



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
Scottsdale Community Design Studio  
7506 E. Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Justin Layman, Chair  
Mark Ashley, Vice Chair  
Stephen Casares (arrived at 5:20 p.m.)  
Steven Jackson  
Donna Tew

**ABSENT:** Pete Palmer  
Patrick Mazzarella

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

**GUESTS:** Maryann McAllen, City Council Member

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

**2. Public Comment**

City Council Member Maryann McAllen thanked the Commission for everything they do. She said that she is visiting each Commission to learn more about what they do. She plans on attending the Vietnam Veterans Day event on Saturday, March 29th.

**3. Discussion and possible action to approve February 5, 2025, Commission meeting minutes**

VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 5, 2025, VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY,

COMMISSIONERS JACKSON AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER CASARES WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**4. Discussion and possible action related to community veterans' events and activities**

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, and Chair Layman gave an update on preparations for the Vietnam Veterans Day event, scheduled for March 29, 2025. The program will be similar to last year, starting at 11:00 a.m., with brief introductory remarks by Commissioner Tew, followed by keynote speaker Frank Lambert. Food and entertainment will be available following the presentation. Army Aviation Heritage Southwest Chapter will have an OH-6 scout helicopter on display.

Efforts are underway between Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) and the Scottsdale for Veterans non-profit group to develop a program and award a scholarship or cash prize to a student based on essay submissions. If time allows for the program to come to fruition this year, Commissioners will be responsible for judging the essays and choosing the winner. Discussion ensued regarding marketing efforts for the event and suggestions were made to reach out to specific groups and organizations.

Chair Layman noted that he has worked in partnership with AZ Music Fest to put together a separate event leading up to the Vietnam Veteran's Day event. The event will feature Doug Bradley from the University of Wisconsin, who will discuss top 20 music from the Vietnam War era. The event is free and open to the public on Friday, March 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Chair Layman said that he would like to have a similar event leading up to the Memorial Day event to encourage more engagement across the city.

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

Chair Layman noted that he reached out to the Mayor's office and was able to talk to her about the work plan and extend an invitation to the Memorial Day, Scottsdale Salutes, and Vietnam Veterans Day events. Mr. Corsette noted that as part of the Commission's enabling ordinance, the City Council was provided with a copy of the work plan. They have not been provided with the updated work plan.

For the benefit of Councilmember McAllen, Mr. Corsette gave a summary of the existing Scottsdale Veterans Advisory Commission Work Plan. Chair Layman noted that the work plan was recently updated and streamlined to mirror the enabling ordinance.

Chair Layman mentioned that he recently learned that the City's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program has been expanded to 25 vouchers. He commended Landlord Liaison Ethan Witman for his hard work in finding landlords that will accept the Section 8 housing vouchers. It was mentioned that the Commission has historically used the Point-in-Time Count and the Census Bureau's American Community Survey to gather data about veterans, including identifying during which war era they were in the military. Chair Layman opined that it would be beneficial if the City collected data about military history from veterans who are applying for VASH vouchers.

## **6. Commissioner reports, staff updates, and suggestions for future agenda items**

Chair Layman noted that he and Mr. Corsette are looking into having the Thunderbird Two, which is located at Scottsdale Airport, host the Veterans Advisory Commission meeting in the near future.

Mr. Corsette said that Government Relations Director Dale Wiebusch has had a legislator request to speak to the Commission. The legislator is a veteran and is currently working on some of the veterans' bills.

Commissioner Ashley gave an update on the Veteran Imagination Project at ASU, which is a visioning workshop to help veterans envision their future after the military. The current class will graduate on April 9th. He will inquire as to whether or not there will be a summer or fall semester. He suggested that the Commission recruit a Scottsdale employee who is a veteran to be part of the next class.

Councilwoman McAllen commented that none of the SUSD schools offer an ROTC program. She said that the City Council has tried many times to encourage the SUSD to get a military organization into the school district. Chair Layman noted that a Saguaro High School student recently received a naval ROTC scholarship from the Marine Corps recruiting group. He said he has spoken with the SUSD and has gotten the impression that their resistance is due to a lack of interest and the cost of sponsoring a program. Scottsdale Community College has a veterans' coordinator and recently opened a veterans' resource center. They are the first Maricopa County community college to have a veteran-friendly campus.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of creating a program that would honor high school graduates that are entering the military with a special ceremony. It was noted that the City of Glendale hosts a large swearing in ceremony for residents that are joining the armed forces. Mr. Corsette will reach out to his connection in Glendale to find out more about the program.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5, 2025.

## **7. Adjournment**

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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