

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 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 March 13, 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, Karissa Perry and Andrew Witzel. Commissioners Kathryn Chandler, Tom Short and Krista Watson were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Service & Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo, Assistant City Attorney Hobie Wingard, Human Services Supervisor Edith Baltierrez, 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:

- Traveling Replica of the Vietnam Wall "*The Wall that Heals*" will be on display from Thursday, March 14th to Sunday, March 17th, 2019 at the Lake Pleasant Harbor in Peoria. <https://pleasantharbor.com/event/the-wall-that-heals/>
- Free dental services will be available for U.S. military veterans on March 23, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Mid-Western University Dental Institute 5855 West Utopia Road Glendale, AZ 85308. Call 623-806-7150 to register.
- On March 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. the second meeting of Veteran's home will be held in the Council Overflow Room in City Hall.

D. STAFF REPORT

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo welcomed new Commission Liaison Yvonne Lopez. He also reported that as follow up to a request from the Commission at

the February meeting, a presentation regarding Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Income will be brought forward at the April meeting.

E. VETERANS, DISABILITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION REPORT

None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Harry Louis Rodriguez, business owner of Vet Link Solutions, spoke to the Commission regarding a seminar to teach Veterans how to obtain benefit services. Mr. Rodriguez requested to work with the Commission to bring awareness to the services available.

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.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to table the November 14, 2018, Disability Advisory Commission Meeting minutes to the April 10, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Witzel seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 yes votes.

Item 2 – Internal - Consideration and action pertaining to the February 13, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes.

Commissioner Hanzel made a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Daigle seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to a Community Needs Assessment.

Human Service & Community Vitality Department Director Seth Dyson presented item 3 to the Commission.

The Commission had questions regarding survey questions, sample size, and the varying needs of different groups.

Item 4 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Community Resource Guide and the Surprise Resource Center.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo introduced Edith Baltierrez, Human Services Supervisor, and gave a brief overview of the Surprise Resource Center.

Human Services Supervisor Edith Baltierrez presented item 4 to the Commission.

Commissioner Hanzel asked how someone would be included in the Community Resource Guide. Ms. Baltierrez indicated that requests should be sent to the Resource Center to be vetted.

Commissioner Perry voiced concern that more people don't know about the many services that are offered at the center. Ms. Baltierrez indicated that there was little outreach due to staffing limitations. The Resource Center is now fully staffed and an outreach plan is in place.

Director Dyson gave the Commission the information to reach our department. Items included the website, the HSCV Monthly Minute, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram all at the handle of @SurpriseCares.

Commissioner Perry also voiced a concern over the need for teens and Veterans that are in crisis and asked about the how they ensure domestic violence victims feel safe when coming into the center. Ms. Baltierrez explained some of the training received and approaches taken to ensure all feel welcome and safe

Commissioner Witzel and Commissioner Hanzel both spoke about the wonderful staff and compassionate nature of the center.

Item 5 – Citywide - Presentation and discussion pertaining to a Community Resource Fair.

Community Partnerships Manager Paul Bernardo presented item 5 to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Will the areas that the community resource fair only target Surprise or West Valley/Open to all.
- What time of year would be best to host – Spring, fall or winter to include our winter visitors.
- Centralized check in to gather important data on needs.
- Resources from various organizations– Autism, Adaptive Recreation, Down Syndrome, Mobile dentist, Mobile veterinarian services, Volunteer programs, Transportation vendors.
- Vendors to help with food assistance/cash assistance enrollments and other benefit assistance.
- Large venue – Mark Coronado Park, 1st floor of City Hall parking garage, Surprise Stadium – lots of parking, snack bars, accessible.
- Include neighboring cities, El Mirage, Goodyear, and Wittman to do a joint fair.
- Sponsorships from large companies/ health organizations to help with marketing, food, water, etc.
- Get information to local TV stations for marketing.
- Bags of literature for every attendee.
- Timing/target dates.
- Demonstrations for disabled community. i.e. wheelchair rugby, assessable vehicles.
- Invite food trucks and local musicians

- Social media campaigns, flyers, event program of schedule of events

Mr. Bernardo suggested a working group of three commissioners. If Commissioners are interested they should work through the Chair and if more than three are interested, the Chair will assign.

After discussion, there was mutual consensus that October would be the best time to host the fair outside. Some key areas of resources to target might be Employment, Medical, Dental, Transportation, Veterinarian services, Disabilities, and having some type of demonstration or showcase. Staff will benchmark with others municipalities and groups that have hosted an event of this nature to determine best practice.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- Helping Families in Need to come do presentation in April or May
- Disabled American Veterans would like to present
- Veteran Benefits as presented by Harry Louis Rodriguez from Vet Link Solutions
- Presentation regarding Social Security Disability benefits
- Wreaths of America

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Chair Van de Langeryt adjourned the Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission meeting at 7:45 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: _____