

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

**May 13 | 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 May 13, 2026.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

Chair Tree reported on the following:

- Join us for a virtual HOA Summit on Wednesday, May 20, from 6 – 8 p.m. The HOA Summit is a two-hour event designed to discuss community resources, housing trends and expert presentations for Homeowners Association (HOA) board members, property management teams and homeowners alike. Collaborate with other communities, gather valuable information and resources and help us keep Surprise connected! Please visit surpriseaz.gov/HOASummit for additional event details and to register. This event is presented by the City of Surprise Human Service & Community Vitality Department and Mulcahy Law Firm, P.C. For more information, please email daisy.vargas@surpriseaz.gov or call 623.222.1612.
- City of Surprise administrative offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026, due to the Memorial Day holiday.
- Join us at St. Mary's Food Bank to assist with sorting and packing food, assisting clients and packing Kid's Cafe meals. Volunteer opportunities start at 7:15 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and noon. Youth ages 12 and over are invited to participate, however all participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required through St. Mary's Foodbank; this process will require you to create an account on their website first. For questions about this event or volunteer opportunities, please call

Daisy Vargas at 623.222.1612.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Wisniewski
 - Attended Vet Fest on April 11
 - Attended various ceremonies at The Wall That Heals
 - Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable on May 6
- Commissioner Billcheck
 - Attended Vet Fest on April 11
 - Visited Wall that Heals and attended several events
- Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge
 - Attended all of the daily events at The Wall that Heals from April 9 – 12
 - Attended Vet Fest
 - Attended State of the City event on April 14 at the Surprise ballpark
 - Attended City of Surprise Lifestyle Influential Women's Celebration held at the West Valley Arts HQ Gallery on April 21
 - Attended Hidden Talent Small Business Hiring Event on May 7
 - Held at Spencer's Place and hosted by SPARK by City of Surprise
 - For individuals with developmental disabilities
- Commissioner Maxfield
 - Volunteered for an overnight shift at The Wall That Heals on April 8 – 9
 - Attended opening ceremony for The Wall That Heals on April 9
 - Attended candlelight ceremony on April 10
 - Attended closing ceremony on April 12
 - Attended Vet Fest on April 11
 - Volunteered at Teen Challenge on April 13
 - Attended the State of the City event on April 14
 - Attended tour of the new Surprise Community Resource Center on April 15
 - Visited Lift Arizona on April 24
 - Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable on May 6
 - Attended Vet Fest Planning Advisory Committee meeting
- Commissioner Fryer
 - Honored to receive award from Dysart Special Education PTSA
 - Attended Mayor's Roundtable on Disabilities
 - Attended Vet Fest
 - Attended the daily events at The Wall That Heals
 - Completed Surprise City Academy
 - Attended tour of the new Surprise Community Resource Center
 - Attended and led panel at Maricopa County exceptional worker's summit on April 16
 - Invited and approved to join Phoenix's Police Department Cross-Disability Advisory Board
- Commissioner Manuel
 - Attended two American Legion meetings
 - Received great feedback about Vet Fest
 - Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable
 - Attended Southwest Veterans Committee Car Museum and dinner
- Chair Tree

- Visited The Wall that Heals and many of the daily events
- Attended Vet Fest
- Attended Mayor's Veteran Roundtable
- Attended State of the City
- Completed City Academy
- Attended groundbreaking for the new police station

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Dyson discussed:

- Thank you to the Sports, Entertainment & Culture Department for applying and bringing the Wall that Heals to Surprise. Thank you to all who helped and for all the hard work that was put into setting it up and disassembling.
- Ashley Ware, City Librarian, presented the top three library card designs for the commissioners to vote on. This year's designs were centered around America's 250th Anniversary.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

Item 1 - Consideration and action pertaining to the April 8, 2026 Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes.

Vice-chair Kent-Partridge moved to approve the April 8, 2026, Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to details and results of Vet Fest 2026.

Not My Kid gave a presentation about their non-profit and the different programs offered.

Item 3 – Citywide – Discussion pertaining to details and results of Vet Fest 2026.

Seth Dyson shared the results for Vet Fest 2026. The commissioners discussed details about the final outcome and shared feedback.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Veteran Resource Navigator from the Surprise Resource Center
- Missing in America Project, non-profit organization

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Kent-Partridge moved to adjourn the meeting of the Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission on May 13, 2026, at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 7 Yes votes.



Seth Dyson
Human Services and 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:

6/10/2026