



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374
 Wednesday, February 12, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Current Events and Reports
- E. Staff Reports
- F. Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC HEARING:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the January 8, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to Surprise Adaptive Recreation Programs. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to Vet Fest funding. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 4. | Citywide | Discussion and possible action pertaining to recognition of former Mayor Skip Hall. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
- G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
 - H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Thursday, February 5th, 2025 @ 10:00

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services
Commission**

Council Meeting Date: February 12, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations: None

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the January 8, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the January 8, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

N/A

Objective Analysis:

N/A

Policy Compliant:

This item is City and Council policy compliant.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 1.8.25 VDHS Commission Minutes - DRAFT 1
-

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

**January 8, 2025 | 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 January 8, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

Absences: Commissioner Hasan Reed (excused).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Service and Community Vitality Director Seth Dyson, Human Service and Community Vitality Assistant Director Deb Perry, Administrative Specialist Victoria Simmons.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Wisniewski reported on the following:

- Live Christmas Tree Drop Off Sites
 - Lots are open until January 12, 2025, at the following locations: Bi-Centennial Park, Surprise Recreation Campus/Youth Baseball Complex, Dick McComb Softball Park, and Asante Community Park.
 - Removal of ornaments required for drop off and only 2 trees per household allowed.
 - Visit surpriseaz.gov/tree disposal or call 623-222-1900 for more information.
- 9th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration and Service
 - January 18, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Willow Canyon High School.
 - To register, visit surpriseaz.gov/MLK for more information and to register.
- SAFE Reporting Application
 - SAFE- Surprise Area Focused on Encampments.
 - Surprise has launched new app that allows community members to submit non-emergency reports to the city about homeless families, individuals, or encampments.

- City staff reviews each report and is able to provide the vetted information to a local street outreach provider, who can help connect those in need of services to housing support or shelter.
- The SAFE Reporting application is available through the ESRI QuickCapture app that is available for download in both the Apple and Android app stores.
- A Matter of Balance
 - Free weekly classes that will focus on practical strategies for managing falls for those 50+ by helping to reduce the fear of falling and increasing activity levels.
 - Will be held at Surprise Senior Center every Friday, starting January 17 through March 7. Classes are from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and registration is required.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Fryer
 - Attended farewell party for Mayor Hall and Council Members Remley and Cline.
 - Attended the Disabilities Roundtable meeting. It may be moved to a later time in the day to accommodate Mayor Sartor's schedule. At the meeting, Officer Galaz reported having challenges connecting to the unhoused individuals who also have a disability and providing specific resources with those with specific needs. PD uses vehicles to help transport the homeless to and from appointments or to receive resources.
 - January 21 - Dysart Special Education PTSA, Spencer's Place, and Autism Society are hosting Looking Forward Job and Transition Fair at Canyon Ridge Elementary School, at 5:30 p.m. Looking for additional partners or vendors for event.
 - February 7- A Night to Shine, which is a prom night for those with disabilities. Will be held at Radiant Church.
 - February 15 – Zoo Walk for Autism Research at the Phoenix Zoo, hosted by ASU Autism Research Center
 - February 16 - Walk and Roll for Inclusion, at Dream Catcher Park, hosted by Dysart CEPASA. Event is open to the public.
 - February 21 and 22 – BE SAFE Certification Training to teach individuals how to safely interact with law enforcement. Training is facilitated by The Autism Society.
 - March 22 – Special Day for Special Kids at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale, hosted by Raising Special Kids.
 - April 12 – Autism Expo at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix, hosted by the Arizona Autism Coalition.
 - April 25 through the 27 – The Autism Society is celebrating Autism Acceptance Month holding a special weekend at the Great Wolf Lodge for a discounted rate.
- Commissioner Kent-Partridge
 - VDHS Challenge Coin Awarded to Dana West – She is a veteran who works as a community engagement specialist in Surprise and throughout the State of Arizona. She helps connect veterans and their families to very important resources that benefit their overall well-being and quality of life.
- Chair Wisniewski
 - Attended farewell for former Mayor Hall, Ali Klein, and Council Member Remley. She thanked them for their years of service.
 - Attended city council meeting and was able to witness swearing in of

Mayor Sartor, Council Member Melton, and Council Member Greenberg.

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Dyson discussed:
 - On behalf of staff and Commission - wanting to thank former Mayor Hall and Ali Cline for their support; along with Council Member Remley for his accomplishments and service to the City of Surprise, since passing in December.
 - Ground-breaking for new Community and Resource Center on January 15, at 9:00 a.m.
 - MLK day of Celebration and Service, on January 18 - Choirs will be performing, free breakfast for the first 500, service projects, and more. Event will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Willow Canyon Elementary School.
 - End of February - City Academy starts for those wanting to learn more about Surprise. For residents at no cost. Questions can be answered about important community concerns within all the departments of the city. Please sign up with Danielle or Victoria.
 - January 28 - PIT (Point in Time) Count to survey the unhoused people in the areas of Surprise. This will provide accurate reporting and help to establish resources needed for those unhoused. This annual survey is mandated by US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
 - Wanted to thank Commissioner Wisniewski for attending the ground-breaking on Native American Connections Project. Shout out to Adam Lane and his team.
 - Thank you to Commissioner Kent-Partridge and Commissioner Hanzel for leading initiative to have entire Police Department, Fire Department, and Human Services Department trained through Autism Certification.

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

Commissioner Kent-Partridge moved to approve the December 11, 2024, Veterans,

Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Billcheck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 Yes votes.

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to RISE Services Inc.

Angela Pelton, Senior Program Administrator, presented on RISE Services Inc.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to Vet Fest 2025.

Commissioners had a discussion pertaining to Vet Fest 2025.

Item 4 – Citywide – Discussion and possible action pertaining to recognition of former Mayor Skip Hall’s years of service to the City of Surprise.

Commissioners discussed ideas to honor former Mayor Skip Hall’s years of service to the City of Surprise.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Discussion on solutions for fair housing, presented by Commissioner Kent-Partridge.
- Discussion on how to make parks more inclusive and safer for individuals with disabilities or challenges.
- Presentation from Officer Jesus Galaz.
- Continue with discussion of recognition for Mayor Skip Hall

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Billcheck moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on January 8, 2025, 2024 at 7:35 p.m. Vice-chair Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes.

Seth Dyson
Human Services and Community Vitality Director

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: _____
Victoria Simmons
Administrative Specialist

DATE: _____

DRAFT



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services
Commission

Council Meeting Date: February 12, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations: None

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to Surprise Adaptive Recreation Programs.

Motion:

Presentation and discussion only.

Background:

City of Surprise Parks and Recreation will discuss their upcoming Adaptive Recreation events, programs, and volunteer opportunities.

Objective Analysis:

To promote quality of life, accessibility and equity for all residents of Surprise, including those who are veterans or who experience disabilities, through cooperation with Surprise residents and any veterans, disability and human service organizations that serve the residents of Surprise.

Policy Compliant:

This item is compliant with City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

Budget Impact:

There is no budget impact associated with this item.

FTE Impact:

There is no FTE impact associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025 Adaptive Rec Update - February PowerPoint
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CITY OF SURPRISE
PARKS AND RECREATION



**I STRIVE
FOR THE
HIGHER
ME**

Parks and Recreation Adaptive Recreation

Coordinator – Meg McElhaney

Manager – Jenni Corkin

Assistant Director – Paul Frie

Director – Holly Osborn

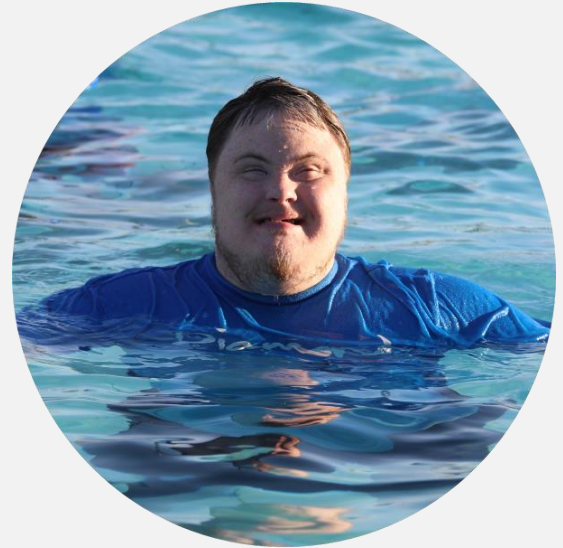
WHAT IS ADAPTIVE RECREATION ALL ABOUT?

Adaptive Recreation Overview

- Recreation and leisure programs for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities
- Aims to enhance quality of life
- Fosters respect for and acceptance of diversity within the community

City of Surprise Adaptive Program Goals

- Provides participants with necessary modifications and skills
- Support from trained staff
- Focuses on improving fine and gross motor skills
- Emphasizes learning, growing, socializing, and having fun
- Utilizes community-based recreation programs





BUDDY VOLUNTEERS

- Utilized, as needed, to increase the levels of success for the athletes.
 - directing, socialization, one on one support, etc.
 - Must be 12 or older
- Volunteers from across the community
 - Ottawa University Organizations
 - T.E.A.M. 4 Kids
 - Surprise Youth Council
 - Sun City Grand Fishing Club
 - Local high school programs
 - West Mec Medical Assisting Program
 - Kiwanis Key club
 - Texas Rangers
 - Kansas City Royals
 - Surprise Teen Volunteer Program



PROGRAMS

- Current programs:
 - Cooking Classes
 - Special Olympics Basketball
 - Buddy Basketball
 - Arts & Crafts
 - Eminent Special Needs Planning
- Upcoming programs:
 - Baseball
 - Tennis
 - Kickball
 - Egg Hunt
 - Arts & Crafts
 - Talent Show – Adaptive Category





Adaptive Recreation Update

“A picture is worth
a thousand
words.”





Fall Buddy Baseball

Special Olympics Softball





Buddy Soccer



Adaptive Pickleball



Adaptive Family Friendsgiving



Adaptive Family Fishing Derby

Sensitive Santa





Santa Express





Adaptive Winter Party



Adaptive Winter Party Continued



Volunteer !

- Come and support the Adaptive programs by simply becoming a buddy.
- To become a buddy:
 - Buddy application form
 - Background check and Abuse Prevention Training (18+):
<https://memberships.sportsengine.com/org/surprise-parks-and-recreation>



BUDDY/COACHES VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Adaptive Recreation

The Buddy Sports League was established to offer athletes with a physical or intellectual disability the opportunity to participate in various sports. Participants may be ambulatory or use manual or power wheelchairs. The league utilizes a "Buddy" to assist the athlete throughout the game as needed.

"Buddy" helpers must be age 12 or older to volunteer. Coaches must be 18 years of age or older.

If you decide to coach, your son or daughter is guaranteed to be on your team.

All Buddy volunteers and coaches 18 years or older must complete a volunteer application, a background check, and an Abuse Prevention Training with the City of Surprise Parks and Recreation Department.

Please check out the City of Surprise Adaptive Recreation website at surpriseaz.gov/recreation for more information about our Buddy Sports programs, plus all our other great Adaptive Recreation opportunities.	The logo for Buddy Sports, featuring a stylized mountain range with a sun rising behind it, and the text "CITY OF SURPRISE BUDDY SPORTS" below.	Registration Site: City of Surprise Parks and Recreation Department 15960 N. Bullard Ave Surprise, AZ 85374 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Full Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Home Phone (____) _____ Cell/Work (____) _____
Email _____ Gender: (circle) MALE FEMALE
Parent/Guardian(print) _____ Signature _____

T-Shirt Size: YOUTH M L ADULT S M L XL XXL XXXL

Request to assist (player name) _____ Returning Buddy (yes) _____

I am interested in being a Buddy for:

Baseball ___ Basketball ___ Soccer ___ Tennis ___ Bowling ___ Pickleball ___ Kickball ___

I would like to volunteer as a:

BUDDY HEAD COACH ASSISTANT COACH

For questions, please contact Meg McElhaney-Recreation Coordinator at 623.222.2284

Adaptive Recreation Flyers



Adaptive Recreation
PROGRAMS & EVENTS 2024

Dec	Sensitive Santa	Arts & Crafts Winter Party
Jan	Eminent Special Needs Planning Intro to Cooking	Arts & Crafts Buddy Basketball Special Olympics Basketball
Feb	Spring Buddy Baseball	Arts & Crafts

 Register at surpriseaz.gov/surpriserec
Click on "ADAPTIVE"
Meg McElhanev @ 623.222.2284



Adaptive Recreation
PROGRAMS & EVENTS 2025

March	Buddy Tennis	Arts & Crafts
April	Buddy Kickball Buddy Bowling	Egg Hunt Arts & Crafts
May	Adaptive Swim Lessons	Talent Show Arts & Crafts

 Register at surpriseaz.gov/surpriserec
Click on "ADAPTIVE"
Meg McElhanev @ 623.222.2284





**CITY OF SURPRISE
PARKS AND RECREATION**

**QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS?**

Thank You





CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services
Commission

Council Meeting Date: February 12, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Discussion and action pertaining to Vet Fest funding.

Motion:

I move to reallocate a budget not to exceed \$7,500 towards Vet Fest.

Background:

Planning for Vet Fest 2025 is underway. The commission had previously earmarked \$5,000 of its Council-approved budget to be utilized towards Vet Fest. Initial estimates project that additional funds will be available for use by the end of the Fiscal Year, which can be reallocated to provide additional financial support towards Vet Fest. This item has been placed on the agenda to provide an update on Vet Fest plans, while also providing the commission an opportunity to reallocate funds towards the event.

Objective Analysis:

To provide an update on Vet Fest, and give the commission an opportunity to reallocate funds towards support of the event.

Policy Compliant:

This item is City and Council compliant.

Financial Impact:

If approved, this item will earmark up to \$7,500 of the commission's previously Council-approved budget to be reallocated towards use for Vet Fest planning.

Budget Impact:

If approved, this item will earmark up to \$7,500 of the commission's previously Council-approved budget to be reallocated towards use for Vet Fest planning.

FTE Impact:

There is no FTE impact associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services
Commission

Council Meeting Date: February 12, 2025 Contact Person:
Submitting Department: Human Svcs and Comm District: Citywide
Vitality
Staff Recommendations:

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Discussion and possible action pertaining to recognition of former Mayor Skip Hall.

Motion:

Depends on commission discussion.

Background:

Vice-Chair Gwen Maxfield requested discussion around ways to recognize former Mayor Skip Hall for his contributions to Surprise. This item has been placed on the agenda to provide the commission with options.

Objective Analysis:

To select an appropriate recognition of former Mayor Skip Hall for his contributions to the City of Surprise.

Policy Compliant:

This item is City and Council policy compliant.

Financial Impact:

If approved, funds toward this recognition will be sourced from the VDHS commission budget.

Budget Impact:

If approved, funds toward this recognition will be sourced from the VDHS commission budget.

FTE Impact:

There is no FTE impact associated with this item.

ATTACHMENTS:
