



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

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chairperson Steven Jackson; Vice-Chair Land Anderson; Commissioners Mark Ashley, Justin Layman, Patrick Mazzarella, Pete Palmer, and Joe Stempil

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 June 7, 2023 commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER ASHLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 7, 2023 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR ANDERSON 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 Employment Programs, Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity

The item was tabled.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the criteria and process for adding names to the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen

Chair Anderson gave a brief overview of the steps taken in developing the criteria and process for adding names to the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen. Mr. Corsette reviewed details of the draft. He noted that the goal for the memorial is honor service members with a strong connection to the Scottsdale community who died while in military service. The Communications and Public Affairs Director or designee will be responsible for administering the program, and Scottsdale Veterans Advisory Commission will be responsible for reviewing and approving criteria to determine those eligible to be listed on the memorial and act as an arbitrating body if disputes arise. The process will include an online nomination application, which will then be reviewed by staff to determine eligibility. If a nomination is determined to be ineligible per the criteria, the nominator may appeal to the VAC. Nominations will be taken on a calendar year basis with the hope that names can be added each May and honored the following year around the Memorial Day holiday. Mr. Corsette reviewed the proposed eligibility to be included on the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen.

In-depth discussion ensued regarding the proposed eligibility requirements and suggested amendments were made. The final document will be made available on the City's website and there will be a marketing effort to inform the public about the opportunity for nominations.

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR ADDING NAMES TO THE SCOTTSDALE MEMORIAL FOR THE FALLEN AS AMENDED DURING THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER STEMPIL 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.

Mr. Corsette noted that the non-profit, Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen, is winding down and will be sending approximately \$5,000 to the City to be reserved in an account dedicated to maintenance of the memorial.

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

Commissioner Palmer announced that Senator Sinema's Veterans Count staff is planning to hold a hearing dealing with military transitions and has requested that the City of Scottsdale offer input on military transition issues. Responses are requested no later than September 21, 2023. Commissioner Palmer asked that Commissioners contact him or Mr. Corsette with any comments prior to that date.

Mr. Corsette commented that the City has many vacant positions for which veterans would be qualified. He would like to find a way to make people leaving the military know those positions are available. Commissioner Palmer that a presentation from Skillbridge be scheduled for a future agenda.

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

Mr. Corsette said that the Scottsdale Salutes program has 47 poles in Old Town Scottsdale this year, which is 17 more than last year. He said in addition to accepting new nominations, he is reaching out to nominations that were not selected last year. The Scottsdale Salutes Reception is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023 at the Community Design Studio, and will include an evening performance by the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors at the Civic Center Mall.

Information about the Scottsdale Salutes program is being distributed via flyers at city community centers and senior centers. It was suggested that staff reach out to assisted living locations for Scottsdale Salutes nominations.

Mr. Corsette announced that the Veterans Day Commemoration will be in partnership with American Legion, VFW and other local veterans service organizations this year. The event will be located at Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen, on November 11, 2023, starting at 10:30 a.m. Efforts will be made to ensure that regular attendees know the change of venue.

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Veterans Day celebration
- Scottsdale Salutes
- Skillbridge presentation

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER PALMER 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 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 5:47 p.m.

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