



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Thursday, September 12, 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 6:08 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Alicia Fuller

Ann Hollis

Bruce Hayes

Lorraine Obregon

Terry Byron

Tom Tunks

Martin Belden

Marlon Ruiz

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Suzanne Bond

William Burks

Absent:

Henry Johnson

James "Tub-Bee" Louis

Kassie Diaz

Marcia Wohlhueter

Melvin Morgan

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon

Representing:

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans

Military Officers Association of America

Tucson Chapter

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 –

Arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

Cactus Unit 2

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72 –

Arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106

Military Order of the World Wars, Region XIII

Women in Military Service for America Memorial

Foundation

Esperanza En Escalante

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26

Representing:

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72, and

Post 81 Scottish American Military Society of

Southern Arizona

Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Women Marine Association

American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Invocation

The invocation was provided by Chair Rocio.

**Minutes
Veterans' Affairs Committee
September 12, 2024**

3. Introduction of Guests

- a. Jennifer Gutowski - SAVAHCS Director
- b. Matthew Langseth - City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator
- c. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for May 8, 2024

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 (Committee Members, Diaz, Hayes, Johnson, Louis, Morgan, and Wohlhueter absent), to approve the Legal Action Report from the May 8, 2024 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Committee Member Belden stated the beginning balance at the start of May 1, 2024, was \$2,590.29 there were no donations or expenses, leaving a current balance of \$2,590.29.

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 (Committee Members Diaz, Hayes, Johnson, Louis, Morgan, and Wohlhueter absent), to approve the financial report as presented.

6. Committee Reports

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

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

Jennifer Gutowski mentioned that there was a challenge with their Beneficiary Travel and there is a little bit of backlog, they have hired a national claims processing team. If any asks about it, they are working on it and are trying to get a daily productivity tracker. Jennifer also mentioned that SAVAHCS has a lot of different classes and activities for mindful awareness and moving the body, nutrition, spirit, and soul. In the report provided, there are a lot of classes and resources available, and everyone would love to see Veterans participate.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Committee Member Hollis reported that Paul Marsh who was one of the big leading lights and founding the cemetery, passed away a few weeks ago and there will be a Celebration of Life for him. Committee Member Hollis also mentioned that the Veteran Cemetery in Marana will be having a Missing in America project on October 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

No discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

**Minutes
Veterans' Affairs Committee
September 12, 2024**

c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

No update was given.

d. Matthew Langseth, City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

No update was given.

e. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

No update was given.

f. Sarah Horvath – Kino Memorial Park

Sarah Horvath is the new Director of the park and gave the committee a brief update on what has been happening at the Kino Sports Complex and the Gold Star Mother Memorial regarding vandalism. 18 of the Memorial Medallions were stolen, and have caused about \$20,000 - \$25, 000 in damages so far. The Four Chaplains Plaque was also taken. Sarah and her workers have been working with the Tucson Police Department to try to avoid the vandalism happening.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Committee Member Byron mentioned that Sarah Horvath's update was for Memorial Park. The granite is purchased, and they need to raise about \$7,500. They ask that everyone spread the word to help donate for the engraving.

No discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

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

Committee Member Byron said they would like to have the Granite engraved and completed by March 29, 2024 for the 50th Celebration luncheon.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

9. Military Lounge – Update/Discussion

Committee Member Byron mentioned that she could not get ahold of anyone from the Airport and asked Committee Member Belden to try to get in contact with whoever asked to purchase the pallets of water.

No discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

**Minutes
Veterans' Affairs Committee
September 12, 2024**

10. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2024

Committee Member Byron mentioned that the Ceremony is going to be held on Monday, February 3, 2025. They are trying to get the Four Chaplains Plaque to be replaced before then.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

11. VAC Social Media Presence

No update was given.

12. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio asked if we could mention the Memorial Park vandalism to the Mayor and the City Clerk.

13. VAC Fundraising Strategies

Committee Member Byron mentioned Wreaths Across America or possibly a Golf Tournament.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

14. Veteran's Day/Memorials – Update/Discussion

Committee Member Byron mentioned that the Veterans Day Parade 501C3 registration is now open. They are looking for funds as it costs about \$10,000 to put on the Veterans Day Parade, anything able to be fundraised does help.

15. Consideration/Approval of Members

- a. Appointment of James (Jim Barnhart) as recommended by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 11 to 0 (Committee Members Diaz, Johnson, Louis, Morgan, and Wohlhueter absent), to approve the appointment of James (Jim) Barnhart.

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

Chari Rocio, Committee Member, Byron, Fuller, Obregon, and Ruiz provided reports on current events.

**Minutes
Veterans' Affairs Committee
September 12, 2024**

17. Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items scheduled.

18. Benediction

Committee Member Hayes provided the Benediction.

19. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2024