



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374
 Wednesday, March 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 February 12, 2025, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to SEEDs for Autism. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 3. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to Senior Services offered by the HSCV department. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
| 4. | Citywide | Update and discussion pertaining to Vet Fest. | Human Svcs and Comm Vitality |
- G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
 - H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Friday, March 7th, 2025 @ 4:00 PM

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: March 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 February 12, 2025, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the February 12, 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. 2.12.25 VDHS Commission Minutes - DRAFT
-

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

**February 12, 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 February 12, 2025.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Chair Allison Wisniewski, Vice-Chair Dr. Gwen Maxfield and Commissioners Julie Kent- Partridge, John Billcheck, and Olivia Fryer. 1 vacancy.

Absences: Commissioner Hasan Reed (unexcused).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Human Service and Community Vitality Assistant Director Deb Perry and Community Initiatives Supervisor Danielle Osborne.

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Wisniewski reported on the following:

- City of Surprise administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.
- The City of Surprise, in partnership with ARIZONA@WORK, is hosting a free hiring event on Thursday, February 20, 2025, to connect job seekers with employers who are currently hiring. The hiring event will be held from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Surprise Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Ave.
- Free Tax Preparation with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Certain requirements apply. For more information, please contact the Surprise Resource Center at 623-222-1600. They are on site Mondays and Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Attended groundbreaking for new Community Resource Center. Great event and great turnout. Looking forward to updates on buildout and touring once it's built, along with Spring Training that is coming up in a week.

- Commissioner Kent-Partridge
 - Attended groundbreaking. Beautiful event and celebration.
 - Attended Night to Shine Dance on February 9
 - Has attended Adaptive Rec Sports and encourages other to attend to support disability community.
- Commissioner Fryer
 - Attended groundbreaking ceremony for new Community and Resource Center. Great to see past and current leaders from entire west valley get together to support this project.
 - Attended MLK Day of Service. Great event for the community and great opportunity to serve.
 - Disability Day at the Capital. Hosted by the Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition on Wednesday, February 26th, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration required for event.
 - Mental Health Day at Capital, on April 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Vice Chair Maxfield
 - Attended groundbreaking ceremony. Great to see new and old leaders come together to celebrate and learn about the History of Surprise.
- Chair Wisniewski
 - Attended groundbreaking for new Community and Resource Center. Looking forward to seeing non-profits and other organizations join the collaborative within the Resource Center.
 - Attended MLK Day in January, with Co-Commissioners. Great turnout with many people in attendance. A lot of great resources and a wonderful experience over-all.
 - Attended Veteran Community Project in Glendale, on February 1st, for the groundbreaking of Tiny Cottages being built. Beautiful event with 300-500 people in attendance. Governor Katie Hobbs, Senators, and Mayors from other cities also attended.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Osborne discussed:

- Attended groundbreaking ceremony for new Community and Resource Center. On behalf of HSCV department, staff appreciates all the support received by Commissioners and community. It was an exciting and special event to see everyone come together and leave on such a high note.
- Thank you to everyone who attended the MLK Day of Celebration and Service. Event was planned by HSCV. A Special thanks to Kara Poling and Atour Bethishou for the work they did for pulling it all together. It was a larger turnout this year and the department hopes to continue growing the event each year.
- Next Mayor's Veterans Roundtable on Disabilities is Tuesday, February 25th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Surprise Regional Library.
- The Surprise Fire-Medical Department and Surprise Firefighter Charities are partnering with the AZ Burn Foundation, Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Red Cross to install free deaf and hard of hearing smoke alarm systems. These specialized alarms have light and shaker features to help provide an early warning signal in case of a fire for anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Installation of these systems is by appointment only. Participants are asked to sign up no later than April 7. To make an appointment, visit abf.azburn.org/DHHAppointment.

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 January 8, 2025 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Billcheck moved to approve the January 8, 2025, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Vice Chair Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 Yes votes, 1 absence (Reed), and 1 vacancy.

Item 2 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion pertaining to Surprise Adaptive Recreation programs.

Recreation Coordinator, Meg McElhaney, presented Surprise Adaptive Recreation programs to the commission.

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

Items were taken out of order so that the recognition budget could be discussed prior to the Vet Fest budget.

The Commission decided to move this item to the May Veterans Disability and Human Services Commission Meeting, so they have a better idea of remaining funds.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion and action pertaining to Vet Fest funding.

The commission discussed funding the event at \$7,500.

Commissioner Billcheck moved to approve the Vet Fest 2025 budget of \$7,500. Vice Chair Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 Yes votes, 1

absence (Reed), and 1 vacancy.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-chair Maxfield moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on February 12, 2025, 2024 at 7:03 p.m. Commissioner Kent-Partridge seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 Yes votes, 1 absence (Reed), and 1 vacancy.

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: _____
Deb Perry
Assistant Director, Human Service & Community Vitality

DATE: _____



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services
Commission

Council Meeting Date: March 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 SEEDs for Autism.

Motion:

Presentation and discussion only.

Background:

SEEDs for Autism will discuss services offered to young adults with autism, like education, vocational training, and social development in Phoenix, Arizona.

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:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF SURPRISE
Veterans, Disability and Human Services
Commission

Council Meeting Date: March 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 Senior Services offered by the HSCV department.

Motion:

Presentation and discussion only.

Background:

The City of Surprise Senior Center presents services and resources offered to seniors in 2025.

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 City and Council compliant.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Senior Services VDHS Presentation March 2025
-

Senior Services

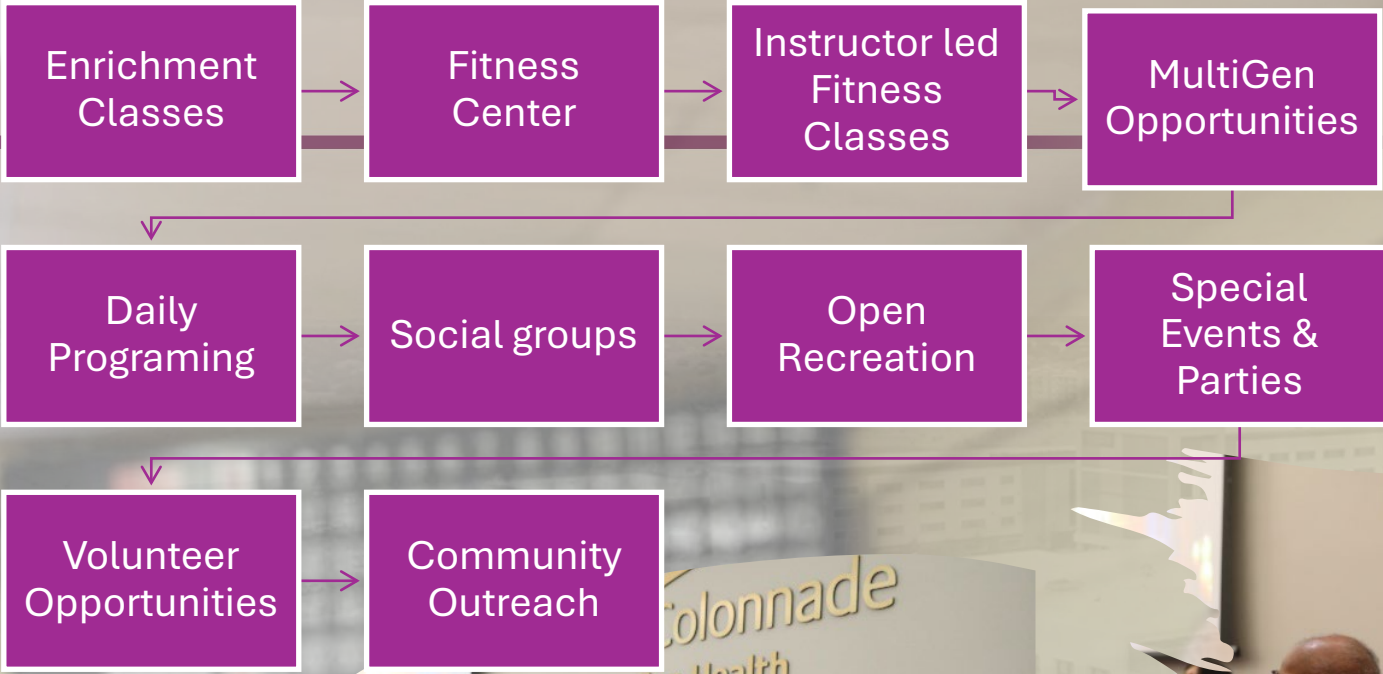


Surprise offers a variety of services, programs and resources for our 50+ community, including a senior center for active independent adults and adults with disabilities.

The Surprise Senior Center is strategically designed for active independent adults 50 or better and independent adults with disabilities. The center provides social connections, engagement, community involvement and opportunities to give back. There are a variety of offerings including wellness programs, fitness classes, enrichment classes, recreational programs, creative arts, educational offerings and an in-person Congregate Meal program.



SURPRISE
ARIZONA



Congregate Meal Program

Eligibility is determined through the Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition services, authorized under Title III-C of the OAA, designed to promote the general health and well-being of adults 60 and better.

Through appropriations process, grant allocations are awarded. The City of Surprise has been awarded year after year for over 16 years to have a Congregate Meal Program from the Area Agency on Aging, Region 1, who has opened the eligibility to those 50 and better with proof of a disability and a spouse of an adult 60 and better.

Healthy meals are provided Monday – Friday at noon. Meals meet requirements set by the USDA, OAA and Division of Aging and Adult Services with the Department of Economic Security.

Program allows access to nutritious meal, offers opportunities for social interaction and engagement, connection, supports and services.

Those 60 and better the suggested contribution rate is \$2.50 per meal.
Those between 50-59 who do not qualify with a disability, the meal is \$5.00 per meal.
Ability to contribute does not impact your access to the Congregate Meal Program.

Sponsored in part by the Area Agency on Aging, Region 1.

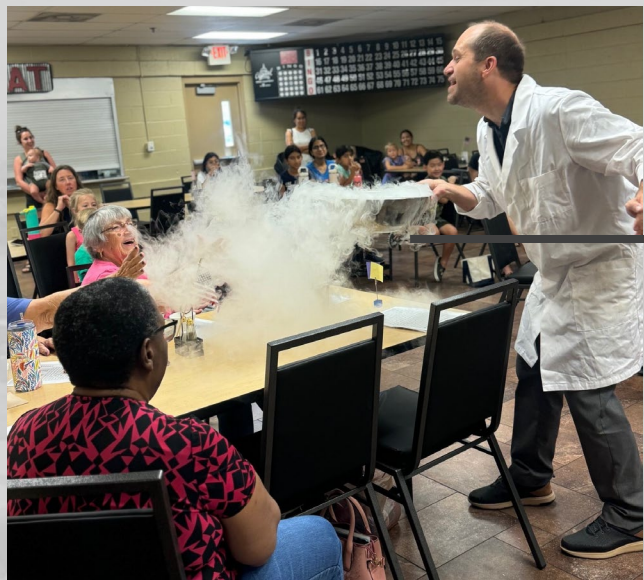


Active & Engaging



SURPRISE
ARIZONA

Partnerships & Collaborations





“You miss 100% of the shots you don't take”
-Wayne Gretzky



Thank you for your service





SURPRISE
ARIZONA



Ways to stay Active



Lifelong Learning



The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.

- B.B. King



SURPRISE

ARIZONA



“Everyone is an
artist”

-Joseph Beuys



SURPRISE
ARIZONA



belonging, connection, community



SURPRISE

ARIZONA

“The Surprise Senior Center changed my life. It is a wonderful place to be.

It is welcoming, friendly, safe and fun!”



SURPRISE

ARIZONA



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

Council Meeting Date: March 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:

Update and discussion pertaining to Vet Fest.

Motion:

Discussion only.

Background:

To provide an update on Vet Fest, and give the commission an opportunity to discuss final details and planning of the event.

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 City and Council compliant.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Budget Impact:

N/A

FTE Impact:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
