

# Meeting Minutes

## Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

### Regular Meeting

March 11, 2025

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



### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Levinson at 5:02 p.m.

### Roll Call

#### Commission Attendance

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

#### Staff Attendance

Corey Povar, Staff Liaison  
Tawn Kao, Deputy City Attorney  
Luke Cerré, Recording Secretary

### Consent Agenda

1. February Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes

Comm. Dalpe motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Comm. Dort. Motion carried 6 - 0.

### Discussion

2. Discuss updates regarding the Freedom, Hope, Future Vietnam event, to be held April 26, 2025

Mr. Povar advised that the Military Order of the Purple Heart would be supplying challenge coins and pins for the veteran recognition section of the program, as well as pins for Gold Star families. He advised that the Hamilton High School JROTC will be available to assist the Commission with coining and pinning if needed. ASL and Vietnamese translators will be present at the event.

There was discussion regarding including a brochure from the city's Neighborhood Resources Department, as they regularly assist veterans. Mr. Povar advised that the Facebook event would be live within the next week. Comm. Dalpe stated that there were two other Vietnam-related events in the next few weeks, and that it would be helpful to get word out to those attendees.

3. Discuss event planning and assignments for Military Bound Event

Chair Levinson advised that he would have the full list of names from the recruiters in the next two weeks. There was discussion regarding the food, with a consensus that light appetizers would be sufficient, for approximately 200 people.

There was discussion regarding uploading the event task tracker to a shared location. Ms. Kao advised that so long as Commission members only use the tracker to update the status of tasks they had been assigned at meetings, and do not use the platform to communicate, there should be no issues with Open Meeting Law concerns.

4. Discuss updates regarding external events

Comm. Dalpe advised that there were several events coming up the Commission might want to be aware of:

Honoring Vietnam Veterans – 3/28, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 31 N. Church St., Sacaton  
Piestewa Events Series – 3/29, 4 p.m., Phoenix Mountain Preserve  
Arizona America 250 – 4/18, 5:30 – 9 p.m. at the state capitol, 1700 W. Washington St.

5. Discuss groups and organizations being included in the Veterans Memorial Phase 3

Mr. Povar displayed a mock-up of the panel design. He explained that backlighting the names unfortunately would not be feasible, as it would require a font that reduces the number of names from 3000 to 600. He asked that the Commission provide him with the correct abbreviations for each branch's ranks. There was discussion regarding adding Killed in Action, Missing in Action, and Prisoner of War designations.

Discussion turned to groups and organizations. A consensus emerged that the memorial should reflect the shared commitment of all who serve, rather than distinctions based on background. Allowing group representation was seen as a slippery slope, potentially leading to pressure from numerous organizations to be included, which could create complications and raise fairness concerns.

There was concern that excluding some groups could appear discriminatory, given the large number of veteran-related organizations and nonprofits in Arizona. This could make vetting submissions challenging, in addition to verifying an organization's legitimacy and its connection to Chandler. Including organizations was viewed as a risk to the memorial's mission, potentially shifting focus away from individual recognition.

Commissioners also felt that distinguishing specific groups would introduce unnecessary division in a space meant to reflect unity, reinforcing the belief that all who serve wear the cloth of the nation and deserve equal recognition. The Commission recommended against inclusion of organizations in Phase 3, but acknowledged the potential of exploring alternative methods to honor such groups.

6. Discuss annual report to council/memo to council

Discussion ensued regarding items to include in the memo, including the goals and objectives raised during the retreat (Advise, Educate, Collaborate & Coordinate,

Acknowledge & Honor). Deliverables accomplished during the year include the brochure, highlight reel, and commissioner name tags.

## **Calendar**

7. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held April 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago St.
8. Freedom, Hope, Future | April 26, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | City Hall Courtyard, 88 E. Chicago St.
9. Military Bound | April 30, 2025 | 6 - 7 p.m. | Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St.

## **Information Items**

10. Treasury Report - Luke Cerré, Commission Secretary

Mr. Cerré advised that there had been no changes since the last meeting, but that expenses for the Freedom, Hope, Future event would start soon. Comm. Farabee suggested that the Commission may want to start setting budgets for the Military Bound and Veterans Day events.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.