

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

MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 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 June 12, 2019.

A. ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair George Van de Langeryt, Vice Chair Jacob Thomas, and Commissioners Shawna Daigle, Steffen Hanzel, Bruce Hertzog, Dan Moore, Tom Short, and Andrew Witzel. Kathryn Chandler arrived at 6:08PM. Commissioner Karissa Perry was absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Service & Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo, Assistant City Attorney Hobie Wingard, Planner Hobart Wingard, Sr., Financial Analyst Deb Perry and Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Judd.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Van de Langeryt announced the following upcoming events:

- On June 13, 2019 at 11:00am to 3:00pm, The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Recruit Military will host a Veterans Job Fair at the Gila River Arena
- On Friday, June 14, 2019 the Arizona Department of Veterans Services will hold a Military and Veterans Women's Summit at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center. For more information, please visit AZ Veterans website.
- Fly your flag on Friday, June 14, 2019, in observance of Flag Day. It is also the 244th Birthday of the United States Army.
- On June 6, interviews were conducted for the Veterans, Disabilities and Humans Services commission vacancy. Vice Mayor Winters, Councilmember Remley and Councilmember Sanders were on the nomination committee. Thirteen applications were received. Eleven interviews were conducted and a candidate has been selected.

- Commissioner Witzel stated on June 28, 2019 at El Mirage City Hall from 9:00AM to Noon Maricopa County AZ@Work will be hosting a Job Fair for Industrial and Manufacturer Employers in partnership with the City of EL Mirage.

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. Hearing no 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 May 8, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the May 8, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Hertzog seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight yes votes.

Item 2 – Internal – Consideration and action pertaining to the FY2020 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission regular meeting schedule.

Chair Van de Langeryt announced there will not be a July2019 meeting and the Commission will convene every second Wednesday of every month at 6pm, with an exception of a work session for Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) training on August 7, 2019. Commissioner Hertzog made a motion to approve the FY2020 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission regular meeting schedule. Commissioner Hanzel seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to the update of Community Resource Fair.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Mike Homco and Jeff Swanson, Executive directors with One Step Beyond, Inc.

Mr. Homco and Mr. Swanson gave a brief overview of the support services and resources they provide to individuals who have intellectual disabilities. They gave a detailed report on their many programs and services.

Commissioner Witzel asked what type of industries are they looking for to provide employment and what industry can we refer to One Step Beyond to help their individuals. Mr. Homco stated that it is not a specific industry but a partnership to properly match a member with the business.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked what type of facilities does One Step Beyond have here in surprise. Mr. Homco stated that One Step Beyond has four campus buildings located on Greenway and Reems.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked what was the age group that they serve. Mr. Homco stated they serve ages 3 years to 99 years. Certain programs are more for adults, like the employment and life skills programs.

Commissioner Short asked if there were federal or state programs that provide employers incentives to employ individuals with disabilities. Mr. Homco stated that he believed there are some tax benefits. He mentioned that One Step Beyond helps employers by having a job coach to support the members, work with supervisors and help the member master the task until the member can do it independently.

Commissioner Hanzel asked if there was one thing the City of Surprise or the community could do for their organization what would that be. Mr. Homco stated that the City and community could help their members by being more accepting and inclusive.

Commissioner Hertzog stated that he is an employee of One Step Beyond and commended them for their services and programs. He encourages the community to attend the One Step Beyond theater group performances.

Item 4 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of the American Patriot Service Corp.

Chair Van de Langeryt introduced Rick Nelson from American Patriot Service Corp.

Mr. Nelson gave a detailed report on their organization and how many veterans they've supported in receiving aid and attendance benefits.

Commissioner Witzel asked who provides the training to their service officers and how are they certified. Mr. Nelsen explained that their service officers are trained by an Attorney they have on staff who is accredited by VA.

Commissioner Hanzel asked how does someone get in touch with their organization and if there was one thing the City of Surprise or the community could do for their organization what would that be. Mr. Nelsen stated that they can be reached by contacting Seth Dyson, Director of Human Service and Community Vitality and they can be found on www.acspnp.org. He stated that the City of Surprise and the community could help them succeed by referring people who need the service.

Commissioner Chandler wanted to make Mr. Nelson aware of the Military and Veteran success center and she appreciated Mr. Nelson's passion.

Mr. Bill Smith, who is also involved with American Patriot, spoke about the Channel 12 story that recently aired regarding the aid and attendance benefit.

Item 5 – Citywide - Consideration and action pertaining to the update of the community resource fair.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo and Vice Chair Thomas gave updates on the progress of the community resource fair working group. The event will take place on

Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm on the ground level of the City Hall parking structure and in the City Hall courtyard. The group has a list of 75 nonprofit organizations they are asking to attend the event.

Commissioner Daigle mentioned that the organizations are responding very positive to joining our event.

Vice Chair Thomas mentioned that a few organizations attended one of our events in the past and are looking forward to attending this year's event.

Chair Van de Langeryt mentioned that our vendors need to know this is not an event to promote fundraising.

Commissioner Witzel mentioned the resource fair would be an opportunity to promote an upcoming job fair that will follow a week after.

Item 6 – Citywide - Consideration and action pertaining to the update of the community needs assessment.

Director Seth Dyson gave an update on the community needs assessment. A firm has been selected and is under contract. The contract runs thru January 2020 with a final report due in November.

Commissioner Hanzel asked if the original timeline remains the same. Director Dyson stated that the timeline has not changed.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- AZ Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Chair Van de Langeryt adjourned the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting at 7:19 p.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:
