



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

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

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

PRESENT: Chairperson Denise Pulk; Commissioners, Land Anderson, Mark Ashley, Andrew Edwards, Pete Palmer, and Joel Stempil

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Steven Jackson

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 April 6, 2022 Commission meeting minutes

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

3. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations: USA Cares veteran and family support organization

Trace Chesser from USA Cares gave a presentation, outlining the Kentucky based organization's mission and goals. He explained that their mission is to help post-911 veterans,

active-duty military members, National Guard, and Reservists with emergency financial assistance and post-service field training to help them overcome challenges to reaching long-term stability, with a primary focus on preventing veteran suicide. He briefly reviewed statistics dating back to 2011, noting that over 10,000 families have been assisted nationwide during that time. Additionally, USA Cares works with the Department of Defense through Fort Knox to offer fellowship courses to transitioning service members. Efforts are being made to form volunteer groups nationwide, including in Arizona, with the primary goal of raising funds and raising awareness about the program. Mr. Chesser noted that USA Cares received Charity of the Year from Greater Louisville, Inc.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Chesser explained that the participant application process does not include any information about assistance they have received from other organizations. The primary funding source for USA Cares is the nationwide “Stars for Heroes” campaign, sponsored by Carl’s Jr. and Hardee’s Restaurants. He explained that transition assistance is done by using predictive index and participants are typically going into manufacturing, logistics, or healthcare fields.

Discussion ensued about potential resources for finding volunteers for marketing, fundraising, and formation of a local Arizona volunteer group. Mr. Corsette suggested that Irma Hollamby from the Human Services department be invited to the next meeting to talk about the Homeless Veterans funding and non-profit funding opportunities.

4. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding the 2022 Veterans AZ video production schedule

Mr. Corsette reviewed the 2022 Veterans AZ video production schedule. Six episodes were produced during the 2021 season. He gave an overview of projects currently being produced. The season two schedule currently includes the following:

- Episode 1 – “Arizona’s Legacy” has been completed and being aired on Scottsdale’s network as well as in other Valley cities.
- Episode 2 – “Veteran Story Tellers” is currently in production with the goal of launching in May.
- Episode 3 - “The Guard and Reserve”, highlighting Guard and Reserve events and interviews is partially filmed and target is for a June launch.
- Episode 4 – Will focus on Veteran-owned businesses.

Discussion ensued regarding suggestions for future episodes. Suggestions included suggestions to feature the Honor Healthcare military training program, female veterans, LGBTQ veterans, veterans of color, and ROTC programs (“Veterans of the Future”).

5. Discussion, updates, and possible recommendations regarding the 2022 Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan

Commissioner Palmer asked the Commissioners to think about recommendations of Arizona City/Town organizations that the City of Scottsdale VAC could network with.

6. Commission members’ reports, updates, and suggestions for future agenda items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Presentation from Schwab
- Presentation by Human Services department

Mr. Corsette gave said that the Purdue University Military Family Research Institute will host a free data academy in Scottsdale at the Community Design Studio on June 7, 2022. They are currently asking for assistance in identifying organizations or individuals in Arizona to invite to the workshop.

American Legion Post 44 will host a joint Memorial Day service at the Chaplain sculpture on the north side of City Hall, starting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 30, 2022. Speakers will include Mayor Ortega, Congressman Schweikert, and Jim Geiser, who is in charge of the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen. Construction of the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen will begin soon and the dedication and opening ceremony are planned for mid-December.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

7. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER STEMPLIL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS ANDERSON, ASHLEY, EDWARDS, PALMER, AND STEMPLIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.