



City of Prescott Mayor's Veterans Commission

February 5, 2025 | 9:00 AM

US Vets Hub
120 N Marina St
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the January 5, 2025, Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER MARTY COLLINS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED; SECONDED BY MEMBER JEFF TIMM: PASSED (7 - 0)

- B. Update and Discussion Regarding Vet-Connect Neighborhood Town Hall Update – Steve Woods/Ed Reiger.
- a. Chair Woods started the meeting with the status of the booking of the event at The Ranch. He said that Member Reiger was able to find the right point of contact and they are positive about getting it moving forward.
 - b. February 20th was the ideal date but no longer going to work as they are still trying to get approval to have the event. The speakers couldn't be contacted until the event is finalized. The second or last week of March was now on the table, and will be announced at the March meeting.
 - c. The potential date for the Hassayampa event was still being looked at, with neither entities coming to a decision. Chair Woods announced that April was still a possibility.
- C. Update and Discussion Regarding US Vets from Bryan Campbell.
- a. Member Campbell spoke on the location of our meeting and the space funded by the Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program.

To date, the grant has provided suicide screenings for over 400 individuals. He also gave an overview of the Women Vets on Point Initiative and how it has been helping local veterans.

- b. Member Campbell explained how the use of the suicide grant also helps both the Prescott and the Camp Verde detention centers with screening their populations, which provides a valuable opportunity to offer services such as telehealth visits, housing assistance, and employment services.
 - c. Member Sperling asked about the suicide prevention hotline, and if this information made it back to US Vets. Member Campbell stated the Hub only took care of drop-ins and in-person assessments, but if it's determined that the veteran needs help, they call a crisis team and take them to the VA. Campbell also spoke on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Line and how it dispatches a local team and a counselor to wherever the individual is. The Liberty Point office also has the resources to link the veterans to the appropriate resources. Campbell went on to let the members know he would look into the flow of the suicide lines with local services and bring the information back to the commission.
- D. Update and Discussion Regarding a VA Update from Craig Furst/Steve Sample.
- a. Chair Woods had not heard from Member Furst but acknowledged the high impact item that was happening with the VA as some of the service providers could be applying through the OPM to get out of the VA, which could affect staffing and services.

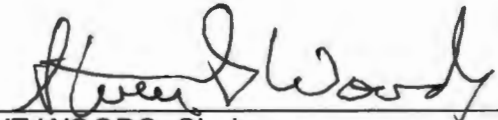
4. UPDATES

- A. Chair Woods announced the Women Veteran Virtual Town Hall coming up on Thursday, February 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event is open to any women serviced across northern Arizona.
- B. Member Campbell announced funds available for veterans at risk of homelessness. Included in that are women veterans as they are seeing a rise in the number of women veterans locally who are seeking services.
- C. Member Berryman announced the next VETS Connect Quarterly Business Mixer would be at the Post 6 American Legion in Prescott on May 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There is also the annual Kiwanis Auction coming up March 27th through April 2nd, which benefits local kids and families.
- D. Member Timm announced they are currently doing outreach with the class of 2030 students for applying for the military academy. Chair Woods stated that the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University freshman may have interest in learning about the program as well.
- E. Member Rodriguez announced the Arena Cross Championship was this weekend and there are free tickets available to active, retired and veteran service members.
- F. Member Collins updated the commission on his contact with the Courtyard at the Gardens at Willow Creek. They were not interested in any arrangement for a town hall event.
- G. Member Campbell remarked that 86% of the veteran population was over 50 years old, while the remainder were younger than 50 years of age, which may want to be considered when planning future events.
- H. Mayor Goode closed the meeting with the announcement of the possibility of the

commission being dissolved at the end of his term. He would like to see a few more successful events this year and looks forward to providing as much benefit to the community as possible in this time left.

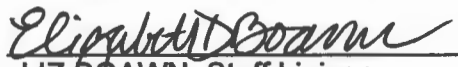
5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairs Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:43 AM.



STEVE WOODS, Chair

ATTEST:



LIZ BAWN, Staff Liaison