

Meeting Minutes

Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting

April 8, 2025

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



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Levinson at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair Shane Levinson
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

Absent

Vice Chair Michael Simon (excused)

Scheduled Public Appearance

1. Address by Mayor Hartke

Mayor Hartke thanked the commission for their service, and provided an update on the upcoming special bond election.

Consent Agenda

2. March Military and Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes

Comm. Dort motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Comm. Dalpe. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion

3. 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 had provided challenge coins, stars, magnets, and stickers for the event. He asked that Commissioners arrive by 8:30 a.m. to help with pinning and coining veterans.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding event planning and assignments for the Military Bound Event

Chair Levinson advised that roughly 40 recruits were anticipated to attend (at the time), estimating 150 total attendees. Comm. Dalpe advised that he was working with Floridino's to arrange catering. Mr. Povar asked that Commissioners arrive by 5:15 p.m.

5. Discuss updates regarding external events

Comm. Dalpe advised that the AZ America 250 Celebration, Patt Tillman Run, and Lee Huff's retirement celebration would all occur in April. He also advised that Congressman Biggs' "Drop Zone" event would be occurring on May 3.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding annual report to Council

Chair Levinson advised that he would have a draft ready for next meeting.

Calendar

7. Boards & Commissions Appreciation Event - April 16, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. - City Hall Courtyard, 175 S. Arizona Ave.
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.
10. The next Military and Veterans Affairs Commission meeting will be held May 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Conference Room, 88 E. Chicago St.

Member Comments/Announcements

Comm. Dort advised that he was elected Commander of Chandler VFW Post 7401 and was attempting to revitalize it. He invited the Commission to help recruit eligible local veterans.

Comm. Farabee suggested that the Commission revisit the goals established at the planning retreat each meeting, with a consensus emerging to add it as a recurring agenda item.

Information Items

11. Treasury Report - Luke Cerré, Commission Secretary

Mr. Cerré advised that March expenses had not yet posted, but that most of the Freedom, Hope, Future funding had been used. Mr. Povar advised that additional funds were being allocated to ensure the event expenses were covered.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.