



City of Prescott

Mayor's Veterans Commission

October 2, 2024 | 9:00 AM

Grace Sparks Activity Center

824 E Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Member Reiger called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Steve Woods – Chair (Excused)

Dan Berryman – Member

Bryan Campbell – Member

Marty Collins - Member

Craig Furst - Member

Bryan Houbek – Member (Excused)

Richard Otto – Member (Excused)

Richard Rodriguez – Member (Excused)

Edward Reiger - Member

Carl Sperling – Member

Jeff Timm – Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the October 2, 2024, Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER SPERLING TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY MEMBER CAMPBELL: PASSED (7 - 0)

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

- a. Members Berryman, Collins and Sperling provided an update on a recent meeting they had to plan the upcoming Town Hall meeting at the Hassyampa.
- b. Member Berryman had spoken with Dawn Stoner, the Community Association Manager at HOAMCO, and provided her with information on what the purpose of the Town Hall events is.
- c. A target date range has been set for November 19th, 20th or 21st.
- d. There are various community associations within this area so it was determined HOAMCO would be the best path for getting the communication out and Capital Canyon Club would most likely be the host site.
- e. Chair Woods had sent an email to those members who had been working on the planning of the event and they plan to get the information to the board at the HOA ahead of their next meeting on October 22nd.
- f. Mayor Goode suggested the event occur on either November 20th or 21st

and emphasized making contact with them as soon as possible to see if these dates would even be available.

- g. Member Collins would continue to try to make contact with Bill Wilder who has connections with Capital Canyon, so members can get out there as soon as possible to check on availability.
- h. Member Furst offered to provide a list of HOA's he had received from the VA to Member Reiger for future outreach.

C. Update and Discussion Regarding US Vets from Bryan Campbell.

- a. Member Campbell expressed the importance of the team and the individual efforts of those on the commission. The outreach has been effective.
- b. There is an upcoming golf tournament at the Prescott Golf Club in Dewey. The club was still seeking out donations for items.
- c. The housing project at the VA is breaking ground in December. Once completed it will offer almost 200 onsite housing units for those who qualify including senior veterans, homeless veterans, and low income veterans.
- d. Member Campbell spoke further on the homeless veterans population in Arizona being at around 247 individuals at the point-in-time count at the beginning of this year. About 93 of those were unsheltered.
- e. Member Furst addressed the issue of traffic at the VA entrance, asked if anything was going to be re-opened at the west end where it once was open before COVID.
- f. Member Campbell confirmed it was not in the development plans to add any entry point for the additional housing units. He went on to thank the Mayor for his attendance at the recent donor appreciation event.
- g. Member Reiger brought up what qualifications the tenants must have as the units have the capacity to cover many of the homeless veteran population.
- h. Member Campbell explained how US Vets would work with a case management team to assist those eligible for HUD VASH vouchers to apply for the housing, which would include a leasing agreement and access to all the services on site.
- i. It was announced last week that the Arizona State Veteran Home in Flagstaff has opened its doors to residents this month.
- j. The HUB has continued in it's offering of services to include suicide assessments which has opened up more services being offered, to include acupuncture, equine therapy and other partnerships with non-profits to assist our veterans.
- k. US Vets has also started a program to track the veteran population moving through the Yavapai County Detention Center, with procedures now in place determine veteran status. Member Furst offered to go out and assist with status and eligibility for this new program.

D. Update and Discussion Regarding a VA Update from Craig Furst/Steve Sample.

- a. Member Furst is attending the ongoing Veterans Court with Judge Padilla.
- b. There are ongoing monthly meetings at Rafters Eleven in Prescott Valley which he is attending. He also plans to attend the upcoming golf tournament at the Prescott Golf Club.

- c. For upcoming events, there is a Stand Down in Lake Havasu City on October 19th, a Senior Referral Network event on November 12th and some Veteran Resource Fairs coming up next month on the Navajo Nation.
- d. Member Furst has additional information on the events and he also offered information on the history of Fort Whipple to anyone interested.

4. UPDATES

- A. Member Timm provided an update on the Military Academy nominations, with the deadline approaching and five application packets received to date. The program has been funded to continue into this next federal budget cycle.
- B. Staff Liaison Liz Boawn provided a summary of the upcoming Veterans Day Parade, with 48 parade entries being received to date.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Member Reiger adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.



STEVE WOODS, Chair

ATTEST:



LIZ BOAWN, Staff Liaison