

**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:

3/12/25