



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT: Chairperson Pete Palmer; Vice- Chair Denise Pulk; Commissioners Mike Ragole, Joel Stempil and Steve Ziomek

ABSENT: Commissioner Marie Monroe

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

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

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

2. Discussion and possible action to approve January 6, 2021 Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 6, 2021 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RAGOLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS RAGOLE, STEMPIL, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Nomination and Election of Board Chair

a. Candidate: Pete Palmer

There were no additional nominations made for Board Chair.

PETE PALMER WAS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION BY A FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS RAGOLE, STEMPIL, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Nomination and Election of Vice Chair

- a. Candidate: Denise Pulk

There were no additional nominations for Board Vice Chair.

DENISE PULK WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION BY A FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS RAGOLE, STEMPIL, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Presentation and discussion about the Scottsdale Memorial to the Fallen

Jim Geiser gave a presentation about the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen, LLC., which is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to honoring active military who died in the line of duty. His presentation included a brief history of the organization and the organization's fundraising efforts. The project is expected to break ground on May 19, 2021 with estimated completion in July or August 2021.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Vice-Chair Pulk offered to put Mr. Geiser in contact with the Scottsdale Charros to discuss grant opportunities. Commissioner Ziomek offered to meet with Mr. Geiser to discuss possible opportunities to collaborate with the Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial.

6. VAC Work Plan review and status update

Chair Palmer said that Commissioners had an opportunity to review amendments to the VAC Work Plan and suggested that the Commission continue to work on the different aspects of the plan. He noted that it will be a few months before the new City Council will be available to review Veterans Advisory Commission activities. He encouraged Commissioners who have suggestions for additional tasks to forward those suggestions to himself and Mr. Corsette for consideration. Mr. Corsette reminded the Commission that any advice that is to be provided to Mayor and Council should take the form of an action during a meeting. Individual Commissioners also have the opportunity share information as a citizen not representing the VAC.

Commissioners discussed the availability of COVID-19 vaccinations through the VA. It was noted that the VA receives a separate allocation of vaccines from the state. As of Monday, February 1, 2021, the VA has expanded the vaccine program to include those 65 and older. Walk-in hours are available or eligible veterans can make an appointment. Mr. Corsette said that once the Phoenix VA has made an "official announcement" he will share the vaccine information with City Council and with the public through Scottsdale's website.

Mr. Corsette noted that he and Commissioner Stempil met with specialists related to the topic of a veterans' financial literacy program and will schedule follow-up discussions with those individuals to further contemplate organizing a program relating to education on financial literacy. A link to the VA financial literacy page has been put on the Scottsdale veterans' website under "legal and financial resources."

The veterans' video program is ready to enter production. Once staff finalizes production calendars, interviews can begin. Each program will consist of approximately 30 minutes of content, which will include an interview with an individual veteran and an interview from a representative of either a veterans' organization, a veterans' program, or veterans' benefits program and will wrap up with local, national, and national military veterans' news. Interviews will be conducted via ZOOM until it is deemed safe to meet in person. It is anticipated that approximately nine or ten programs will be produced each year. Programs will be broadcast through Scottsdale City Cable network, YouTube, and in collaboration with other Valley cities. Consideration is also being given to sharing program audio through podcast technology.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Corsette and his staff for their dedication to organizing the video program.

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

Vice-Chair Pulk mentioned that she was unable to find a website for the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen. Mr. Corsette confirmed that there is no website. Once construction begins, his department will document the progress for posting on the City's website.

Mr. Corsette explained that the City continually follows the public health numbers and will consider allowing in-person meetings once the numbers reach an acceptable level.

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS 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 5:43 p.m.

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