



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Justin Layman, Chair; Mark Ashley, Vice-Chair; Commission Members
Steven Jackson, Patrick Mazzarella, Donna Tew

ABSENT: Commissioners Stephen Casares and Pete Palmer

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director
Holly Peralta, Public Affairs Manager

GUESTS: Glen Martin, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 September 3, 2025, Commission meeting minutes

COMMISSIONER TEW MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, MAZZARELLA, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Recognition of departing commissioners

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, announced that this was Commissioner Mazzarella's last meeting.

Chair Layman presented Commissioner Mazzarella with a certificate of appreciation for his years of service to the Commission. He expressed appreciation for Commissioner Layman's contributions to the Commission, his participation in planning events, and for introducing the Commission to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors organization.

Commissioner Mazzarella spoke about his involvement with Neighbors Helping Neighbors, noting that he plans to continue his involvement with the organization and with Veterans Advisory Commission activities when possible.

Mr. Corsette announced that Commissioner Palmer has termed out, having served six years as an original member of the Veterans Advisory Commission. He expressed appreciation for Commissioner Palmer's contributions to the Commission. He noted that Commissioner Palmer created the Veterans' Quality of Life Manual, which helps veterans who are transitioning out of service, spouses, and military members navigate through the system. The manual is available on the City's website. Commissioner Palmer will be presented with a certificate of appreciation at a later date.

Chair Layman suggested that Commissioner Palmer be recognized during the Scottsdale Salutes event.

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

Mr. Corsette said that preparation for Scottsdale Salutes banners are reaching completion. He anticipates that between the new honorees, recognition of Winfield Scott, recognition of the City of Scottsdale as a Purple Heart City, and recognition for each of the services, all 47 poles will be utilized. The Scottsdale Salutes reception will be held on Thursday, November 13th at The Waterfront as part of Canal Convergence.

Mr. Corsette said that plans are underway to host the City's Veterans' Day event. The event is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. on Civic Center Memorial Lawn, next to the Memorial for the Fallen. Chair Layman noted that he hopes to have a choral group perform the National Anthem, and the event will include recognition of the Scottsdale Unified School District essay contest winner.

Mr. Corsette gave an overview of the POW-MIA event hosted at the Design Studio on November 19, 2025. He thanked everyone who promoted the event as well as Joan Fudalla and Frank Lambert for their contributions.

Mr. Corsette mentioned that the Bently Scottsdale Polo Championships is scheduled at WestWorld on November 8th and 9th, the weekend before Veterans Day. He is working with organizers to have Scottsdale Salutes Honorees Frank Lambert and Denny Wisely participate in the opening of the Army vs Navy polo match, which starts at 12:00 p.m. on the 8th. The organization has provided staff with a free tickets promo code for distribution to Scottsdale Salutes Honorees.

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

Mr. Corsette said that because of the difficulty in finding a company willing to add names to the Memorial for the Fallen, staff contacted the Minnesota company that originally built the memorial to do the work. He anticipates that two names will be added and a few corrections will be made to the existing list, in time to be formally recognized during the next Memorial Day ceremony. He recalled that the nonprofit group who started the memorial designated their remaining funds of \$5,000 to the City to be used for maintenance of the memorial.

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

There were no future agenda items suggested.

8. Adjournment

VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, VICE-CHAIR ASHLEY, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, MAZZARELLA, 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 4:26 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.