



City of Prescott

Mayor's Veterans Commission

July 3, 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 9:00 am.

2. ROLL CALL

Steve Woods – Chair
Dan Berryman - Member
Bryan Campbell – Member (Absent)
Marty Collins – Member
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 May 1, 2024 Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER ED REIGERTO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY MARTY COLLINS: PASSED (7 - 0)

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

- a. Chair Woods brought a draft of the flyer for the August town hall meeting at Prescott Lakes, asked for the commission to review it.
- b. A preview of the Athletic Center is going to take place on Monday. The members are hopeful because it is quite spacious.
- c. Communications are underway to get the information out on the HOA's monthly newsletter as well as giving it out at the Clubhouse at Prescott Lakes.
- d. Member Berryman spoke on the Sign-Up Genius link on the flyer and the benefits this venue has to offer, including tables and chairs. Chair Woods expanded on this to confirm refreshments would be provided by the center.
- e. Staff Liaison Liz Boawn offered to provide copies of the flyer to the property manager at Legacy at Prescott Lakes.

C. US Vets Update – Bryan Campbell (Josh Lawton attending for Bryan)

- a. Josh introduced himself and recapped the success of the recent graduation of 17 veterans, who went from homelessness into permanent housing.
- b. The HUB has been successful in providing aid to 57 of 67 veterans

served.

- c. The Yavapai County StandDown is planned for September 20th and 21st at Liberty Point, the US Vets location at 1040 Whipple Street. The first day and a half will be designated for connecting vets with services and the second half of the second day will be for providing supplies.
 - d. Volunteers are needed for the StandDown, and a form is in the works for those wanting to participate. Manzanita Outreach will be giving out food items.
- D. VA Update – Craig Furst/Steve Sample
- a. Steve Sample, Medical Center Director from the Prescott VA was in attendance. He shared that a recent article went out in the paper about the construction going on, and how it will help veterans get the care they deserve.
 - b. The Lake Havasu City clinic opening is being pushed out to October.
 - c. The employees at the VA recently completed an active shooter drill at the campus. They worked with local law enforcement to make it a good exercise and help build future partnerships.
 - d. The budget is tightening up at the VA.
 - e. Mr. Sample acknowledged Craig's outreach efforts and the benefits of him attending more events this year.
 - f. A new memorandum of understanding has brought on new signs up on the Hopi and Navajo reservations related to the PACT Act.
 - g. OSHA called out the VA on a workplace violence situation that stemmed from a disagreement with a dementia patient. Mr. Sample went on explain the opportunity for training to prevent such incidents.
 - h. The VA is welcoming some new leadership personnel to add to their level of service.
 - i. Member Furst announced upcoming events he will be attending including the Prescott Rodeo, a resource fair at Raptor Ranch in Williams on July 11th, an event in Winslow on July 18th, an enrollment and housing event July 30th, the Navajo Nation on September 3rd-7th, as well as events coming up in Chinlee on August 23rd and Holbrook on September 28th. There are also upcoming VBA Claims Clinic events on July 11th, August 8th and September 5th at the HUB. Lastly there is HOPE Fest on September 14th.
 - j. The results of the claims clinic on May 30th was highlighted and the effectiveness of these events being able to serve a high volume. The members brought up the struggles with lack of having a full time VBA rep and Mr. Sample explained that efforts were underway to secure it in the next budget.
 - k. Mayor Goode addressed the monitoring component of transportation in the tribal areas and requested a point of contact for this information, to be provided later.
 - l. The cemetery service rep has left and the point of contact will be announced at the next meeting.

4. UPDATES

- A. Member Reiger announced the Fort Whipple Museum was now open on Fridays 10am to 3pm and would be opening on Saturdays soon.
- B. Chairman Woods announced the Vet Connect Quarterly Business Mixer will be held on August 5th, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Club at Prescott lakes.
- C. Josh Lawton, representing US Vets announced a new Director of Behavioral Health.
- D. Member Timm informed us the website for Eli Crane's office is now up to date with information for students interested in military service academy.

- E. Guest Richard Rodriguez announced a new chancellor has started at ERAU.
- F. Mayor Goode is looking forward to the next town hall meeting. The residents should be informed of the event, and he is hopeful the attendance will be good.
- G. Chairman Woods also spoke on the townhall meeting, with hopes that a good plan in place should make for a good turnout.
- H. Member Berryman spoke on the Kiwanis Kiddie Parade taking place on Friday at 9am at the Courthouse Square.
- I. Member Reiger spoke on the City's Citizens Academy and recommended it for any organization or person attending to get insight on city operations. Member Timm attended a similar academy with Prescott PD and encouraged others to check it out.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:34 AM.



Steve Woods, Chair

ATTEST:



Liz Boawn, Staff Liaison