



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

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 1, 2021**

**Meeting Held Electronically**

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Debbie Dominick and 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.

Members present as listed above.

**2. Discussion and possible action to approve June 2, 2021 Commission meeting minutes**

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2021 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER STEMPILO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS RAGOLE, STEMPILO, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**3. Update on Veterans Administration programs and initiatives**

In the absence of Commissioner Dominick, the item was tabled.

#### **4. Update and discussion on Veterans AZ video series**

Mr. Corsette gave an update on the progress of the Veterans AZ video series. To date four episodes have been produced and aired on eight local city channels. In addition, the four programs have had more than 1,000 views on the YouTube channel. Six stand-alone interviews have been completed, which provided material for 13 additional videos. Episode five of the series, featuring two Gold Star families, is currently in production and will air on September 26, 2021, in recognition of Gold Star Mothers and Families Day. The October episode will include Dogs for Vets, which is an organization that trains animals to support veterans, and MANA House.

Discussions are underway with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes program. City of Scottsdale has been a partner with Hidden Heroes program for many years and this is a great opportunity to focus on their stories.

Commissioners were asked to provide input and suggestions. Commissioner Ziomek mentioned that the honored guest scheduled to attend the Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial Veterans Day Event on Saturday, November 6, 2021, is one of three living Pearl Harbor survivors. He suggested that he be approached for an interview during the event. He noted that the event would include a ceremony, presentations, a silent auction and that 1940's era attire is encouraged.

Vice-Chair Pulk expressed an interest in participating in the production of a program focusing on women in the military.

Mr. Corsette announced that the City of Scottsdale will host the annual Veterans Day Commemoration on November 11, 2021 at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, starting at 3:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be the sponsor of the USS Arizona submarine. A younger Army veteran who works at the Veterans Administration will also speak.

Commissioner Stempil mentioned that a Pearl Harbor Celebration is scheduled for December 7, 2021 at Wesley Bolin Plaza, starting at 10:55 a.m.

#### **5. Update, discussion and possible direction regarding the VAC Work Plan**

There were no updates regarding the VAC work plan.

#### **6. Commission members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items**

Vice-Chair Pulk requested that a presentation on the process of applying for VA benefits be included as part of a future Veterans Administration programs update. She mentioned that she was one of the many veterans who did not realize that they qualify for benefits. She recently applied and was impressed with how easy the application process is. She suggested that a link to the application be included on the City's veterans' website. Chair Palmer said that he will share the manual he wrote with the Commission.

Commissioners briefly discussed misconceptions that veterans have regarding benefits, income-based limitations, and progress being made in the area of women's health and mental health.

Commissioner Ragole announced that this is his last meeting and thanked Commissioners and staff for all that they do. Commissioners thanked Commissioner Ragole and asked him to stay engaged with the Commission to whatever degree possible.

Mr. Corsette said that Commissioner Stempil and Ziomek's terms are also expiring as of October. He asked that Commissioners encourage fellow veterans to apply for the vacant positions.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021.

## **6. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER STEMPIL 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 5:33 p.m.

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