

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

**March 11, 2026 | 6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers  
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza  
Surprise, AZ 85374**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Tree 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 March 11, 2026.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Human Services & Community Vitality Director, Seth Dyson, and Administrative Specialist, Victoria Simmons.

**CURRENT EVENTS REPORT**

Chair Tree reported on the following:

- In an effort to support and grow the quality of life in Surprise, the Mayor and City Council offer the Surprise Community Outreach Program (SCOP). The program provides financial assistance to qualified nonprofits that provide direct services to City of Surprise residents. The FY2027 application period is now open, and applications will be accepted through Friday, May 1, 2026.
- A pre-application meeting will be available to all applicants in person on Monday, March 23 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. This meeting is recommended for all new applicants. The meeting will include information about the community outreach program and application process. For more information, please email Deb Perry at [deborah.perry@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:deborah.perry@surpriseaz.gov) or call 623.222.1623.
- In partnership with the Surprise Original Town Site Stakeholder Committee, the City of Surprise is excited to announce the Founder's Day Event will be held on Saturday, March 28, at Bicentennial Park. This day is dedicated to remembering the founding of the City of Surprise and the Original Town Site and will include a spirited program, capturing the essence of long-time tradition. The event will honor the Original Town Site founding families, current residents, and focus on community-building. All ages can enjoy a variety of local musicians, performers and

speakers. All are invited to attend!

- Join us on April 4, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Surprise Resource Center for a KIDZ JAMBOREE! Discover the various resources and offerings available to children ages 0-5 and their caregivers in the community. Enjoy games, crafts, music, story time, visits from the Phoenix Zoo & Arizona Science Center, and more! There will be information on early childhood programming, childcare and preschools, special needs resources and seat safety. For more info call 623.222.1600.
- Surprise's Vet Fest is a fun-filled evening offering those who have served, are currently serving, or are looking to serve in the military a chance to connect with and learn about the support and resources available to veterans. Military families, supporters and the entire community are encouraged to take and show their support for our veterans! This family-friendly event is free for the community and will feature live music, food trucks with food for purchase, vendor booths, information from veteran service providers, a job fair, kids' zone, sensory tents, static displays of military vehicles and more! Organizations and businesses interested in hosting a table at this year's event are invited to apply through our online registration. Space is limited, and all applications are subject to approval. Social clubs, resource-based organizations, government-affiliated entities, and for-profit businesses are encouraged to apply! Registration for exhibitors closes on March 31 at 5 p.m.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Fryer
  - Currently attending Surprise City Academy; just attended session 3
    - Great opportunity to learn about the City
  - Adaptive Recreation held a baseball clinic with Kansas City Royals
- Commissioner Maxfield
  - Attended National Faith Advisory Board in Florida
  - Met with non-profit organization, Love Should Never Hurt
- Commissioner Billcheck
  - Attended Mayor's kickoff event for Spring Training
    - Speakers from Kansas City, Royals and Texas, Rangers
- Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge
  - The month of March is dedicated to Social Worker Awareness and National Brain Injury Awareness
  - Attended DDD Justice Reach In and Justice Outreach Program on February 25
  - Attended DDD Town Hall on March 5
  - Attended Whole Community Emergency Management Planning meeting on March 6
  - Attended Vet Fest Advisory Planning Committee meeting on March 10
  - Attended DES Winter Forum today
- Chair Tree
  - Currently attending City Academy
  - Attended Mayor Weiers Triple M meeting in Glendale, today
    - Passed out Vet Fest save the date postcards
    - Spoke with Vitalant Blood Drive about possibly attending Vet Fest
- Commissioner Manuel

- Currently attending City Academy

## STAFF REPORT

None.

## CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

### **Item 1 – Discussion and action pertaining to the PY26 Draft Annual Action Plan.**

Housing and Community Services Manager, Adam Lane, gave a presentation on the PY26 Draft Annual Action Plan.

Commissioner Kent-Partridge moved to approve the PY26 Draft Annual Action Plan. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

## REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

### **Item 2 - Consideration and action pertaining to the February 11, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.**

Commissioner Fryer moved to approve the February 11, 2026, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

### **Item 3 – Citywide – Presentation and discussion from the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Development Disabilities**

Community Outreach Coordinator, Micky Barnhart, gave a presentation on the overview of the AZDES Division of Development Disabilities.

### **Item 4 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to the event planning details of Vet Fest 2026.**

The commissioners discussed final details of planning for Vet Fest 2026.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Presentation from non-profit, Love Should Never Hurt
- DDD presentation on types of group homes within the community

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on March 11, 2026, at 7:12 p.m. Commissioner Maxfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.



Seth Dyson  
Human Services & Community Vitality Director



Michael Tree  
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:

4/8/26