

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

**October 9, 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 October 9, 2024.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Allison Wisniewski and Commissioners Shawna Daigle, Olivia Fryer, and Hasan Reed.

Absent: Vice-Chair Dr. Gwen Maxfield and Commissioners Julie Kent-Partridge and John Billcheck (excused).

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, October 12th from 8am – 12pm
 - Surprise Senior Center
 - Various neighborhood revitalization projects throughout the city
 - surpriseaz.gov/DayofService
- **GAIN Night**
 - Saturday, October 26th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm
 - Mark Coronado Park
 - [Surpriseaz.gov/GAIN](https://surpriseaz.gov/GAIN) for more details
- **Dementia Friends Information Session**
 - Monday, October 28th from 10:30am – 11:30am
 - Surprise Senior Center
 - Register by emailing Trisha at Trisha.Weston@surpriseaz.gov
- City offices will be closed on Monday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans Day

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Fryer
 - Attended Interfaith and Golden Rule Breakfast & Dysart SEPTSA Fall Festival; both were great events
- Commissioner Daigle
 - Upcoming Roundtable on Disabilities on Wednesday, October 16th at 9am at Surprise Regional Library
- Chair Wisniewski
 - Surprise Day of Service on September 14th at Surprise Regional Library
 - Aided at different stations and was impressed by fantastic turnout

STAFF REPORT

- Ms. Osborne discussed:
 - Day of Service on September 14th
 - Huge thank you to Atour Bethishou and Kara Poling for organizing
 - Over 280 volunteers participated; largest turnout to date
 - Roundtable on Disabilities
 - Wednesday, October 16th, from 9-11am in program room of Surprise Regional Library
 - Representatives from Surprise-area organizations who serve Surprise individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Monday, November 11th, beginning at 10am, with staging taking place earlier in the morning
 - The parade route is on Bullard Ave between Paradise and Tierra Buena Lanes
 - To register, visit surpriseaz.gov/SurpriseRec and click on Special Events. Call 623-222-2258 for more information.
 - November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month as proclaimed by Mayor Skip Hall at a recent City Council meeting. As part of the proclamation, Mayor Hall urged the community to raise awareness about this issue and work together to eliminate domestic violence in our city. The community is encouraged to participate in "Wear Purple Day" on October 17th, to help show support for victims and the numerous organizations that provide advocacy and assistance to them. Our community will see both Surprise City Hall and the City's Public Safety Building lit purple each evening during the entire month in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our Surprise Resource Center also partners year-round with the Sojourner Center and Eve's Place to offer support to domestic violence victims. For more information about these services, please call 623-222-1600. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, you are encouraged to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit TheHotline.org.

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 September 11, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Daigle moved to approve the September 11, 2024 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Fryer seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 Yes votes. 3 absent (Maxfield, Billcheck, and Kent-Partridge).

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to BeneFitness Adaptive Gym.

Director of BeneFitness, Lorrie Karn, and Donor Relations Manager, Cliff Yoder, presented on Benevilla's BeneFitness Adaptive Gym and the robust catalog of programs offered.

Item 3 – 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 rail covers for mobility assistance into the park. Commissioner Daigle moved to approve purchase of 3 rail covers. Commissioner Fryer seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 Yes votes. 3 absent (Maxfield, Billcheck, and Kent-Partridge).

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder awareness; all Commissioners are available for anyone who needs help
- Include mental health assistance/awareness in Commission Strategic Plan

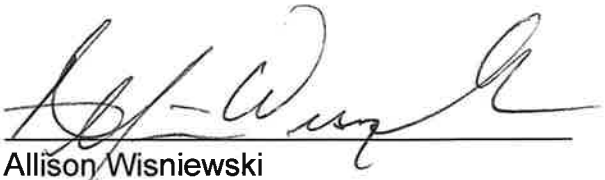
ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Daigle moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on October 9, 2024 at 7:01pm Commissioner Fryer seconded the

motion. The motion passed with 4 Yes votes. 3 absent (Maxfield, Billcheck, and Kent-Partridge).



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:

11/13/24