

**MILITARY & VETERAN'S AFFAIRS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Dalpe called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 5:02 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Chair Robert Dalpe
Vice-Chair Cassandra Facciponti
Commissioner Nancy Dunn
Commissioner Carol Farabee
Commissioner Nicolas Magallanes
Commissioner Michael Simon
Commission David Waltzer

Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Councilmember, Matt Orlando
Andy Bass, Deputy City Manager
Thomas Allen, Asst. City Attorney
Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director
Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director
Jody Crago, Museum Administrator
Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary

Others Present

Kelly Cooper
Dhahy Mullangi
Christopher Waltzer

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Dalpe requested approval of the minutes for the January 11, 2022, Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting. **Commissioner Simon** made the motion

to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022, minutes. **Commissioner Magallanes** seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved 7-0 by **all Boardmembers** present.

3. ACTION AGENDA

- a. None

4. BRIEFING

- a. Media Training-Matt Burdick, Communication & Public Affairs Director
Mr. Burdick gave a presentation on interfacing with the media and the public. City Council and city staff are responsible for handling all inquiries from the media. Please direct any media questions to city staff who will identify a subject matter expert within the city to speak to the topic. If you do speak to the media, it is as a private individual.

- b. Current City of Chandler Military and Veteran Programs

- i. Chandler Museum, Jody Crago, Museum Administrator
Mr. Crago gave a presentation on what the Museum has done for the military and veterans. The city has a database on its website to compile data where veterans can voluntarily answer a form. The webpage is www.chandleraz.gov/veterandatabase. This is meant to document veteran stories and experiences. This information is used to drive programming and recognition. Military and veteran donations are accepted and become a permanent record for the city. Programs include speaker programs, interviews, and exhibitions. Additional outreach programs and collaborations with other city departments include a Veteran's appreciation event, assistance with the development of the Veteran's Memorial at Veterans Oasis Park, and the Walk of Honor.

Commissioner Farabee asked if the museum would like copies of the book by Jack Holder. Mr. Crago responded that they would consider have copies of the book available to sell in the museum store.

Chair Dalpe added that the Veteran's Heritage Project may be able to add to the veteran data the city is collecting.

- ii. Neighborhood Resources, Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director

Ms. Powell gave a presentation regarding veteran programs offered in the Neighborhood Resources department. 'For Our City' is a program is a collective of different groups including faith-based, non-profit organizations, city leadership and businesses coming together to maximize resources to fill in gaps. 'Let's Pull Together' works with Code Enforcement to assist veterans that are needing help managing home maintenance. Volunteers team up to provide landscaping, painting, etc. With the For Our City Day multiple volunteers come out and do a neighborhood beautification including landscaping, painting, pulling weeds, etc. Ten years ago, City Council allocated funds for a 'Veterans Transportation Program'. Low-income veterans are provided with food boxes, transportation to the VA and to medical appointments. The city also partners with Operation Shockwave to provide benefits mental health support to veterans. We have a Navigation Team that work with people experiencing homelessness, court issues, and behavioral issues. 'Operation Open Door' are for medically vulnerable people that are homeless. Shelter is provided at a hotel that also aids in finding additional support programs.

Vice-Chair Facciponti asked Ms. Powell to speak to how the Cares Act has impacted services. Ms. Powell responded that her department has had an influx of funds as a result of the Cares Act. Additional staff has been hired to assist with the management of those grant funds. Despite the additional funds, there is still a need within the community.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Review Draft Rules of Procedure:

A draft of the Rules of Procedure for the Military & Veterans Affairs Commission was distributed. The Commissioners will send comments via email back to Ms. Popovich, Recording Secretary and Mr. Bass by February 28, 2022, by 8:00 a.m. Those modification will be added to the document with adoption expected at the meeting on March 8, 2022.

Vice-Chair Facciponti asked Thomas Allen, Asst. City Attorney, why the information on the number of Commission members and the definition of a quorum was removed from the Rules of Procedure. Mr. Allen responded that that information is found in the City Code, Section 2-22.

b. Discuss Possible Commission Projects:

Chair Dalpe asked the Commissioners to speak to projects that the Commission may support or initiate.

Chair Dalpe – In discussion with the mayor, support of the USSAZ submarine in Gilbert and recognizing young men and women going into service from high school.

Vice-Chair Facciponti – updated resource directory, Battlefield to Boardroom, mental health issues

Commissioner Farabee - Entrepreneurial, small business grants for veterans

Commissioner Waltzer – Improvement of the transition process from service to civilian life

Commissioner Magallanes – Improve communication for job placement

Commissioner Dunn – Nothing at this time

Commissioner Simone – Nothing at this time

Mr. Bass said that a list will be compiled for the next meeting for review.

Commissioner Farabee asked if sub-committees may be formed to work on these projects. Mr. Bass responded that yes, sub-committees of less than 4 can be formed with Commission members and report back to the Commission.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a.** None

7. CALENDAR ITEMS

- a.** Veterans Drop Zone Event, Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10 – 2 p.m. at Tri-City Baptist Church, 2211 W. Germann Rd., Chandler, 85286
- b.** Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a.** The Conflict-of-Interest form was distributed to Commission members.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items, **Chair Dalpe** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. **Commissioner Waltzer** made the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Vice-Chair Facciponti** seconded the motion.

The adjournment was approved 7-0 by **all Commissioners** present.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Dalpe", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Dalpe, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandy B. Popovich", written over a horizontal line.

Sandy Popovich, Recording Secretary