

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

MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 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 September 11, 2019.

A. ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo, Human Service & Community Vitality Manager Joe Gladieux, Neighborhood Services Supervisor Adam Lane, Parks & Recreation Director Donna Miller and Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Van de Langeryt announced the following upcoming events:

- Chair Van de Langeryt gave a brief history of the events that took place on 9/11 and asked for a moment of silence to remember those who we lost that day.
- On October 5, 2019 at 10:00am the Surprise Veterans, Disability and Humans Services Commission will host the first Care & Share Expo. It is a free, community event creating connections to human service organizations, as well as disability, veteran and health resources. It's a one-stop source for accessing programs and services that promote health, financial growth and self-empowerment. Plus, there will be fun events for the entire family to enjoy! For further information, contact Yvonne Lopez at 623-222-3239.
- 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.

- On September 21, 2019 from 8:00am to 1:00pm, Glendale Community College will host a Veterans Stand up. Services will include legal assistance, motor vehicle services, job interviews, resume writing, and applying for VA healthcare.
- On September 28, 2019 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at Mark Coronado Park, Movie Night at the Park featuring Wonder Park. Free event with food and drinks available for purchase.
- 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.
- Vice Chair Perry attended the Veterans Engagement Summit. A lot of good conversations took place about the MISSION Act, urgent care services and care giver status. For more information, visit missionact.va.gov.
- Commissioner Chandler advised that Northwest Valley Connect will provide transportation to Glendale Community College for the Veterans Stand Up. For more information, call 623-282-9300.
- Commission Daigle stated that she was asked to speak at a networking group for organizations that provide services for people with disabilities.
- Commission Hanzel also attended the Veterans Engagement Summit and was able to express some concerns to Department Managers as well as brainstorm resolving issues together.
- Commissioner Hertzog gave an update on the issue with the mail boxes on Bullard and Waddell. They will now be handicap accessible. If anyone has issues or knows of new developments that might need to have handicap accessible mailboxes, to let him know so he can contact the developers.
- Commissioner Witzel provided information regarding the Retail Career Fair on October 8, 2019 from 9:00am to 12:00 pm hosted by Maricopa County AZ@Work at Rio Salado Surprise, 12535 West Smokey Dr, Surprise, AZ 85378. For more information, call 623-222-1630.

D. STAFF REPORT

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo stated on September 27, 2019 from 9:45 am to 12:00pm at the Dysart Unified School District Education Center, Governing Board Room, we have a leader and provider forum. The forum will give the first glimpse of data the consultants have found from their outreach as part of our community needs assessment.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chair Van de Langeryt opened the call to the public to discuss any items not on the agenda. Hearing no further comments, Chair Van del Langeryt closed the call to the public

CONSENT AGENDA:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to approval of the Community Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for program year 2018.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Neighborhood Services Supervisor Adam Lane.

Adam Lane stated that the public hearing is to present and discuss the Community Development Block Grant program year 2018, Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

This report outlines project/program activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for the grant year and to receive approval for submission to HUD.

Chair Van de Langeryt opened the public hearing.

Hearing no comments, Chair Van del Langeryt opened the discussion to commission member comments.

Commissioner Hertzog asked if the CAPER is an ongoing yearly program. Mr. Lane stated that the City of Surprise is an entitlement community which means we receive an annual allocation of CDBG funds.

Commissioner Short asked how does the funding actually happen. Do we expend and then receive funds on reimbursements? Are the funds given to us based upon the plan and plan approval? How does that work? Mr. Lane stated that it is a reimbursement process, we expend ahead of time and submit to HUD for reimbursement. Commissioner Short then asked if there has been any delay or issue receiving reimbursement for any of the funds during this particular block grant? Mr. Lane stated that the funds become completely available to us at the beginning of the program year and put into a Lox account where we can draw from anytime for eligible expenses

Vice Chair Perry asked about two business in the report that were given money. Do they have to be nonprofit or meet the standards to serve low income? Mr. Lane stated that those grants were for profit business. It is for private business to expand and grow and add capacity and create jobs. Vice Chair Perry asked if the grant is only available for businesses in the original town site. Mr. Lane stated that the grant is available city wide but the target area is the original town site. Vice Chair Perry stated she noticed that one of the agencies that provided transportation only served 188 people. She asked if that was due to funding. Mr. Lane stated that for transportation they have to report unduplicated persons, so if that person received service more than one time they still count them once. There were more than 1000 trips provided. Commissioner Perry asked when will the building of Heritage be finished. Mr. Lane stated February of 2020.

Chair Van de Langeryt opened the floor for question or comments.

Hearing no comments, Chair Van del Langeryt closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hanzel made a motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for program year 2018. Commissioner Hertzog seconded the motion. The motion passed with ten yes votes.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 2 – Internal – Consideration and action pertaining to approval of the August 14, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the August 14, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with ten yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of Be Connected.

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Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Kelly Anne Wilde Assistant Director of Programs from Be Connected who focuses on building support for all service members, veterans, their families and communities.

Ms. Wilde gave a brief overview and purpose of Be Connected, which is an Arizona statewide program focused on connecting service members, veterans, their families and people helping them to information, support and resources.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked if Be connected was connected with the VA in terms of funding. Ms. Wilde stated they are and there are different funding streams to make sure if one fund were to go away they would still have funding.

Commissioner Hertzog asked if there was a way to connect veterans and persons with cognitive disabilities together. Ms. Wilde stated that they have volunteers through different partnerships to provide connection, employment and assist in any way possible.

Commissioner Short asked if Ms. Wilde could explain how the public is made aware of the services and if Be Connected has resources or contacts in other states? Ms. Wilde stated that Be connected is statewide only but because they are a national best practice model they are consistently going to D.C. and help other states start programs as well.

Commissioner Hertzog asked if Be Connected was just in the City of Surprise. Ms. Wilde stated it is statewide and goes into the communities to see what resources they need and how to get them the resources they need

Commissioner Perry thanked Ms. Wilde for registering to be a part of the City of Surprise Care & Share Expo.

Commissioner Witzel asked how can organizations who are hosting events for veteran's report those to Be Connected so people can attend. Ms. Wilde stated that organizations can call into the hotline and they will post the event and make sure those who call in are aware of the event.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked where did the statistics come from that Arizona is three times more likely to have veteran suicides. Ms. Wilde stated that the data is from the Arizona Violent Death Reporting Survey.

Commissioner Moore asked if first responders and emergency rooms are aware of Be connected. Ms. Wilde said they work very closely with first responders.

Commissioner Brown shared his appreciation for what Be Connected is doing and asked if they were connected with the Native American reservations. Ms. Wilde says they work very closely with the tribal liaisons through the VA.

Commissioner Hanzel asked if Be Connected is for all generation of veterans. Ms. Wilde said it is open to all eras.

Item 4 – Internal – Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of the City of Surprise Adaptive Recreation programs.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Donna Miller, Parks & Recreation Director.

Ms. Miller gave a brief overview of the Adaptive Recreation programs the City of Surprise offers. She explained how Dream Catcher Park was built in March 24, 2007 and was inspired by Former Mayor Schafer and former Councilmember Debbie Johnson. They offer 60 – 70 programs and service over 3000 participants.

Chair Van De Langeryt asked how do you reach out to the students. Ms. Miller stated they reach out to the schools and use social media, press releases and a list of prior participants.

Commissioner Hertzog asked if the programs are only on the weekends. Ms. Miller stated that the programming is usually on weekends, evenings, and during the summer. He also asked if Adaptive Rec works directly with the schools or groups for community outings. Ms. Miller stated she was not sure but they do keep in contact with most of the teachers.

Commissioner Hanzel expressed his gratitude and stated that he is Adaptive Recs biggest advocate. He encourages everyone to take the time to attend and support the different programs. He asked if they are looking to expand different programs. Ms. Miller stated they are open to suggestions and continually reach out to potential new partners to help increase programming

Vice Chair Perry asked why doesn't the Adaptive Rec program go through the Department of Economic Security for extra funding for programs. Ms. Miller stated that there has not been the demand and the City does not have the facilities & resources to program outside of recreation.

Commissioner Daigle would like to revisit how to create more opportunities for individual open rec type activities and places to do so.

Item 5 – Internal - Presentation and possible action pertaining to an update and budget for the Care & Share Expo.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo gave updates on the progress of the Care and Share Expo. There are 51 confirmed organizations who will provide a wide range and variety of services. He gave a general layout of the event. We have secured sponsorship from Complete Print for posters, postcards, and flyers and Ace Packaging for events bags, Touchdown Sportswear for the volunteer and staff T-Shirts and the Salvation Army will provide a hydration station.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo gave an overview of the budget and expenses.

Commission Hertzog asked in case of rain can we use the parking structure. Mr. Bernardo stated that's where the vendors are already located with exception of the vehicles and other event activities that will be out in the courtyard as shown on the layout. If inclement weather is forecast, we will set-up some type of hotline for people to call into to see if the event is cancelled.

Commission Hanzel asked if the banners and signs would have the dates on them. Mr. Bernardo stated they will not have the dates printed on them so we can use them in the future.

Commission Witzel made a motion to approve the budget for the Share & Care Expo not to exceed \$5,000. Vice Chair Perry second the motion. The motion passed with 10 votes yes.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- Commissioner Hertzog encouraged people to take a look at a book available on Amazon from an author with autism called Untold Truth.
- Commissioner Moore asked for an update on items mentioned at previous meetings. Mrs. Lopez stated the next meeting agenda will include Raising Special Kids, WHAM, and West Valley Vet Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Chair Van de Langeryt adjourned the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting at 7:40p.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: _____