



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Justin Layman; Vice-Chair Mark Ashley; Commissioners Steven Jackson, Marcy Kostewa, Christie Slegers, and Donna Tew (newly elected Vice-Chair)

ABSENT: Commissioner Stephen Casares

STAFF: Holly Peralta, Public Affairs Manager

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. Members present as listed above.

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak, and no written comments received.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve December 3, 2025, Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER SLEGERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 3, 2025, VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER KOSTEWA SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, KOSTEWA, SLEGERS, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Nominations and Possible Action to Select a Commission Chair and Vice-Chair to Serve for 2026.

Ms. Peralta stated that Chair Layman had been nominated to remain in the role of Chair of the Veterans Advisory Commission, while Commissioner Tew was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair.

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF JUSTIN LAYMAN TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND DONNA TEW TO SERVE AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR 2026. VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, KOSTEWA, SLEGGERS, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and possible action to Adopt the Commission's 2025 Annual Report

Commissioners reviewed the 2025 Veterans Advisory Commission annual report. Chair Layman recommended the Commissioners verify their attendance due to the attendance requirement. Ms. Peralta noted she will amend Commissioner Johnson's attendance as he only missed the September meeting.

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO ADOPT THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION 2025 ANNUAL REPORT AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR TEW, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, JACKSON, KOSTEWA, AND SLEGGERS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

The Commission engaged in a discussion concerning the timeline for completing the ethics training requirement. Ms. Peralta indicated that she would further investigate the matter and report back to the group.

6. Commissioner Reports, Staff Updates, and Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Peralta talked about the Prada Del Sol Parade, which will be held on January 31, 2026. The Scottsdale Salute Veterans and Families for Breakfast event is scheduled at the Community Design Studio, and invitations with all the details will be sent out soon. After breakfast, everyone is invited to join the parade by either walking or riding on the float. Chair Layman encouraged Commissioners to participate if possible and wear their name badges.

Chair Layman requested that Commissioner Jackson, based on his experience, determine the optimal timing for scheduling the City's lobbyist to provide an update on legislation impacting veterans. This presentation would be coordinated with a representative from the City Prosecutor's Office for the Veterans Justice Court, and Chief LeDuc expressed interest in encouraging core veterans to submit applications. Commissioner Jackson recommended that February would be the most appropriate month to schedule the City's lobbyist.

Additionally, Mr. Peralta suggested that the Veterans Core Presentation could be planned for March. Chair Layman also noted he will have Ms. Peralta distribute an email he received from former Commissioner Palmer regarding the tracking of legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding how the Commission's support is relayed to the Legislature and shared with the community. The City Council had previously authorized the Commission to convey its support on veterans-related issues.

Chair Layman provided an overview of the planned activities for the March 29, 2026, observance of Vietnam Welcome Home Day, noting that further updates will be shared in February. The Commission engaged in a discussion, offering recommendations such as inviting residents from Veterans Homes, developing a brochure or flyer for distribution, and utilizing email blasts to effectively inform the community.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR TEW, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, JACKSON, KOSTEWA, AND SLEGGERS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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