



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Chair Justin Layman; Commissioners Steven Jackson (MS Teams), Marcy Kostewa, Christie Slegers, and Donna Tew

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Mark Ashley, Commissioner Stephen Casares

STAFF: Holly Peralta, Public Affairs Manager

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Layman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present as listed above.

2. Public Comment

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

Holly Peralta, Public Affairs Manager, read a statement that was submitted online through the Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC) website. NeuroStim TMS Scottsdale was interested in learning what types of support VAC offers veterans and in what ways the groups could partner to support the mental health of Scottsdale veterans.

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

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

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt the calendar year 2026 meeting schedule

Ms. Peralta reviewed the proposed meeting schedule. Discussion ensued regarding the start time of the meetings. Chair Layman said that the 4:30 start time is intended to be only for the months that they are hosting the Community Series, through April. Commissioner Jackson expressed an interest in returning to a 5:00 p.m. start time. Commissioners agreed to further discuss the meeting start times in January.

COMMISSIONER KOSTEWA MOVED TO ADOPT THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, KOSTEWA, SLEGGERS, AND TEW VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Discussion and possible action to nominate commission chair and vice chair to be elected at the January 7, 2026, meeting

COMMISSIONER KOSTEWA NOMINATED JUSTIN LAYMAN TO CONTINUE IN THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER TEW SECONDED THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER JACKSON NOMINATED DONNA TEW FOR THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION. CHAIR LAYMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

Chair Layman reminded Commissioners that additional nominations can be made at any time prior to the vote during the January 2026 meeting.

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

Commissioners reviewed the draft 2025 Veterans Advisory Commission annual report.

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

Ms. Peralta gave an update on the Scottsdale Salutes honorees reception recently held at Scottsdale's Canal Convergence. She said that the event was very well attended and received compliments from honorees. Scottsdale Salutes honorees and City of Scottsdale employees who are veterans will be invited to participate on the Veterans Advisory Commission's float in Parada del Sol on Saturday, January 31, 2026. All participants are invited to have breakfast at the Design Studio before the parade.

Chair Layman noted that he is hopeful that the VAC will be able to participate with the Arizona America 250 Commission in hosting the Liberty Bell at some point in the coming year.

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

Ms. Peralta presented Commissioners with the Veterans Advisory Commission work plan. Commissioners were asked to review the work plan and bring any suggested amendments to the January meeting for discussion. It was noted that the City Council does not require commissions to have a work plan. The work plan was developed as a tool to help guide the Commission's focus throughout the year.

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

Discussion ensued regarding the process for identifying and helping Scottsdale veterans that are in need. Chair Layman explained the Adopt-a-Senior program is administered through the Human Services Department and noted that veterans' status is not something that is tracked through that program unless the veteran self-identifies. He said that there are currently 15 Scottsdale veterans enrolled in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, and those participants are provided with additional support through the City.

Chair Layman noted that discussions are ongoing with the Scottsdale Human Services Department regarding programming that would benefit veterans. He said that Commissioners are welcome to reach out to veterans' organizations and make suggestions to the Commission regarding agenda items from relevant organizations.

Future agenda items could include:

- Work Plan
- Elections
- 2025 Annual Report
- Legislative update on current veteran and military legislation and activities at the State Capitol.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2025.

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER TEW SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR LAYMAN, COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, KOSTEWA, SLEGGERS, 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 5:13 p.m.

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