

City of Prescott

Mayor's Veterans Commission



March 6, 2024 | 9:00 AM
Grace Sparks Activity Center
824 E Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Woods called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Steve Woods - Chair
Bryan Campbell – Member (Absent)
Craig Furst - Member
Bryan Houbek - Member
Richard Otto - Member
Edward Reiger – Member (Absent)
Jeff Tim - Member
Mayor Phil Goode – Council Liaison
Liz Boawn – Staff Liaison

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the January 3, 2024 Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.
MOTION BY CHAIR STEVE WOODS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY MEMBER RICHARD OTTO: PASSED (5 - 0)
- B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Vet-Connect Neighborhood Town Hall Update - Steve Woods.
 - a. The most recent Townhall in Yavapai Hills was well attended with more than 20 attendees. Megan Bancroft from the VA spoke and feedback was positive with many Veterans getting help on the spot.
 - b. Chair Woods stressed the importance of the program and keeping it going by revisiting some of the neighborhoods that haven't been reached in the last year.
 - c. A timeline of the next events to occur through summer will be announced at the next meeting.
- C. VA Update – Craig Furst/Steve Sample
 - a. Efforts continue with building connections with the reservation communities, including Navajo and Hopi.
 - b. Discussed the data in use which helps to determine where more connections can be made with the untethered, unconnected veterans.
 - c. The PACT Act expansion is in its next phase.
 - d. Many buildings at the VA are under renovation, with the goal of creating a "one stop shop" for care and additional housing.
 - e. The Kayenta VA Clinic will celebrate their expansion at an event on

March 20th. Hopi Health and Tuba City VA also working to expand care.

- f. Member Furst spoke on the Senior Referral Network event on March 20th and the upcoming Vets' Stand Down in Parker on March 15th.
- g. Other upcoming events include the Verde Valley Stand Down March 27th in Sedona, Bringing VA Benefits Home Event in Parker from April 12-13th and the Cruise in for Veterans Car Show on April 20th at the Heights Church in Prescott.
- h. Member Sample spoke on importance of these events, especially to serve the outlying areas.

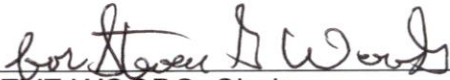
4. UPDATES

A. Staff Announcements

- a. Member Houbek announced he had left Embry Riddle, looking forward to the new year and opportunities to come.
- b. Guest Richard Rodriguez spoke on Embry Riddle's efforts to raise funds for Hunter 7 group for this year's Veteran's Day event. One event is also planned for each semester, including a ROTC run on April 13th.
- c. Member Timm announced two upcoming military service days for the district. He will provide more information to the commission.
- d. Efforts still under way to get the VBA at the VA at least once per week for claim filing.
- e. Members will reach out to presenters not in attendance and look for future presenters to connect with formally.
- f. The Ernest A. Love statue at the Airport will be unveiled at event on April 11th at 1:00pm.
- g. Looking to expand the committee and find representatives committed to the effort.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:51 AM.


STEVE WOODS, Chair

ATTEST:


LIZ BOAWN, Staff Liaison