

**CITY OF SURPRISE
VETERANS, DISABILITY, AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**November 8, 2023 | 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Hanzel 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 November 8, 2023.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Steffen Hanzel, Vice Chair Nickolas Kupper, Commissioners Phillip Lair, Dr. Gwen Maxfield, Shawna Daigle, Julie Kent-Partridge, and John Billcheck.

Councilmembers Present: Aly Cline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Services & Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, Assistant Director Deb Perry, Community Initiatives Supervisor Danielle Osborne, Administrative Specialist Athba Arnold.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Hanzel reported on the following upcoming events:

- 9th Annual Veteran's Day Parade
 - Saturday, November 11th begins at 10:00am
 - Routed along Bullard Ave between Paradise & Tierra Buena Lanes
 - Breakfast & Coffee 7:30am – 9:30am at Surprise Stadium
- Surprise Economic Development and Arizona @ Work hosting a free Hiring Event
 - Thursday, November 16th from 10:00am – 1:00pm
 - Surprise Regional Library
 - More than a dozen employers will be in attendance.
 - For more information, contact Melinda Greenhouse at 623-222-1630
- Sci-Tech Festival
 - Saturday, November 18th from 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - Mark Coronado Park

- Features interactive science, technology, engineering, art, and math exhibits.
 - Visit surpriseaz.gov/scitech for more information
- Parks & Rec – Adaptive Family Friends-Giving
 - Saturday, November 18th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm
 - Sierra Montana Rec Center
 - Will include Turkey Trot, fun activities, and pie.
- Annual Surprise Party
 - Friday, December 1st & Saturday, December 2nd from 5:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Recreation Campus
 - Drone light show, live entertainment, food, ice sculptures, photo opportunities with Santa.
- City of Surprise offices closed Friday, November 11th, Thursday, November 23rd, & Friday, November 24th

Commissioner Kent-Partridge reported on the following items:

- Commissioners Kent-Partridge and Lair represented VDHS information table at G.A.I.N. Night on 10/21
- Commissioner Kent-Partridge attended the “Sounds of Autism Annual Unified Responder Walk-a-thon” on 11/4
 - Surprise PD had a tent and many officers participated
- WHAM will be having adaptive art classes on Saturdays beginning in January
- “Night to Shine” Dance scheduled for February 9th, 2024
 - Radiant Church
 - Adaptive prom

Commissioner Lair reported on the following items:

- G.A.I.N. Night - lower attendance but high turnout at VDHS table.

STAFF REPORT

- Welcome back, Danielle Osborne
- West Valley Housing Assistance Center
 - Front page of Surprise Independent
 - West Valley Housing Assistance Center
 - Thank you to Adam Lane & Housing and Community Services team
 - Operated by A New Leaf: 7-unit living complex to assist with homelessness with wrap-around services
 - Over 1,600 bed nights since July to families; I-Help over 500 bed nights locally
- Surprise Homeless Collaborative Meeting with about 35 people in attendance on 11/8

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ron McGlynn – Surprise resident and military veteran. Complaint regarding bag policy at Surprise Stadium.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the October 11, 2023 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Lair moved to approve the October 11, 2023 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Vice Chair Kupper seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 Yes votes.

Item 2 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the October 30, 2023 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission Retreat meeting minutes.

Commissioner Lair moved to approve the October 30, 2023 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission Retreat meeting minutes. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 Yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion and possible action pertaining to a VDHS Commission Challenge Coin.

Danielle Osborne, Seth Dyson, and former Commissioner Allie Wisniewski led the discussion and shared potential Challenge Coin designs. The commission opted to revisit the item because some options were not presented at the last commission meeting

- Commission previously approved budget of \$700
- Commissioner Lair made motion to accept Option F with the following revisions:
 - Side A: image as is; add diamond-cut to coin's edge
 - Side B: include 2 hands only at bottom, supporting star
 - Pursue 3 quotes, and proceed with ordering coins up to \$700.00

Commissioner Lair moved to approve Option F, as revised, at a cost not to exceed \$700.00. Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 Yes votes.

Item 4 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to a VDHS supported quarterly Disabilities Roundtable.

- Commissioner Daigle recapped the working group meeting:
 - Roundtable will convene on the first month of each quarter on the third Wednesday.
 - Commissioners Daigle, Kent-Patridge, and Vice-Chair Kupper were the working

- group.
 - First meeting will be Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 at 9:00 am.
- Goal of roundtable is to gain insight from groups in Surprise area who work with individuals who have physical disabilities, and is solely for discussion and/or presentations
- Tentative plan for location is Community Room; space for 40-60 people.
- Each organization should have maximum of 2 representatives, must RSVP and are limited to non-profits and government agencies.

Item 5 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the proposed Surprise Vet Fest.

Commissioner Lair led the discussion regarding upcoming Vet Fest; requested digital copies of fliers

- Scheduled for Saturday, February 10th, 2024 at Mark Coronado Park
- Geared towards Veterans but open to public
- Segment out vendors for easier accessibility
- Sponsorship broken out in different levels
- Next Veterans Roundtable meeting on 11/15
 - Will discuss contacting local recruiters and determine how each vendor will follow-up

Item 6 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the VDHS Commission participation in the Surprise Veterans Day Parade.

Chair Hanzel led discussion:

- All commissioners should wear polo shirts and meet in same general area as previous years
- Chevy Tahoe is ready for anyone who would like to ride
 - Banner and Vet Fest cards are available in vehicle
- Commissioner Lair would like a photo with Grand Marshal, banner, and all commissioners

Item 7 – Citywide – Discussion and possible action on an updated VDHS Strategic Plan.

Seth Dyson presented:

- Strategic Plan is a City Council approved plan, therefore the commission can recommend updates/amendments
- Presentation to City Council will be on Tuesday, November 21st, 2024
- Chair Hanzel would like to see an annual action plan by the commission each year
- Commissioner Maxfield believes Education should be a higher priority
 - It was determined that priorities are not listed in order of importance, but rather are a collaborative
- Commissioner Kent-Partridge asked about holding an annual retreat
 - Commission will determine when it will be held; not a requirement but it has been beneficial in the past; typically happens around change of office
- Commission opted to discuss upcoming budget in future Spring (April) meeting.
- Consensus to reconvene on Strategic Plan beginning with April's meeting

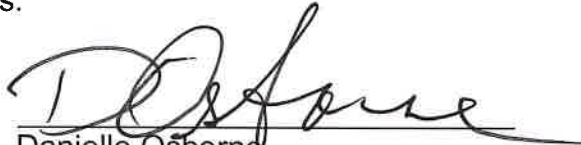
Commissioner Lair moved to approve the Strategic Plan as proposed for presentation to the City Council on November 21st. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 Yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Chair Hanzel asked Commissioner Lair to provide a sponsor update on Vet Fest at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Kupper moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on November 8, 2023, at 7:14 p.m. Commissioner Lair seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 Yes votes.


Danielle Osborne
Community Initiatives Supervisor


Steffen Hanzel
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:


Athba Arnold
Administrative Specialist

DATE:

12/11/23