

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting

November 12, 2024
Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Farabee at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair Carol Farabee
Vice Chair Michael Simon
Commissioner Jacob Dort
Commissioner Shane Levinson
Commissioner LaShay Marks

Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liaison
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney
Luke Tasker, Recording Secretary
Beth Chepelsky, Organizational
Development Sr. Manager

Absent

Commissioner Robert Dalpe (unexcused)
Commissioner Nancy Dunn (unexcused)

Consent Agenda

1. October 8 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes
2. October 21 Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes
3. Final approval of Veteran Resource brochure

Comm. Levinson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Vice Chair Simon.
Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion

4. Discussion regarding debrief of the Veterans Day event

Improvements

Comm. Dort noted that the Armed Forces Medley will need music at the next event (or should be removed). He also noted that trash cans will be needed. Mr. Povar noted that a few lights at the top of the memorial were out and will be repaired.

Additions

Mr. Povar suggested adding US or military flags at the entrances, similar to nearby neighborhoods. Comm. Levinson recommended adding unique touches to the event to draw a larger audience, such as including military vehicles. Vice Chair Simon suggested moving the event to an earlier date to avoid conflicts with other events. Mr. Povar advised he would investigate the cost of a drone show as a potential addition. Chair Farabee noted that she has an Air Force contact in Tucson who might be able to assist.

5. Discussion regarding debrief of the Military Appreciation Breakfast

The Commission agreed that the event went well, highlighting the quilts being raffled off and the food provided.

6. Discuss updates regarding memorial for the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, to be held April 26, 2025

Mr. Povar noted that logistics for the event are moving along well. He advised that the focus has shifted to emphasize South Vietnamese culture, in addition to recognizing any Vietnam veterans in attendance.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the upcoming Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Retreat, to be combined with the December 10 regular meeting

Ms. Chepelsky introduced herself and advised that she would facilitate the upcoming retreat. The commission discussed various potential topics, including the following:

- Reviewing goals, mission, and vision in relation to the ordinance establishing the Commission
 - Role and legal boundaries of the Commission
- 2025 theme or focus
- Connecting with the community, and connecting the community with resources
 - Gathering input from the community
 - Gaps in resources provided
- Event planning
 - New event (e.g. resource fair BBQ)
- Commissioners' assignments/roles

8. Discuss updates regarding external events

Comm. Dort advised that VFW Post 401 has a new commander, and that he will reach out.

Calendar

9. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held December 10, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Chandler Museum Saguaro Room, 300 S. Chandler Village Dr.

Information Items

10. Treasury Report – Luke Tasker, Commission Secretary

Mr. Tasker provided an update on the expenses for the Military Appreciation Breakfast.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.