

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

**September 11, 2024 | 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wisniewski 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 September 11, 2024.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Hasan Reed (unexcused).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Initiatives Supervisor Danielle Osborne, Administrative Specialist Athba Arnold.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Wisniewski reported on the following:

- **Surprise Day of Service**
 - Saturday, September 14th from 9am – 1pm
 - Surprise Regional Library
 - Partnering with JustServe to make care packages for troops overseas
 - surpriseaz.gov/DOSVolunteer
- **Arizona@Work Hiring Event**
 - Thursday, September 26th from 10am – 1pm
 - Surprise Regional Library
 - Contact Melinda at Melinda.Greenhouse@maricopa.gov or 623-222-1630 for more information
- **Surprise Fiesta Grande**
 - Saturday, October 5th from 5pm – 9pm
 - Mark Coronado Park
 - Featuring live music, food, and entertainment
 - surpriseaz.gov/FiestaGrande

- SciTech Festival
 - Seeking event exhibitors and sponsors for the 2024 SciTech Festival on Saturday, November 16th, at Mark Coronado Park
 - Event will feature robotics, fun experiments, and other STEAM-related displays

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Vice-Chair Maxfield
 - Attended Veterans Roundtable and found it informative
 - Toured HomeBase in Surprise with other commissioners
 - Attended First Responders and Patriots Day celebrations
- Commissioner Kent-Partridge
 - Attended DDD Townhall: presented on suicide prevention training; also offered voting support and guidance
 - Attended IDEA Special Education Conference: Dysart school district was in attendance
 - Disability Expo: learned about resources and services which can be offered in Surprise; will share information with Ms. Osborne to distribute
 - Attended Arizona Veteran Mental Health Advisory Council
- Commissioner Daigle
 - Also attended HomeBase Tour; excellent services provided
 - Abilities Expo was full of different resources
- Commissioner Fryer
 - Disabilities & Veterans Roundtables; loves to see the community come together
 - Roundtable for Autism community
 - ASU is in the works of improving services for neurodiverse students
 - Dysart SEPTSA hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, September 28th from 4-6pm at The Vista Center
 - Autism Society of Greater Phoenix will host a sensory-friendly Trunk or Treat on October 12th from 10am-12pm
 - Be Safe Certification Training on 2/21 & 2/22 of 2025
- Chair Wisniewski
 - Veterans Roundtable; loves collaboration
 - Attended 9/11 Ceremonies today; 5:30am at Sun City Grand Armed Forces Support Group and Corte Bella Vets at 7:00am
 - 9/11 Moment of Silence

STAFF REPORT

- Ms. Osborne discussed:
 - Roundtable on Disabilities
 - October 16th from 9am-11am in the Community Room at City Hall
 - Opportunity for representatives from Surprise-area organizations who serve Surprise individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities to share and collaborate on program and resources available
 - VITA volunteers
 - Seeking volunteers for VITA – volunteer income tax assistance program through A New Leaf
 - Opportunities include tax preparers, greeters/screeners, and interpreters
 - Information sessions at the Surprise Resource Center, Riverboat Bingo,

- and online from September 19th through November 4th
 - Visit TurnANewLeaf.org/VITA for more information
- Neighborhood Grant Program
 - City of Surprise supports eligible neighborhoods with small grants to fund neighborhood events, functions, or community improvements
 - Information and requirements can be found at surpriseaz.gov/NGP
 - Applications due by Friday, October 11th by 5pm

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the CDBG and HOME Needs Hearing for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and First Year Annual Action Plan.

Housing & Community Services Supervisor, Adam Lane, presented on the Five-Year Consolidated Plan to help the City identify needs in the community related to housing and community development.

Public Comment: Ashley Hinds

Public Comment: Jennifer Jennings

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 2 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the August 14, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Maxfield moved to approve the August 14, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Fryer seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 Yes votes. 1 absent (Reed).

Item 3 – Citywide – Presentation and action pertaining to the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) Program Year 2023.

Housing & Community Services Supervisor, Adam Lane, presented on the project and program activities funded by the Community Block Development Grant program for the grant year. Commissioner Billcheck moved to recommend approval of the Program Year

2023 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 Yes votes. 1 absent (Reed).

Item 4 – Citywide – Consideration and action to request a proclamation recognizing National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month in Surprise.

Commissioner Daigle moved to approve the request for a proclamation recognizing National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month in Surprise. Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 Yes votes. 1 absent (Reed).

Item 5 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to 2024 G.A.I.N. Night.

GAIN Night is on October 26th from 5-8pm at Mark Coronado Park. Human Service and Community Vitality will have a resource table. Surprise Police Department is seeking sponsorships for the event. RISE Community Services will be offering four sensory tents. The Commission is invited to attend, sponsor, and/or table at the event. Commissioners would like to know what the needs of the event are to be able to support fully. Commission will offer financial support after determining needs. No action taken.

Item 6 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the 2025 Vet Fest.

April 12th, 2025 at Mark Coronado Park has been set. Feedback from last year's event includes having activities for children, service projects, and a job fair component. Suggestions from the Commission include having a bounce house and face painting. Commission has asked to contact RISE for use of their sensory tents.

Item 7 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2025 VDHS Commission budget.

Ms. Osborne led the discussion on the Commission's current fiscal year budget.

Item 8 – Citywide – Consideration and action pertaining to the 2024 Veteran's Day Parade Grand Marshal.

Vice-Chair Maxfield nominated Jessica Roza. Vice-Chair Maxfield moved to approve Jessica Roza as the 2024 Veteran's Day Parade Grand Marshal. Commissioner Kent-Partridge seconded the motion. Motion passed with 6 Yes votes. 1 absent (Reed).

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Derek Rogers; provides free shower remodel for veterans
- Jeanette Devevo; VA, presented on suicide prevention at Veterans Roundtable
- Greg Wieking; Vitalant
- HomeBase Surprise
- The Grand Veteran's Memorial architect
- One Step Beyond

- Traumatic Brain Injury Alliance
- IDD representative (Sunflower) who is creating her own resource guide
- Surprise Young Life

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Daigle moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on September 11, 2024 at 7:39 p.m. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 Yes votes. 1 absent (Reed).


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:

10/9/24