

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

MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 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 August 14, 2019.

A. ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Service & Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo, Sr., Financial Analyst Deb Perry and Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Hall, Vice Mayor Winters, Councilmember Sanders, and Councilmember Remley were in attendance.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Van de Langeryt announced the following upcoming events:

- On August 16, 2019 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, WHAM will host a Poetry Slam open mic night for poetry, free verse & storytelling.
- On August 17, 2019 at 7:30pm the Surprise Aquatic Center will be showing the movie Dumbo.
- The US Census will start address verification in Surprise neighborhoods starting August 18, 2019.
- Effective August 19, 2019, the city of Surprise will temporarily divert recyclable materials to the landfill as the city researches cost-effective solutions to mitigate the impacts of increased recycling operational costs.

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 his family's involvement with the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN) and The Arc Arizona and how they both supported his family in diagnosing his daughter.

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 June 12, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Short asked for a correction to be made to item 3 title. Correction noted. Commissioner Hanzel made a motion to approve the June 12, 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 regarding the Surprise Community Needs Assessment

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Dr. Lisa Zorita, from I& E Consulting who has been actively engaging the Surprise community in collecting data for the community needs assessment.

Dr. Zorita gave a brief overview and update on the purpose of the needs assessment and the focus groups already in place. For those wishing to participate, or to refer people to participate, they should contact her or her team directly.

Commissioner Hanzel asked how has the response been to the community needs assessment. Dr. Zorita stated the response has been good and the community is happy that the City of Surprise has taken the time to conduct this assessment and listen to the community.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked how they will reach people who don't have access to the internet to conduct the survey. Dr. Zorita stated that they are using several different modalities to conduct these surveys - community outreach, community forums, partner referrals, faith communities, those who are receiving and not receiving services, as well as, connecting with community gatekeepers.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked how do they intend to address the homeless population. Dr. Zorita stated that she was going to visit the Salvation Army and communicate directly with those who need help.

Chair Van de Langeryt stated that he belongs to several military organizations and would be interested in finding out if the city has homeless Veterans.

Vice Chair Thomas asked if transportation is being discussed. Dr. Zorita stated their interest is proposing something that is doable, cost effective and opportunities for best practices.

Item 3 – Internal – Consideration and action pertaining to the nomination and election of the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Chair.

Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez opened the floor to nominations. Commissioner Hanzel nominated Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Perry nominated Commissioner Daigle and Commissioner Moore nominated Commissioner Van de Langeryt and Commissioner Daigle nominated Commissioner Perry for position of Chair.

Commissioners voted on written ballots. Commissioner Van de Langeryt received 4 votes and Commissioner Daigle received 2 votes and Commissioner Thomas received 2 votes and Commissioner Perry received 1 vote.

Commissioners did a second vote on written ballots. Commissioner Van de Langeryt received 5 votes and Commissioner Daigle received 3 votes and Commissioner Thomas received 1 votes.

Item 4 – Internal - Consideration and action pertaining to the nomination and election of the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Vice Chair.

Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez opened the floor to nominations. Chair Van de Langeryt nominated Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Daigle nominated Commissioner Perry.

Commissioners voted on written ballots. Commissioner Perry received 5 votes and Commissioner Thomas received 4 votes.

Item 5 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of The Arc of Arizona organization.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Jon Meyers, Executive Director of The Arc of Arizona.

Mr. Meyers gave a brief overview of the support services and resources they provide to individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). They are a leading organization engaged in advocacy, education, public policy and work closely with elected officials at all levels to serve the population with IDD.

Commissioner Witzel asked about employment opportunities for persons with IDD, and if there are specific outreach materials provided to businesses so they can better understand the situation that these individuals are dealing with. Mr. Meyers stated that typically a person with IDD that is looking for employment is either working with a vocational rehabilitation counselor or with a service provider that acts as an interface between the individual and the employer. Commissioner Witzel then stated that the information is given only on an individual basis and it is not marketed to the business. Mr. Meyers replied no.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked how many people do you assist in the City of Surprise. Mr. Meyers did not have a definite answer but stated that it is not as many as they would like. The number is probably very low because The Arc does not have a chapter in our community.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked how would people in the community find The Arc. Mr. Meyers stated that people tend to know who the Arc is because they have been around for a long time. They work with a number of different organizations that provide referrals to them.

Commissioner Hanzel commended the Arc for going above and beyond in the city and state, but also nationally to implement the changes need to help IDD. Commissioner Hanzel asked if there was something specific or assistance that the City of Surprise could provide for the Arc. Mr. Meyers stated that there are a number of things that the City could help with but one thing is to undertake the effort to become a disability friendly city and to speak at different events to bring awareness to IDD.

Commissioner Brown asked if spina bifida was something that Arc dealt with. Mr. Meyers stated that spina bifida does fall under their umbrella.

Commission Daigle thanked Arc for all their advocacy efforts and asked if she were to go on the Arc website will the website show resources for a person with disabilities. Mr. Meyer stated that Arc has a very extensive resources page.

Item 6 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN).

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Keri Ramsey, Clinical Co-Director of the Center for Rare Childhood Disorders at TGEN.

Ms. Ramsey gave a brief overview of TGEN and its mission. She explained how they *translate* discoveries into diagnostics, therapies and treatments tailored to the unique needs of individual patients. Chair Van de Langeryt asked where are TGEN's headquarters and labs located. Ms. Ramsey stated that they are located in downtown Phoenix. Chair Van de Langeryt was fascinated by the fact that a Surprise resident has benefited from the work of TGEN.

Commissioner Witzel asked how does a family get referred to TGEN. Ms. Ramsey stated you do not have to be associated with a physician from TGEN. Some referrals come from physician referrals, word of mouth, or a phone call from the parent. Commissioner Witzel asked if those appropriate referrals are for people who struggle with getting the appropriate diagnosis. Ms. Ramsey stated yes that is correct.

Item 7 - Citywide - Consideration and action pertaining to the update of the community resource fair.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo gave updates on the progress of the Care and Share Expo. The event has been given a name and tag line "Surprise Care and Share Expo", creating connections to community services. We have received verbal confirmations from 45 organizations, St. Mary's Food Bank Food Pantry, parks and recreation kids zone, U of A Health screenings, police swat & K-9 units, food trucks, Utility Assistance, Accessible vehicles and the terrain hopper. We have secured sponsorships from Complete print for posters, postcards, and flyers and Ace Packaging for events bags.

Commissioner Daigle added that Ability 360 will also participate in the event by having demonstrations of wheelchair rugby and basketball.

Commissioner Thomas asked how many mental health related organizations have tentatively confirmed. VDHS Liaison Yvonne Lopez stated that there is one mental health confirmation but a total of five or so on the list.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked if there was a charge associated with the event. Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo stated that there is no charge to come or participate in the event. The only charge will be for food. Chair Van de Langeryt asked if the vendors would have to bring their own tables and chairs. Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo stated that we have a good inventory that the City can provide and does not anticipate the City incurring any additional cost. Chair Van de Langeryt asked what was the deadline for vendors to register for the event. Ms. Lopez stated September 13, 2019 was the deadline.

Commissioner Hanzel asked if we have reached out to the Kansas City Royals or Texas Rangers. Commissioner Daigle stated she has and at this time they could not participate.

Commission Moore noted that the vendors are nonprofits and we did not invite for profit businesses. Commissioner Daigle stated that Ability Center is a for profit organization but they enhance vehicles for those with disabilities.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked if we invited the Chamber of Commerce. Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo stated at this time we have not invited them.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- Veterans Hall
- Disability Friendly City Certification
- 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: _____