



City of Prescott

Mayor's Veterans Commission

May 1, 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 8:59 am.

2. ROLL CALL

Steve Woods – Chair
Dan Berryman - Member
Bryan Campbell – Member
Marty Collins – Member (Absent)
Craig Furst - Member
Bryan Houbek – Member (Absent)
Richard Otto - Member
Edward Reiger – Member
Carl Sperling - Member
Jeff Timm - Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the March 6, 2024 Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY CHAIR STEVE WOODS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY MEMBER ED REIGER: PASSED (8 - 0)

B. Update & Discussion Regarding Vet-Connect Neighborhood Town Hall Meetings - Steve Woods/Ed Reiger.

- a. The upcoming Town Hall is set for Touchmark at The Ranch for May 21st from 3-5 pm.
- b. There are 68 residents with Veterans status at The Ranch. The Flyer for the event will show to go to the main lobby. The actual location is still being finalized.
- c. Various Veteran service organizations will be represented and will have computers to assist with exploring benefits and answering questions after the presentations.
- d. The next town hall meeting will be set for a couple of months out, most likely July, with tentative dates and locations for the upcoming meetings announced at the next commission meeting.
- e. Potential locations are Pinon Oaks, Timber Ridge, Mountain Club, or Prescott Lakes.

C. US Vets Update – Bryan Campbell.

- a. Elks Lodge in Prescott Valley is hosting the annual VA and Community Mental Health Summit on May 14th. The theme will be Stopping the Stigma.

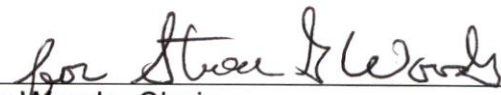
- b. The Fort Whipple Project will break ground this fall with up to 80 units for the HUD-VASH vouchers.
 - c. Steps 4 Vets Virtual Run/Walk is set for Saturday, May 18th. You can sign up and link it to your social meeting to let others know about the event. Next year the plan is to do the event in person.
 - d. The Suicide Prevention Grant provides assistance for anyone having barriers to employment, such as car repair expenses and other bill payment assistance. This includes spouses and caretakers of veterans. The grant has funding available through June and member Campbell asks members to refer anyone needing this type of assistance to US Vets.
 - e. The graduation ceremony for the program is coming up in June.
 - f. The Hub has screened many vets for a screening and about 30% of those screened are in risk classifications and referred to the VA for services.
 - g. The grant program is in its pilot phase, with one of the two networks being in AZ; there will be a congressional push to approve its expansion.
- D. VA Update – Craig Furst/Steve Sample
- a. Member Furst will be attending the event at Touchmark.
 - b. A Vets Resource Fair will be held in Kingman on Friday, May 3rd.
 - c. Rural health coordinators, Andrew and Josh, will be having 7 events on the Navajo Nation between June and September.
 - d. Two upcoming events will be held at Sanders and Fort Defiance, AZ.
 - e. There are a couple Stand Down events coming up in Flagstaff, the High Country Stand Down May 15th and Twin Arrows on June 27th. Also at Twin Arrows will be The Moving Wall from May 30 – June 3rd.
 - f. Other upcoming events include a PTSD Awareness Walk and BBQ on June 1st and PTSD Awareness Equine Therapy and BBQ on June 13th.
 - g. Member Furst was also excited to announce the VA would be present at the upcoming Prescott Rodeo on July 5th and 6th.

4. UPDATES

- A. Member Timm announced an event on May 11th for students considering military service and career opportunities. They have 20 RSVP's and are hopeful it will lead to a good number of appointments, like last year, as there were four appointments out of ten nominations.
- B. Members were asked to bring any items up that should be addressed at the congressional front. Parking behind the officer quarters was a suggestion.
- C. Members discussed the need to get a Veterans Benefits Administration rep to relocate to Prescott full time as the need is there and the data justifies it.
- D. The Fort Whipple Museum will be reopening on Fridays beginning on May 3rd.
- E. Guest Richard Rodriguez of Embry Riddle's Veterans Affairs Office offered to look at space at the university for VBA representatives to meet with veterans. He also provided information on the upcoming Gala Dinner on June 7th.
- F. Mayor Goode is pleased with the outreach efforts of the members and attendees, looking forward to this upcoming year. He also thanked the new members for joining the commission.
- G. Member Sperling offered to assist with the Prescott Lakes town hall meetings.
- H. Member Berryman also interested in helping where he can.
- I. The Cruise in for Vets Car Show was a success with two VBAs on site and over 30 new claims initiated. Many attendees saw it was difficult to get into the parking lot. Another venue such as the Findlay Toyota Center parking lot or mall parking lot were recommended.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Woods adjourned the meeting at There be
9:54 AM.



Steve Woods, Chair

ATTEST:



Liz Boawn, Staff Liaison