Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 - 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

Virtual online meeting called to order by Rocio "Rosie" Kary at 6:03 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:	**Representing:**
Alicia Fuller	Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans
Ann Hollis	Military Officers Association of America Tucson Chapter
Bruce Hayes	American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 - **Arrived at 6:22 p.m.**
Lorraine Obregon	Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Cactus Unit 2 - **Arrived at 6:06 p.m**.
Marcia Wohlhueter	American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132
Marlon Ruiz	Military Order of the World Wars, National Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief
Rocio "Rosie" Kary	Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation
Terry Byron	Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
Tom Tunks	Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72 - **Arrived at 6:14 p.m.**
William Burks	Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 - **Arrived at 6:24 p.m**.

Absent:	**Representing:**

Staff Members Present:	
Amari Leon	City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary
Francisco Denogean	City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Invocation

The invocation was provided by Chair Rocio "Rosie" Kary.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

a. Jennifer Gutowski, Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System Ms. Gutowski informed the Committee about a virtual veterans' fair on February 13,2025 from 4-5 p.m. being hosted by the VA she also provided update that the VA hospital is still under construction.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Matthew Langseth - City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

No update was given.

c. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

No update was given.

d. Sarah Horvath, Kino Memorial Park

No update was given.

e. Arlethe Rios, Office of Arizona Senator Mark Kelly

No update was given.

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for January 8, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Commissioners Burks, Hayes, and Tunk absent), to approve the Legal Action Report from the January 8, 2025 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Byron stated that the beginning balance at the start of February 1, 2025 was $2,590.29. Commissioner Byron reported that they spent $1,177.05 on Operation Exodus 2024 and $191.52 on a pallet of water for the Military Lounge, there were no donations, leaving a current balance of $1,221.72.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruiz, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0 (Commissioners Burks and Hayes absent), to approve the financial report as presented.

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Commissioner Hollis informed the committee about events being held, one of them being Missing in America on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 10 a.m. and there will be a Golf Tournament being hosted at Randolph Park on June 14, 2025, starting at 10 a.m.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

No update was given.

c. Military Lounge and Operation Exodus

Commissioner Byron and Commissioner Tunks delivered items in December and will reach out to James Robertson from the Military Lounge.

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

d. Memorial for Vietnam Veteran Memorial Park

Commissioner Byron briefed the committee on a new park/area for the Veterans Memorials located at the new Mosaic Quarter and that a new Veterans Park/Memorial area could be coming in 2027.

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

e. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2025

Commissioner Byron informed the Committee the Four Chaplains Ceremony went well and was bigger than years past. The park also donated a Portable toilet and hand washing station for the event.

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

7. Nighthawk 72 Events/Memorial – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Tunks mentioned again the 25th Annual Nighthawk 72 Memorial Service for the 19 Marines who lost their lives at the Marana Regional Airport. The ceremony is scheduled for April 5th, 2025, at 10 a.m. with a candlelight ceremony to follow at 8 p.m.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

No update was given.

9. VAC Social Media Presence

Chair Kary reminded the committee not to forget to share VAC events on their social media pages on Facebook and would like to see if the VAC can start a LinkedIn page for the committee.

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

10. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Ruiz will send invitations for the MOWW National Convention being held in August 2025.

11. VAC Fundraising Strategies

Commissioner Byron will send out fundraising letters for the VAC.

Commissioner Ruiz will look into the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) possibly getting a table for VAC fundraising and getting the word out on the committee.

12. Veteran's Day Parade/Memorials – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron informed the committee that the Veterans Day Parade Foundation had a meeting in January and mentioned everything went very well for the Parade and they are getting ready to celebrate 250 years of service.

13. In-person / Hybrid Meeting – Update/Discussion

The VAC voted on staying virtual or switching to a hybrid meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Ruiz, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0. Commissioner Byron will create a survey for the committee to vote on possible hybrid locations for the meetings to be held.

14. Consideration / Approval of Members

a. Appointment of Alan D. Young as recommended by the American Legion Department of Arizona 2nd District.
b. Appointment of John T. Curtis as recommended by Fort Lowell-Apache Chapter, Tucson, AZ US Army Warrant Officers Association

It was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 approving both appointments.

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

Chair Kary, Commissioners Ruiz, Byron, Fuller, Hayes, Wohlhueter, and Obregon provided reports on current events.

16. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Byron mentioned taking the Arizona Department of Services off the Committee reports. Deputy City Clerk Amari mentioned that we would have to ask management and look into this since it is a part of the VAC Bylaws.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

17. Benediction

Commissioner Hayes provided the Benediction.

18. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025