



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Justin Layman, Vice Chair
Mark Ashley
Steven Jackson
Pete Palmer
Joel Stempil

ABSENT: Land Anderson, Patrick Mazzarella

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications and Public Affairs Director

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Members present as listed above.

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

3. Welcome new Commissioners

Mr. Corsette noted that City Council Commissioner appointments have not occurred yet.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve November 6, 2024 commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 6, 2024 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, JACKSON, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and possible action to adopt the calendar year 2025 meeting schedule

COMMISSIONER PALMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, JACKSON, PALMER, AND STEMPIL VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

6. Discussion and possible action to nominate commission chair and vice chair to be elected at the January 8, 2025 meeting

COMMISSIONER JACKSON NOMINATED JUSTIN LAYMAN FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN NOMINATED MARK ASHLEY FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

Mr. Corsette noted that additional nominations could be made at any time before the January meeting. A formal election of officers will be held during the January 8, 2025 meeting.

7. Discussion of the draft 2024 Annual Report to be considered for adoption at the January 8, 2025 meeting

Mr. Corsette gave an overview of the draft 2024 Annual Report. He asked that Commissioners contact him with any suggested amendments prior to the next meeting. Commissioners asked that he review the Commissioner attendance section of the document.

Commissioner Palmer suggested that the new Chair plan to meet with the Mayor to introduce themselves and give an update on the work plan. Mr. Corsette noted that in the past the Chair has sent an informational email to the mayor and extended an invitation to meet in person to talk about the Commission's work plan.

8. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding upcoming veterans' recognition events

Mr. Corsette gave an update on the plans for the Scottsdale Salutes entry in the Parada del Sol, scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2025. He mentioned that Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be providing the tow vehicle and flatbed trailer. He extended an invitation to honorees to participate in the parade. Breakfast for participants will be hosted at the Design Studio before the parade.

Plans are underway for the Vietnam Veterans Day Thank You Event, which will be held on Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2025, marking the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The Scottsdale Civic Center is booked, so Mr. Corsette has requested the use of the Memorial Lawn for the event. As the concept for the event develops, other venues could be considered if needed.

Mr. Corsette announced that there are two names to be added to the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen. One name is a member of the Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) and the other is Scottsdale Salutes Honoree, Navy Seal Charles Keating. He is working to locate an engraver to engrave the names onto the granite. He hopes to have the additions ready in time for the Memorial Day celebration.

Brief discussion ensued in which the process for choosing names for the Scottsdale Memorial for the Fallen, which was ratified by the Commission last year, was reviewed. The nonprofit group that initiated the memorial, which has since been disbanded, left the City with \$4,500 for continued maintenance of the memorial. Mr. Corsette indicated that at this time, his departmental budget has the funds to support the memorial as needed. Commissioner Ashley suggested that SRPMIC be asked if there is anything they would like to do as part of the recognition of their member.

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

Commissioners suggested that the incoming Commissioners be provided with a copy of the work plan, so they are prepared for a discussion at the January meeting.

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

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- VAC Workplan

The next meeting is Wednesday January 8, 2025.

11. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER PALMER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS ASHLEY, JACKSON, PALMER, AND STEMPLI VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the special meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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