



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 - 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

Virtual online meeting called to order by Rocio Kary at 6:23 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Lorraine Obregon

Terry Byron
Henry Johnson

Martin Belden
Melvin Morgan
Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Kassie Diaz

Absent:

Ann Hollis

Bruce Hayes
Gary Smith
James "Tub-Bee" Louis
Marlon Ruiz
William Burks
Minou De La Rosa
Luke Johnson

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon
Bambi Benitez

Representing:

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
Cactus Unit 2
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72, and
Post 81 Scottish American Military Society of
Southern Arizona
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106
Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Foundation
Women Marine Association

Representing:

Military Officers Association of America
Tucson Chapter
American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109
American Legion Department of Arizona
Arizona Department of Veterans Services
Military Order of the World Wars, Region XIII
Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26
TAA, Non-voting Advisory
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City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary
City Clerk's Office

2. Invocation

The invocation was provided by Committee Member Johson.

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3. Introduction of Guests

- a. Jennifer Gutowski, Director, Ford, Public Affairs Specialist - (SAVAHCS)
- b. Matthew Langseth, Veterans Affairs Coordinator, City of Tucson
- c. Romaldo Gonzales – Valors Veterans Community AZ
- d. Chris Smith - Valors Veterans Community AZ and Home Base

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for January 10, 2024

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, (**Committee Members Burks, Hayes, Hollis Louis, Smith, and Ruiz absent**), to approve the Legal Action Report from the January 10, 2024 meeting.

(This item was taken out of order and heard after item 17.)

5. Treasurer's Report

Committee Member Belden stated the beginning balance at the start of the month of January 1, 2024, was \$839.06. He reported they received a \$1,000 donation and had expenses of \$200.00 for the Veterans Day Parade, leaving a current balance of \$1,639.06.

It was moved by Committee Member Morgan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, (**Committee Members Burks, Hayes, Hollis Louis, Smith, and Ruiz absent**), to approve the financial report as presented.

6. Committee Reports

a. Southern Arizona Veteran's Affairs Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

Jennifer Gutowski, Director of SAVAHCS provided a report on behalf of SAVAHCS.

Ms. Gutowski mentioned that the stakeholder's report was sent out and wanted to touch base on the Tucson Rodeo and she also mentioned that they are doing V's National Salute to Veteran patients during the week of Valentine's Day so there has been a lot of special events at the hospitals.

Ms. Gutowski mentioned there were new eligibility guidelines for Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare for World War 2 (WW2) veterans. She stated the new guidelines were a product of the Cleland-Dole Act signed into law in 2022, which expanded eligibility for VA care for WW2 veterans. She encouraged previous applicants who were declined to reapply.

No discussion ensued.

b. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

No report was given.

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c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

No report was given.

d. Presentation by Matthew Langseth – City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

Chair Rocio Rosie made a motion to have Matthew Langseth on every agenda from here on out.

It was moved by Committee Member Rocio, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, (**Committee Members Burks, Hayes, Hollis Louis, Smith, and Ruiz absent**), to approve the financial report as presented.

e. Presentation on Valors Veterans Community AZ and Home Base – Romaldo Gonzales and Chris Smith

Discussion held. No action was taken.

7. Memorial for Vietnam Veteran Memorial Park – Update/Discussion

Committee members are trying to place a plaque at the park they need to get permission from the City. They will reach out to special events and seek information on how to get this approved.

8. 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War – Update/Discussion

Committee Member Morgan stated that he and Committee Member Byron are still working on this.

9. Military Lounge – Update/Discussion

No update was give.

10. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2024

Committee Member Byron reported that the event went very well and it is on Facebook for those who would like to see the event and she is looking forward to next years event.

11. VAC Social Media Presence

No report was given.

12. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

Committee members stated they now have help from Matthew Langseth and will go through him mostly for Mayor and Council outreach. They would like to get the fundraising letter out.

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13. VAC Fundraising Strategies

Committee Member Byron stated that they are preparing for a mail merge to help sponsor Veterans.

14. Strategies to Expand Discounts for Veterans and Military

Committee Members decided to table this item.

It was moved by Committee Member Rocio, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, (**Committee Members Burks, Hayes, Hollis Louis, Smith, and Ruiz absent**), to approve the financial report as presented.

15. Approval of Costco Membership

Committee Members would like to renew their Costco membership.

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, (**Committee Members Burks, Hayes, Hollis Louis, Smith, and Ruiz absent**), to approve the financial report as presented.

16. Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order

Reports on upcoming current events were provided by Committee Member Byron.

17. Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items scheduled.

18. Benediction

Committee Member Johnson provided the Benediction.

19. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2024