names

Mr. Corsette said that he and Commissioner Layman and possibly one other Commissioner will work with Joan Fudala over the summer to develop criteria for adding names to the memorial in time for the Commission's September meeting.

Commissioner Layman gave an update on his efforts to reach out to ASU about criteria used for their memorial for the fallen, which was also originated by Jim Geiser. It seems that students are in charge of the program and he has had difficulty reaching someone and getting a concrete response to his questions.

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

Mr. Corsette said that Scottsdale Salutes nominations will need to be finalized by the end of September or early October in order to meet the timeline for them to be printed and ready to hang by November.

Mr. Corsette said that the location for the Veterans Day celebration might have to be moved, because there will likely be ongoing renovations at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. It has been suggested that the event be held at Civic Center Chaplain Sculpture/Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen. Because the same location is used for a Veterans Day celebration hosted by the American Legion and VFW earlier in the day, he will be reaching out to those groups in an effort to combine efforts. Staff will focus on advertising the change in location.

Discussion ensued regarding Scottsdale Salutes nominations. Mr. Corsette said that nominations received last year will be reconsidered as part of this year's process.

It was suggested that the Commission assign someone to be in charge of reaching out to organizations. Mr. Corsette said that the commission is accomplishing their mission by inviting organizations to present to the Commission and helping publicize their work. It would be outside the Commission's scope of responsibilities to formally appoint people to organizations outside the City of Scottsdale. Commissioners briefly talked about tracking veterans receiving services through City of Scottsdale programs and the VASH program. To date, ten of the available VASH vouchers have been issued.

Commissioner Layman said that he is working with Scottsdale Community College in hopes of helping them enhance their free tax preparation program to target veterans. He will be able to provide more information during the next meeting.

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

Future meeting agenda items include:

- Veterans Day celebration
- Scottsdale Salutes

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

## **8. Adjournment**

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

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.