

**CITY OF SURPRISE
VETERANS, DISABILITY, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2019 / 6:00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
16000 North Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER.

Chair George Van de Langeryt called the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, 16000 North Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on October 9, 2019.

A. ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair George Van de Langeryt, Vice Chair Karissa Perry and Commissioners Kathryn Chandler, Shawna Daigle, Steffen Hanzel, Bruce Hertzog, Dan Moore, Tom Short. Commissioner Jacob Thomas, Andrew Witzel and Larry Brown were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo and Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez were present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Van de Langeryt announced the following upcoming events:

- Last Saturday was the 1st Annual Care & Share Expo in the City Hall courtyard. It was an outstanding success in connecting the community with City and private services. Chair Van de Langeryt thank the Commissioners and Staff who were part of the working group.
- On October 12, 2019 from 5:00pm to 10:00 pm at Villanueva Rec Complex in the Original Town Site, the 6th Annual Surprise Fiesta Grande will be held to celebrate the city's heritage.
- On October 18, 2019 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, WHAM will host a Poetry Slam open mic night for poetry, free verse & storytelling.
- Surprise Day of Service October 19, 2019, from 8:00am to 12:00pm Volunteers need for services around the Original Town Sit. For more information contact Ervin Cutwright @623-222-3242 or Ervin.cutwright@surpriseaz.gov.
- Sunday in the Park Food Truck Festival on September 15, 2019 from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm, will have live music, food and family friendly events at Mark Coronado Park.

- Public Safety GAIN Night October 26, 2019 from 5:00pm to 9:00 pm at Mark Coronado Park. This free, family-friendly event brings the community together for a night of fun! There will be trick or treating, a gaming trailer, dinosaurs presented by the Dino Crew, public safety displays and so much more. Admission is free. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. Every two cans of food donated will benefit the Salvation Army and earn a raffle ticket to win awesome prizes.
- SciTech Festival, November 2, 2019 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the City Hall Courtyard. Join Surprise as we explore the wonders of Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) programs at the city's SciTech Festival! This free community event will feature robotics clubs, science experiments, educational demonstrations and more! Science enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged to attend! Contact the city if your business/organization would like to be one of our interactive, hands-on exhibitors and/or be an event sponsor!
- Vice Chair Perry attend the Surprise Community Leader and provider forum. This was an opportunity to hear preliminary assessment results relating to trends and gaps in services and working with community leaders to find solutions.
- Commissioner Chandler stated that Northwest Valley Connect will host their 3rd Annual Motors & Meals event on October 20, 2019 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at Beardsley Park. It will have vendors, food trucks, and human service vendors. +
- Commissioner Daigle stated she also attended the Surprise Community Leader and provider forum and had positive interaction with community leaders.
- Commissioner Hanzel stated attended the Surprise Community Leader and provider forum and it was a great opportunity for organization to network and learn about other organizations.
- Commission Hertzog stated that One Step Beyond was very impressed and please with the Care & Share Expo.

D. STAFF REPORT

None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chair Van de Langeryt opened the call to the public to discuss any items not on the agenda.

Mr. Charles Collins, resident, spoke to the Commission, about how happy he was in regards to the Care & Share Expo and how he was able to connect with different organization that work with those with disabilities. He also wanted to remind the Commission that One Step Beyond will be giving a tour of their facilities on October 17, 2019 at 10:00am. There will also be a Special needs recognition during halftime of Ottawa's football game.

Mr. Gerard Rodriguez business owner of VetLink Solutions, spoke to the Commission regarding Arizona Cyber Warfare Range which is a live-fire cyber warfare range created to rapidly train/upskill cybersecurity talent with hands-on learning. There will be a ribbon cutting October 24, 2019 4:00pm at the AZ Tech Celerator.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Van del Langeryt closed the call to the public

CONSENT AGENDA:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Internal – Consideration and action pertaining to the September 11, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Chandler made a motion to approve the September 11, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight yes votes.

Item 2 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of the West Valley Vet Center.

Chair Van de Langeryt introduced Mr. Eddie Matteson, from West Valley Vet Center who is HM1,FMF,US Navy (RET) and the Readjustment Counseling Technician and Outreach Coordinator.

Mr. Matteson gave a brief overview and update on the support services and resources the West provide to Veterans and their families. He explained that Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers, providing social and psychological services including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans and active duty service members, to include members of the National Guard and Reserve components and their families.

Commissioner Hanzel asked if he could describe some of the opportunities at the Vet Center for the Spouses and marriage counseling. Mr. Matteson stated that they provide couple individual, and family therapy.

Vice Chair Perry asked what is the best contact number for those who need services. Mr. Matteson stated that the main office number is 623-398-8854.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked how is the West Valley Vet Center funded. Mr. Matteson stated they are funded through the VA.

Item 3 – Internal – Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of Raising Special Kids.

Chair Van de Langeryt introduced Mrs. Ceci Hartke, from Raising Special Kids who is the Director of Programs.

Mrs. Hartke gave a brief overview and update on the support services and resources Raising Special Kids provides to families of children with disabilities. They help to strengthen families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children with disabilities and special health care needs.

Commissioner Hertzog asked what age is your top age that they assist. Mrs. Hartke stated that the mission statement states to the age of 26 but they never turn a family away. And if they cannot provide direct services they have the resources to send the family.

Vice Chair Perry asked if Surprise residents need services can they call over the phone since Raising Special Kids only one location in Phoenix. Mrs. Hartke stated that when a family

needs assistance is usually a phone call. In some instances, where they might need a one on one.

Commission Hanzel asked how can Raising Special Kids be contacted. For more information, call 602-242-4366 or visit www.raisingpecialkids.org.

Commission Daigle stated she is glad to that they help children with disabilities transition into adulthood. She also asked if Raising Special Kids is in need of mentors. Mrs. Hartke stated that they have need for what they call Parent Leaders, who take the initial phone calls. They are able to relate to the caller and provide feedback.

Commission Moore thanked Mrs. Hartke for attending the Care & Share Expo and thank Raising Special Kids for providing the services.

Item 4 – Internal - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of programs and services by What's Happening Art Movement (WHAM).

Chair Van de Langeryt introduced Mrs. Connie Whitlock, from WHAM who is the Executive Director.

Mrs. Whitlock gave a brief overview of programs and services WHAM provides to Veterans and those with disabilities. The programs are designed to educate the community about the power ARTS can have in the healing process through a variety of artistic courses for area Veterans and active-duty service members and their families.

Commission Daigle asked when are the classes for special needs. Mrs. Whitlock stated usually organizations call them to set up classes.

Commission Moore asked if Mrs. Whitlock could explain more about the Fry's reward dollars clearly. Mrs. Whitlock explained that when you sign up for Fry's rewards you can pick a charity to receive donations. WHAM receives ½ a cent but you have to sign up yearly.

Commission Hanzel asked to clarify the Veterans group calendar. Do you do any open art class for those with disabilities? Mrs. Whitlock stated they do not because they are not a school and they cannot keep an artist retained.

Commissioner Chandler thanked WHAM for the wonderful work they do in the community and asked for WHAM's contact information. For more information, call 623-584-8311 or contact Connie directly 623-640-5229.

Item 5 – Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview and update regarding the City's transit operations.

Chair Van de Langeryt introduced Mr. Dave Kohlbeck Public Works Business Manager.

Mr. Kohlbeck gave a brief overview of transit services that Valley Metro provides for the city. Valley Metro provides three transportation service models to better serve certified Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) riders, seniors, and income-qualified individuals in the Northwest Valley, and to provide a standardized regional system of rider's valley-wide.

Commissioner Hanzel asked how do you become an ADA certified individual, do you go through Valley Metro. Mr. Kohlbeck stated that there is a form online that is submitted to

Valley Metro. They review the application and then have the individual go to the ability center testing facility. Commissioner Hanzel also asked how do you get the Platinum pass. Mr. Kohlbeck stated that once you are ADA certified you can apply for the pass.

Vice Chair Perry asked how do the low-income residents apply for the low-income pass. Mr. Kohlbeck stated that the Human Services & Community Vitality department will determine the need and have them added to the ride choice roster. Vice Chair Perry asked with the Platinum pass can they use the express route. Mr. Kohlbeck stated yes.

Commissioner Hertzog asked if they have caregiver or shared ride for those using ADA services. Mr. Kohlbeck stated they are no extra fare for the caregiver or attendant.

Commissioner Short asked how do individuals pay for service. Mr. Kohlbeck stated that most of the time the rider has a credit card on file. For those who do not have a credit card how do they pay. Mr. Kohlbeck stated they typically use a prepaid card.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked if you tip the driver. Mr. Kohlbeck stated no tip should be accepted.

Item 6 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to a final report for the Care & Share Expo.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo gave praises to the working group for helping with planning the Care & Share Expo. A special thank you to Ms. Lopez for being the point of contact and the glue that held it together.

The Care & Share Expo had 71 organizations and departments, with about approximately 200 in attendance, over 173 Staff/Volunteers, so collectively about 400 people attended the event. Mr. Bernardo thanked the sponsors, Steward Health Choice, Touchdown Sportswear, Ace Packaging, Complete Print, and The Salvation Army. The total in-kind sponsorships total approximately \$2,300. He also thanked the City departments who supported the event as well.

Commissioner Moore asked what was city council members impression. Mr. Bernardo stated that they impressed as well. Commissioner Moore thanked Mrs. Lopez as well for all the hard work behind the scenes.

Commissioner Hanzel stated the staff support was unbelievable and Youth Council were hard workers. The event was still a success even if we did not have the turnout we wanted.

Mr. Bernardo state that St. Mary's book bank provided 10 pallets of produce and the youth council along with Deanne Blandford pre made bags and organized the entire food pantry.

Vice Chair Perry stated how pleased she was on how the Care & Share Expo turned out.

Commissioner Short asked if the working group would do a post event evaluation. Mr. Bernardo stated that working group have already met.

Commissioner Daigle stated very excited and pleased with the Care & Share Expo and she looks forward to seeing what it will become.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

The Commission had an open discussion regarding items they would like added to future agendas. Items included:

- Disability Friendly City Certification
- Tour and meet with WHAM

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Chair Van de Langeryt adjourned the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting at 7:53p.m.

Paul Bernardo
Community Partnerships Manager

George Van de Langeryt
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Chair

The foregoing instrument is a full, true and correct copy of the original document on file in the office of the City Clerk, City of Surprise, Arizona.

ATTEST BY:

Yvonne Lopez, Commission Liaison

DATE:
