

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

**January 10, 2024 | 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 6:01 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, 16000 North Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on January 10, 2024.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Steffen Hanzel, Commissioners Phillip Lair, Shawna Daigle, Gwen Maxfield, and John Billcheck.

Absences: Vice-Chair Nickolas Kupper (excused), Commissioner Julie Kent-Partridge (excused).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Hanzel reported on the following upcoming events:

- **MLK Day of Celebration & Service**
 - Saturday, January 13th from 8am-12pm at The Vista Center for the Arts
 - Hands-on service projects and a program of celebration
 - Contact John Williams for more information at john.williams@surpriseaz.gov or 623-222-1647
- **Hazardous Waste Pick-up**
 - Residents can schedule appointments to have waste picked up from their homes
 - January 29 – February 2 for residents south of Bell Rd.
 - February 5 – February 9 for residents north of Bell Rd.
- **Adaptive Adult Social: Pancakes and PJs Party**
 - Friday, January 19th from 6-8pm at Sierra Montana Rec Center
 - Individuals 16 and up with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities
 - \$20 for residents; \$22 for non-residents
 - Register at surpriseaz.gov/surpriserec

- Sunday in the Park
 - Sunday, January 21st from 3-7pm at Mark Coronado Park
 - Free event with music and an outdoor market; food and drink available for purchase
- Surprise Pops Band Winter Concert
 - Sunday, January 28th from 3-5pm at The Vista Center for the Arts
 - Theme is “Heroes – Real and Imagined”
 - Free event; non-perishable food donations encouraged to benefit the Valley View Community Food Bank
- Inaugural Vet Fest on Saturday, February 10th
 - Still accepting sponsors and exhibitors
 - Exhibitor applications accepted through January 26th
 - Family-friendly event will feature music, food, and veteran resources
 - For more information, contact Danielle Osborne at 623-222-1034 or danielle.osborne@surpriseaz.gov
- City offices closed Monday, January 15th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

- Commissioner Lair
 - Upcoming Vet Fest
 - America’s Mighty Warriors has agreed to be the Title Sponsor
 - Ottawa University is the Stage Sponsor
- Commissioner Daigle
 - Disabilities Roundtable is next Wednesday, January 17
 - Contact Danielle Osborne to RSVP

STAFF REPORT

- Mayor’s Roundtable on Disabilities
 - Wednesday, January 17, 2024 from 9-11am
 - The goal is to collaborate on beneficial opportunities for residents experiencing physical and cognitive disabilities
 - No more than 2 representatives per organization
- Homeless Collaborative Meeting
 - Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 8-10am at City Hall Community Room
 - Meeting will help to learn about current demands and trends with the city’s homeless population
 - Will be reviewing Point in Time Count information
- Point in Time (PIT) Count
 - Tuesday, January 23, will meet at 5am at City Hall Community Room
 - Need volunteers to count individuals living on the streets; will offer surveys to identify their needs
 - Contact Danielle Osborne or Seth Dyson to volunteer
- Annual MLK Event
 - Saturday, January 13 at 8am
 - Special thank you to Lord Garcillano and John Williams for their efforts in coordinating the event
 - Service projects, panel discussions, performances, and food trucks

- Next VDHS Commission meeting is Wednesday, February 7; moved from February 14

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the December 13, 2023 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Lair moved to approve the December 13, 2023 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Daigle seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes, 2 Absent (Kupper, Kent-Partridge).

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to America's Mighty Warriors.

Founder Debbie Lee presented on America's Mighty Warriors – a non-profit that supports active duty, veterans, and their families by providing programs that improve quality of life, resiliency, and recovery. America's Mighty Warriors programs include the 'Helping Heroes Heal Program', which offers assistance with natural hormone and vitamin therapy and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for those with traumatic brain injuries. Ms. Lee called on the commission and public to spread the word about the foundation. Ms. Lee can be reached at americasmightywarriors@gmail.com or 623-537-5322.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to VDHS Commission working groups.

Chair Hanzel would like each working group to have a clear mission. Chair would like to hold back on final City Council Strategic Plan presentation until more information is provided from working groups to be able to provide a clear plan of action.

Commissioner Daigle would like to see an expansion of the S.O.S. Program to get more volunteers. It is important to get the word out about city resources. Ms. Osborne would like to revisit this working group after Vet Fest. Chair agrees it would be reasonable to begin having working group meetings after Vet Fest. Chair would like city staff present at the first

few meetings to assist with correct note-taking. Ms. Osborne offered to support these meetings any way possible. Chair suggested utilizing Zoom calls, Team meetings, etc.

Commissioner Lair asked for there to be a brief, written description and ultimate goal of each working group; recommends each group come up with these statements. Chair agrees this would be a good topic for the first meeting of each group. Council specifically would like more detailed information on the Transit Group.

Chair Hanzel would like another commissioner to be in the Transit and S.O.S. groups.

Ms. Osborne provided an update on Vet Fest. Eleven exhibitors have signed up but we would like to see more. \$7,000 in sponsorships have been received. America's Mighty Warriors (Title), Ottawa University (Stage), Catholic Charities (Friend of the Event), and My 22 Veterans (Friend of the Event) are sponsors. There will be 2 helicopters and 2 veteran-owned food trucks. Currently working with a musical act to provide entertainment and a musical act for the National Anthem.

Challenge coins have been distributed to commissioners. Commissioner Lair would like to have a small business card sized note to distribute with the challenge coins which details the purpose of the coins.

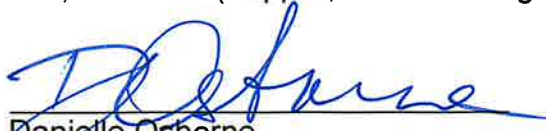
Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities has nine RSVPs thus far. These include MIKID, Children's Center for Neurodevelopment Studies, Spencer's Place, Sounds of Autism, and Benevilla.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Ability360 presentation
- Vice-Chair Kupper has expressed intent to resign as Vice-Chair
- If Commission accepts resignation, a new Vice-Chair will be selected

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Daigle moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on January 10, 2024 at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes, 2 Absent (Kupper, Kent-Partridge).


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:

2/14/2024