

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

MEETING MINUTES

May 08, 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 May 08, 2019.

A. ROLL CALL

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

None

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Van de Langeryt announced the following upcoming events:

- The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Star Chapter 24, along with Golden Corral Restaurant, will be holding a fundraising event during the month of May at the Golden Corral on Litchfield and Grand Avenue in order to raise funds to send military children to summer camp.
- On Saturday, May 25, 2019 at 9 a.m. The City of Surprise will be hosting a ceremony performed by the American Legion Post 96 and the White Tank Detachment 1246 of the Marine Corps league, honoring the service members who trained on Fighter's Field which was known as Luke Auxiliary Field #3 during WWII. The ceremony will be held by the monument that is near the lake close to the library.
- The Veterans, Disabilities, and Human Services has a vacancy. You may pick up an application from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. Return completed applications to City Clerk, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, AZ, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or email clerk@surpriseaz.gov.

D. STAFF REPORT

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo and Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez attended the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, Statewide Symposium and both spoke about the breakout sessions they attended and the impact it had on them.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo attended a powerful art show that was hosted at the City of Surprise Resource Center by Eve's Place. The art work displayed was created by teenagers who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence and teen dating abuse.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo has setup meetings with the veteran's outreach staff of the area congressional delegation, Senator Sinema, Senator McSally and Congresswomen Lesko to see how we can work together and possibly present to the commission in the future.

E. VETERANS, DISABILITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REPORT

Commissioner Hanzel stated he attended the Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt that was hosted by the City of Surprise Adaptive Recreation Department. He spoke about the wonderful event and programs that the Adaptive Recreation Department provides.

Commissioner Hertzog gave a report as to the information he found in regards to the railroad crossing and the sidewalks leading up to it. He also gave a status report on the new construction for proper sidewalks that lead to the mailboxes.

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 asking us to reach out to our local newspaper to run special articles in regards to issues that affect veterans and people with disabilities in order for the community to gain a better understanding of the issues that affect the families. He also asked to be more informed on events that may need volunteers. Mr. Collins mentioned a new coffee shop Spencer's Place which employs individuals with cognitive learning disabilities, and would like to see the Commission support this new business.

Mrs. Diana Quach and Martha Swastiki resident and founder of AstroKidz, spoke to the Commission introducing their organization and the work they have been doing in the community for children and adults with down syndrome.

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 November 14, 2018 Disability Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.

Assistant City Attorney Hobie Wingard explained that we no longer have a quorum but we meet state requirement for minute taking as long as it has been recorded, either written or video, which we have both. So an official approval is not necessary, therefore no further action is needed for the November 14, 2018, Disability Advisory Commission Meeting minutes

Item 2 – Internal - Consideration and action pertaining to the April 10, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Chandler made a motion to approve the April 10, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Hanzel seconded the motion. The motion passed with nine yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining the overview of the Military Veterans Success Center.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Nisha Dorsey from the Military & Veteran Success Center.

Ms. Nisha Dorsey gave a brief overview of the support services and resources they provide to active duty, veterans and family members. She gave a detailed report on how many military members assessments are done monthly and the process of developing an individualized plan for the member.

Chair Van de Langeryt asked if the Military & Veteran Success Center provided support with CHAMPVA and Tricare for those who are having difficulties receiving care. Ms. Dorsey indicated that they are able to advocate and provide help to navigate the process better but ultimately VA has the final decision.

Commissioner Hanzel asked if the Military & Veteran Success Center is connected with the City of Surprise Veteran Job Club. Ms. Dorsey indicated that they did have a partnership with Commissioner Witzel in his role with Maricopa County. She was not sure what the status is currently but they are open to partnerships with anyone who is willing to help military members. Commissioner Hanzel asked if there was one thing the City of Surprise could do to help with their mission what would it be. Ms. Dorsey explained that the partnership with the City of Surprise, especially the Human Services Department, is amazing and she would like to see the partnership continue.

Commissioner Short asked if the Military & Veteran Success Center has the capacity to deal with crisis intervention for military veterans and their families. Ms. Dorsey responded that they receive crisis line referrals from Be Connected but she would like to be able to provide crisis counseling services with an internal counselor at the center.

Commissioner Hertzog asked if reservists are included in the people the Military & Veteran Success Center serves. Ms. Dorsey indicated that they serve everyone who has served but it may be somewhat difficult to navigate resources or resources may be limited for reservist

and National Guard members but the Military & Veterans Success Center do their best to support them.

Commissioner Perry asked if it was easier for people to call or walk in to receive service. Ms. Dorsey explained that calling is preferred to schedule an appointment because of limited staff but they will take walk ins.

Item 4 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to an overview of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Group.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Scott Burdick from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Group.

Mr. Burdick gave a brief overview and history of the DAV, history of Chapter 24, membership requirements, member benefits and few details on his background.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- Adaptive Recreation to come do a presentation in June
- Information or Presentation of the Training received by the City's 1st Responders on encounters with disabled persons
- Presentation from WHAM
- Presentation from the City's Transportation Department and the Ride Choice Program
- Above and Beyond Award discussion
- Presentation from One Step Beyond

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Chair Van de Langeryt adjourned the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting at 6:56 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: _____