



# City of Prescott

## Mayor's Veterans Commission

January 8, 2025 | 9:00 AM

Grace Sparks Activity Center  
824 E Gurley Street  
Prescott, AZ 86301

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

#### 2. ROLL CALL

STEVE WOODS – Chair  
DAN BERRYMAN – Member  
BRYAN CAMPBELL – Member  
MARTY COLLINS - Member  
CRAIG FURST – Member  
BRYAN HOUBECK – Member (Excused)  
RICHARD OTTO – Member  
EDWARD REIGER - Member  
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ – Member  
CARL SPERLING – Member  
JEFF TIMM – Member (Excused)

#### 3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the December 4, 2024, Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY MEMBER EDWARD REIGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY MEMBER RICHARD RODRIGUEZ: PASSED (8 - 0)**

- B. Update and Discussion Regarding Vet-Connect Neighborhood Town Hall Update – Steve Woods/Ed Reiger.
- Chair Woods let the members know he spoke to HOAMCA and they told him they needed more time to host a townhall event due to the Hassayampa being a big community.
  - The Hassayampa Town Hall event would be pushed out to the one after the upcoming event, with planning of the next event to be coordinated at the same time.
  - Member Reiger passed out the list of HOA's to go over with the commission members. He suggested Walden Farms as good site with quick potential to coordinate. Chair Woods remarked on the venue being outdoors and not ideal for the colder months.
  - Mayor Goode suggested members check in with each HOA for each community about what space they could provide.
  - Member Furst mentioned the Mountain Club area as a potential area that may be worth connecting with.

- f. Member Reiger announced he would check on The Ranch as the first option and make contact with them. The second option would be the Mountain Club community.
- g. Chair Woods spoke on the challenge being finding a suitable meeting place. It was suggested to go to the HOAMCO headquarters for advice on the struggle to find suitable locations.
- h. Member Reiger suggested a larger venue space like that of the Centennial Center which could handle a bigger crowd. Members remarked on the issue being getting the word out.
- i. Member Reiger announced the target date for the next event would be the third week in February. After some discussion, Chair Woods settled on February 20th as the planned date for the event at The Ranch.
- j. Member Berryman asked about the final outcome with Hassayampa. Chair Woods remarked the community was good with a future date, and we would be working back to having it at that location in April.
- k. Member Reiger brought up the content of the events and the need for more representation in the survivor benefit/cemetery service area. A suggestion was made to have the VBA rep who is already in the area for appointments at the HUB to attend the event. Guest Steve Sample suggested a caregiver support rep could also attend the townhall event if it were held at a larger venue. Member Furst offered to get the point of contact for those services.

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

- a. The Fort Whipple campus transformation project is now underway, with the Officer Quarters units being available in January of 2026 and the new build units to be ready around June of 2026. The Liberty Point facility will also have over 80 units, which will include transitional housing. With the added units, Member Campbell spoke on the hope of decreasing the homeless veteran footprint.
- b. Campbell went on to thank all of those involved in the project, including our local public safety agencies.
- c. US Vets is working on scheduling a golf tournament for October.
- d. There is an ongoing collaboration with the Yavapai County Detention Center on screening their population. For the last year it was determined that 8 percent of those screened were veterans, which provides a valuable opportunity to offer services.
- e. Mayor Goode brought up the Veterans Court and asked, in general, if there could be more work done in that area.

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

- a. Guest Steve Sample gave an update on the status of the VA budget and staffing numbers. Their primary care team is looking to add to their staff in Flagstaff. The VA will continue it's outreach in northern Arizona throughout the year. The expansion of the Lake Havasu VA Clinic was huge for the area, updating their square footage from 1500 to 22,000.
- b. There have been some changes to the campus renovation projects, with some projects being cancelled until further notice.
- c. Chair Woods asked if there would be any impacts from the recent bill referred to as the Elizabeth Dole bill being passed. Sample remarked that

there were elements which included the expansion of 3-4 areas and more guidance would be unveiled soon.

- d. Member Furst spoke on the upcoming outreach events to include a rural health fair in the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) region, a Stand Down in Wickenburg on January 18th, the Senior Referral Network event on February 11th, and some resource fairs including Bullhead City on March 7th, Camp Verde on March 30th and Page, Arizona, on April 3rd and 4th.
- e. Member Furst also updated on the progress with getting housing for veterans in the Evergreen and Canyon Run communities.
- f. Sample added an upcoming event, the High Country Stand Down on May 15th. The location would be the Thorpe Park Flagstaff Armory.

#### 4. UPDATES

- A. Chair Woods addressed the commission on looking at an alternate date and time for the meetings. After brief discussion, it was decided to keep the meeting date and time as it is.
- B. Member Rodriguez spoke on the passing of Col. Fred Cone (Ret.). A celebration of life with Military Honors will take place on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at Embury Riddle.
- C. Member Sperling has a contact at the Courtyard at the Gardens at Willow Creek he was going to reach out to them about a future event.
- D. Member Collins has spoken with folks at Pinon Oaks, however there is the challenge of no meeting space or means of communication amongst the community.
- E. Mayor Goode wrapped up the meeting with final remarks regarding his recent state of the city address, new administration and the impacts on our area, as well as the developments in public transportation that could assist the local veteran population.

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairs Woods adjourned the meeting at 10:03 AM.



STEVE WOODS, Chair

ATTEST:

  
LIZ BOAWN, Staff Liaison