

City of Prescott
Mayor's Veterans Commission



April 2, 2025 | 9:00 AM
Grace Sparks Activity Center
824 E. Gurley 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
BRYAN HOUBECK – Member (Absent)
RICHARD OTTO - Member
EDWARD REIGER - Member
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ – Member (Absent)
CARL SPERLING – Member (Excused)
JEFF TIMM - Member

3. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the March 5, 2025, Mayor's Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes.
**MOTION BY ED REIGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED;
SECONDED BY MARTY COLLINS : PASSED (7 - 0)**
- B. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Vet-Connect Neighborhood Town Hall Update – Steve Woods/Ed Reiger.
- a. While the target neighborhood was the Ranch, this event location would cost \$500 which is out of budget.
 - b. Member Reiger has stated that Yavapai Hills would be a good option again since they have hosted a Town Hall at their clubhouse before, the commission could then invite residents from the Ranch.
 - c. In discussion with Crystal from Yavapai Hills, she would like to run it by the board again to ensure they would be okay with hosting guests from the Ranch. The next board meeting for Yavapai Hills will be April 14th, 2025, an update should be provided after that. The target date for the Vet-Connect Town Hall is May 21st, 2025 at 3:00 PM. This date looks open for the VA, Chair Woods will ensure the Mayor is available this date then send invitations out for speakers.
- C. Presentation and Discussion Regarding USVETS Update – Bryan Campbell
- a. There is a vision of expansion into Prescott Valley. Currently looking at an office space in Prescott Valley to be able to provide resources for Veterans, spouses, and caregivers.

- b. USVETS is facing new challenges that require non-profit agencies to be backed by a government agency.
- c. USVETS is still working out some of the logistics with their space at the VA but is excited to break ground on May 17th, 2025.
- D. Presentation and Discussion Regarding VA Updates – Craig Furst
 - a. There is not much participation in Canyon Run as the low income housing moves to privatized, Veterans are not interested in help.
 - b. Coffee with a Veteran event will be held at the Prescott Valley Public Library the third Thursday of each month. This month it will be held on April 25th, 2025 from 10 AM to 12 PM. This event is hosted by a local citizen, Tom Chittenden, maybe there is a potential partnership there.
 - c. The Cliff Castle Standdown event had nearly 80 attendees, it was a great turnout.
 - d. Cottonwood has had a few Veterans Resource Fairs and the turnouts are good, they will be hosting the next ones on April 29th, 2025 and May 22nd, 2025.
 - e. The High Country Standdown event will be held May 15th, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 - f. A Veterans Resource Fair will be held at the VFW in Prescott Valley on May 19th, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
 - g. The VA has been utilizing the Toxic Exposure Risk Activity to help get Veterans Service Connected.

4. UPDATES

- A. Member Reiger shared about his experience with attending the Veterans Connection Hub to see a VBA employee. The employee was late, kept Veterans waiting, then excused themselves without seeing everyone and saying they would call. This experience really demonstrates the need to have a representative up here monthly. There is appreciation for USVETS providing a space to host this but the State could do better with providing representatives.
- B. Member Timm mentioned an event being hosted to help recruit students to consider attending a Military Service Academy on May 10th, 2025. This event has been mentioned to the Embry Riddle ROTC but the location and speakers are waiting to be confirmed.
- C. Member Collins mentioned he will be out of town for a part of May but is still available to assist on projects and events.
- D. Member Reiger wanted to remind everyone about the 'MyHeatheVet' website and application, he stated it is extremely helpful in showing claims and updates.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:53 AM.



STEVE WOODS, Chair

ATTEST:



PATRICE BRINKMAN, Staff Liaison