

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

**August 14, 2024 | 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Billcheck 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 August 14, 2024.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair John Billcheck, Commissioners Shawna Daigle, Gwen Maxfield, Julie Kent-Partridge, and Allison Wisniewski.

Absent: Commissioners Hasan Reed and Olivia Fryer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Initiatives Supervisor Danielle Osborne, Administrative Specialist Athba Arnold.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Billcheck reported on the following:

- Vitalant Blood Drive
 - Appointments can be made on the Vitalant website using code "p1T62"
 - Drives will be August 23rd, September 20th, and September 23rd at the Surprise Regional Library, Asante Library, and Surprise City Hall
- Fire Cadet Program
 - Surprise Fire-Medical accepting applications at surpriseaz.gov/FireCadet
 - Program launching in late 2024
- Surprise Youth Justice Project
 - Applicants must be Surprise residents or attending high school in Surprise
 - surpriseaz.gov/YouthJustice for more information or contact Kara at kara.poling@surpriseaz.gov or 623-222-1647
- City of Surprise Office Closures
 - Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chair Billcheck:
 - Welcomed Commissioner Wisniewski back to the Commission
 - Commission's Strategic Plan was approved by City Council
- Commissioner Kent-Partridge:
 - Attended Valors Veterans Community Coffee Connections event on July 31st
 - Got to learn about what Veterans groups are doing in the West Valley
 - Toured the Surprise Resource and Senior Centers
 - Learned about the robust services and resources offered; encourages others to tour the facilities
 - Attended Legislative Breakfast in June
 - Learned what legislators are working on for the West Valley
 - Attended the Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities
 - Sounds of Autism's United First Responder Walk is on November 2nd from 9am-12pm
- Commissioner Daigle:
 - Attended Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities where there was great discussion regarding home repairs and other needs for those with disabilities; hopes this discussion and event continues to grow
 - HOA Subcommittee Meeting with Vice-Mayor Haney and Councilmember Judd
 - Discussed the possibility of a grant to make neighborhoods more accessible for those with physical disabilities
 - Ability Expo is September 6th – September 8th at WestWorld of Scottsdale
- Commissioner Wisniewski:
 - Extended thanks to the Commission for welcoming her back

STAFF REPORT

- Ms. Osborne discussed:
 - October is National Disabilities Awareness Month
 - If the Commission wishes this proclamation to be made by the Mayor, it can be requested as a future agenda item to bring to a vote at the next Commission meeting.
 - Mayor's Veterans Roundtable is on August 28th from 8-10am in the Community Room of City Hall
 - Surprise-area organization representatives share and collaborate on programs and resources available to Veterans.
 - Sun Health's 'Stand Up to Falling Down' event is marking its' 10th anniversary
 - Sun Health is celebrating a decade of Fall Prevention awareness by hosting this event at the Colonnade on Wednesday, September 25th from 9am-12pm
 - The event will feature educational presentations, resources, workshops, and community connections
 - Fall Risk Assessments will be held by appointment at City Hall on Thursday, September 26th from 11am-3pm and at Sun Health Center for Health & Wellness on Friday, September 27th from 11am-3pm
 - To register, call 623-471-9355
 - Congratulations to recent Surprise Community Outreach & Partnership (SCOP) grant recipients

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission Chair.

Process review for election of Chair:

- Chair will open floor to nominations
 - Nominees can self-nominate and can decline nomination
- Chair will then close floor to nominations
- If there is only 1 nominee, there will be an open vote
- If there is a ballot vote, results will be read out loud
- Majority of 3 votes will be needed to open a motion
- After majority decides on a selection, a motion will be needed
- Commission meeting cannot recess or adjourn until election is made

Chair Billcheck opened floor to nominations.

Commissioner Kent-Partridge nominated Commissioner Wisniewski.

Commissioner Daigle self-nominated.

Chair Billcheck self-nominated.

Seeing no other nominees, Chair Billcheck closed floor to nominations.

The Commissioners submitted their votes. Commissioner Wisniewski received 3 votes (Wisniewski, Maxfield, Kent-Partridge).

Commissioner Billcheck received 2 votes (Billcheck, Daigle).

Commissioner Daigle moved to accept Commissioner Wisniewski as Veterans, Disability &

Human Services Commission Chair. Commissioner Maxfield seconded. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes. 2 absent (Reed, Fryer).

Item 2 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission Vice-Chair.

Process review for election of Chair:

- Chair will open floor to nominations
 - Nominees can self-nominate and can decline nomination
- Chair will then close floor to nominations
- If there is only 1 nominee, there will be an open vote
- If there is a ballot vote, results will be read out loud
- Majority of 3 votes will be needed to open a motion
- After majority decides on a selection, a motion will be needed
- Commission meeting cannot recess or adjourn until election is made

Chair Wisniewski opened floor to nominations.

Chair Wisniewski nominated Commissioner Maxfield.

Commissioner Billcheck self-nominated.

Seeing no other nominees, Chair Wisniewski closed floor to nominations.

The Commissioners submitted their votes. Commissioner Maxfield received 3 votes (Maxfield, Kent-Partridge, Wisniewski).

Commissioner Billcheck received 2 votes (Billcheck, Daigle).

Commissioner Kent-Partridge moved to accept Commissioner Maxfield as Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission Vice-Chair. Commissioner Daigle seconded. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes. 2 absent (Reed, Fryer).

Item 3 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the June 12, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Chair Wisniewski moved to approve the June 12, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Kent-Partridge seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes. 2 absent (Reed, Fryer).

Item 4 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to Surprise Adaptive Recreation programs.

City of Surprise Adaptive Program Coordinator, Meg McElhaney, provided information on the City of Surprise's Adaptive Recreation programs, sports, and activities.

Item 5 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to the Community Legend Awards.

Commissioner Maxfield thanked all applicants and encourages them to re-apply. Commissioner Kent-Partridge asks applications to be thorough and complete; she would also like to have interviews for future applicants.

Commissioner Daigle moved to approve the Community Legend Awards as presented. Commissioner Kent-Partridge seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes. 2 absent (Reed, Fryer).

Item 6 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the Veteran’s Day Parade Grand Marshal process.

Ms. Osborne led the discussion on selecting a Grand Marshal for the Surprise Veteran’s Day Parade. The parade will be on Monday, November 11th, and will start at 10am. The pancake breakfast will start at 7:30am. Applications are due by September 2nd. Selection committee will consist of Chair Wisniewski, Vice-Chair Maxfield, and Commissioner Billcheck.

Item 7 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to expansion of the Veterans Reflection Circle.

Ms. Osborne led the discussion on having a city-maintained memorial for Surprise Veterans. The consensus was to have the designer of the Veterans Reflection Circle present at a future Commission meeting to share his vision for expansion at Surprise Community Park.

Item 8 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the 2025 Vet Fest.

Ms. Osborne led the discussion on next year’s Vet Fest. Details will be an ongoing discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Commissioner Maxfield would like to see Reflection Circle honor Mayor Skip Hall who is a Vietnam veteran.
- Reflection Circle designer to attend future meeting.
- Cycles of Kindness Representative
- Lifeline Restoration Center
- HomeBase Surprise

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Daigle moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on August 14, 2024 at 7:19 p.m. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes. 2 Absent (Reed, Fryer).


Danielle Osborne
Community Initiatives Supervisor

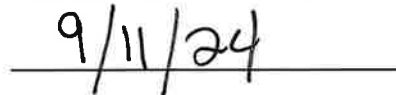

Allison Wisniewski
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission Chair

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:


9/11/24