



**MILITARY & VETERAN'S AFFAIRS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Dalpe called the meeting to order on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Chair Robert Dalpe

Vice-Chair Cassandra Facciponti

Commissioner Carol Farabee

Commissioner Shane Levinson

Commissioner Michael Simon

Commissioner David Waltzer

Members Absent:

Commissioner Nancy Dunn

Staff Members Present:

Andy Bass, Deputy City Manager

Thomas Allen, Assistant City Attorney

Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary

Others Present

Scott Strubbe, 873 S Gardner Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224

Ireland Strubbe, 873 S Gardner Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224

2. SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

a. None

3. ACTION AGENDA

a. **Approval of the Minutes from the April 12, 2022, Military and Veterans Affairs Commission**

Chair Dalpe requested approval of the minutes for the April 12, 2022, Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting. **Commissioner Farabee** made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022, minutes. **Vice-Chair Facciponti** seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved 6-0 by **all Commission** members present.

- b. **Discussion on the creation of two new sub-committees under the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission to address the issues for military and veteran's mental health and veterans outreach programs.**

Commissioner Simon made the motion to table the discussion until the Military and Veterans Commission Retreat on May 20, 2022. **Commissioner Farabee** seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 6-0 by **all Commission** members present.

4. **DISCUSSION**

- a. 2019 City of Chandler Needs Assessment – **Vice-Chair Cassandra Facciponti**

Vice-Chair Cassandra Facciponti presented information from the 2019 City of Chandler Needs Assessment. Information included Social Determinants of Health with specifics around Finance, Mental and Emotional Health, Physical and Functional Limitations, Healthcare and VHA Utilization, and Substance Abuse. Recommendations to the **Commission** included Mentoring and Networking, Peer Support, Environment, Access to Resources and Taught Resilience. **Vice-Chair Facciponti** detailed Veteran demographics into sub-categories including Arizona Veteran Population, Education, Period of Service, Age Distribution, and Race and Ethnicity. Lastly, **Vice-Chair Facciponti** shared information on Veteran Sub-Populations including challenges for minority veterans and women veterans.

Commissioner Levinson asked if the goal of the Commission was to ensure that veterans received disability. **Vice-Chair Facciponti** responded that there is no clear path in Arizona to apply for benefits. Discussion ensued.

- b. Protocol for Suicide Intervention -**Vice-Chair Cassandra Facciponti**

Vice-Chair Facciponti presented on the issues around the protocol for Suicide Intervention. Multiple veterans' organizations try to assist veterans with suicide

prevention, but we need to encourage individuals who are in crisis to reach out to emergency services for immediate help. Discussion ensued.

- c. Presenter Gina Ruggiero from Creative Drill Sergeants – unable to attend

5. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **Commissioner Farabee** shared information that was to be delivered by Gina Ruggiero President of Creative Drill Sergeants. The mission of Creative Drill Sergeants is to help prevent homelessness and suicides and lead to success for re-integration . They deal with four components: comradery, mentoring, family, and economic stability. Music and art programs are used to assist veterans with PTSD and other reintegration issues.
- b. **Vice-Chair Facciponti** announced that the Chandler Elks will be hosting an Armed Forces Day breakfast on May 24, 2022.
- c. **Commissioner Simon** announced that Valley of the Sun, Post 35, will have a 9 a.m. ceremony on Memorial Day and it would be good to have some Commissioners there.
- d. **Chair Dalpe** announced that the speaker for the VLMC luncheon on November 10, 2022, will be Patrick Henry Brady.

6. CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.
- b. Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Retreat, May 20, 2022, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Chandler Museum, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive., Chandler, 85226

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, **Chair Dalpe** adjourned the meeting at 5:37 pm.

Robert Dalpe, Chairman

Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary