Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 p.m., at the Military & Veteran Success Center, 3320 South Price Road, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Troy Friedman, Chair
Matthew Schmitt, Vice-Chair
William Blair
Jeremy Farr (telephonically)
Patricia Little-Upah
Michelle Loposky
David Lucier
Abe McCann
Jezreel Ramirez (telephonically)
Laura Skotnicki (telephonically)

(MEMBERS) Absent:
None

City Staff Present:
Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director
Timothy Rogers, CARE7
Sean Green, CARE7
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant II+

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order
Chair Troy Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances
None

Agenda Item 3 – Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Chair’s Remarks
Chair Troy Friedman announced Lauren Hyre’s resignation; Joanna Sweatt will replace Lauren and will be appointed at the March 28, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Agenda Item 5 – Review and Approval of the December 4, 2018 minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE December 4, 2018 minutes by Commission Member William Blair
SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah
YAYS: Chair Troy Friedman, Vice-Chair Matthew Schmitt, Commission Members William Blair, Jeremy Farr, Patricia Little-Upah, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Abe McCann, Jezreel Ramirez, and Laura Skotnicki
ABSENT: None

Agenda Item 6 – Review and Approval of the January 8, 2019 minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE January 8, 2019 minutes by Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah
SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Michelle Loposky
YAYS: Chair Troy Friedman, Vice-Chair Matthew Schmitt, Commission Members William Blair, Jeremy Farr, Patricia Little-Upah, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Abe McCann, Jezreel Ramirez, and Laura Skotnicki
ABSENT: None

Agenda Item 7 – CARE7 Update – Timothy Rogers

Timothy Rogers gave a brief overview of the Care Management and Veteran Services CARE7 provides. The Commission can support these services through funding and/or fundraisers. Commission Member Jezreel Ramirez noted the Arizona Department of Veteran Services can assist with small grants up to $4,999.00 and large grants up to $75,000.00.

Agenda Item 8 – 2019 Commission Goals Discussion

- Veterans Commission Support at Community Salutes – Parrish Spisz

Deputy Human Services Director, Octavia Harris presented on behalf of Parrish Spisz a proposal regarding the Commission’s support at the Tempe Community Salutes Event on May 13, 2019.

Before the vote to approve the proposal, Commission Member Abe McCann briefly stepped out of the meeting.

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE the Community Salutes Proposal by Vice-Chair Matthew Schmitt
SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Michelle Loposky
YAYS: Chair Troy Friedman, Vice-Chair Matthew Schmitt, Commission Members William Blair, Jeremy Farr, Patricia Little-Upah, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Jezreel Ramirez, and Laura Skotnicki
ABSENT: Abe McCann

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Mentorship Program – Commission Member, Jeremy Farr

Commission Member Jeremy Farr provided background information on the proposed mentorship program. The Commission discussed further follow up and discussion at the March meeting.

Agenda Item 10 – Military & Veteran Success Center Update – Chair, Troy Friedman

- Currently in the process of hiring three positions related to a grant in partnership with Pipeline AZ
- Stand Down was a success
  - Introduction of new technology to streamline processes
  - Over sixty (60) volunteers during high-peak times

Agenda Item 11 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

Commission Member Michelle Loposky:
- Michelle invited the City of Tempe to table at Pat’s Run – Octavia will follow-up
• The Veterans Commission is interested in tabling but is lacking in collateral (flyers, business cards, etc.)

Commission Member David Lucier:
• Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services Legislation Update:
  o The Military and Veteran Committee agreed to push forward request to appropriate $1.2 million from the State General Fund, to the Arizona Department of Veterans Services to hire additional benefits counselors.

Commission Member Abe McCann:
• Veteran Supportive Employer Update:
  o The Coalition has approved creating a special designation for Tempe employers
    ▪ Abe will provide examples of designation to next month’s meeting
  o Since the last meeting, twenty (20) additional employers have become Veteran Supportive Employers
    ▪ Abe suggests increasing the Commission’s goal of thirty (30) to fifty (50)
  • Presenting to the Tempe Chamber of Commerce’s Military Affairs Committee on Veteran Supportive Employer programs on February 15, 2019 at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema.

**Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – March 5, 2019 March 19, 2019**

• Proposed Mentorship Program Follow-Up
• 2019 Commission Goals
• Military & Veteran Success Center Update
• Commission Member Updates

**Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next meeting will be on March 5, 2019 March 19, 2019

Minutes Prepared by: Melissa Placencia
Reviewed by: Octavia Harris

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Troy Friedman, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission
CARE 7
Case Management & Veteran’s Services
Case Management & Veteran’s Services

Case Manager

Timothy Rogers BSW, MPA, MSW Candidate

Interns

Sean Green, MSW Student Intern
Brooke Ivler, MSW Student Intern
Julia Luna, Working with Military Families Certificate
CARE 7 / Counseling Supervisor
1 staff member

CARE 7 Mobile Crisis Unit
Crisis Intervention Specialists
4 staff members
- CARE 7 Pool
15 staff members (temp./p.t.)
- MSW Interns
6 interns
- CARE 7 Volunteers
42 volunteers

CARE 7 Victim Services
Victim Services Coordinator
1 staff member (grant-funded)
- Victim Advocates
3 staff members (grant-funded)
- Victim Services Mobile Crisis Unit
2 staff members
- Victim Advocacy Interns
2 interns
- MSW Interns
2 interns

CARE 7 Case Management
Social Services Coordinator
1 staff member
- Case Manager
1 staff member (grant-funded)
- ASU Military Certificate Program Intern
- MC Interns
4 interns

Counseling Program
Counselor
1 staff member
- Victim Services Counselor
1 staff member
- Counseling Admin.
2 part-time positions

High School Prevention Counselors
7 High Schools
6 staff members

CARE 7 Admin.
1 staff member (part-time)
On-scene crisis support via the 911 system, immediate stabilization, internal and community referrals

Assist with investigative process, case notifications and follow-up, on-going safety planning and support, community referrals

On-scene crisis support and safety planning, refer to victim services, community referrals

Refer to CARE 7 van, VS276, victim advocacy, counseling, case management, or community resources

Provide direct service and treatment planning, victim-specific counseling, RVC mental health evaluations, referrals for support groups

Individual support on campus, group support on campus, counseling and community referrals, coordinate care with other agencies and other CARE 7 program areas

Community presentations/education, internal City of Tempe education, organizational assessments

Veterans services, outreach and follow-up, community referrals, coordinate care with outside agencies
Case Management / Veteran’s Services

- Provide long-term supportive and navigation services to individuals and families referred by the crisis team, Tempe Human Services (THS), TFMR, TPD, Patient Advocacy Services (PAS), other city departments, and community partners.

- Conduct assessments/intakes for individuals in need of services.

- Make appropriate referrals to community agencies for a variety of service needs including VA benefits, medical, mental health, senior, and youth services.

- Attend East Valley Regional Veterans Court and provide services to defendants in court; provide compliance reports to Court as requested.
Case Management Services Offered

- Regional Veteran Court
- Non-court veterans
- Transportation needs/bus passes
- Food / Meal box
- TCAA / basic needs
- Financial needs/connection to existing agencies/resources
- Veteran visits
- Communication
- Community resources for medical and mental health
Caseload Statistics

- 46 Active RVC Veterans
  Average 116 days of case management
- 22 Active Veterans not in RVC
  Average 112 days of case management
- 17 Closed cases since October 2018
  Average 28 days of case management before closure
Case Studies

- Pregnant OEF/OIF Student Veteran
- Vietnam Era Marine with neurocognitive issues
- Gulf War Army Veteran, chronically homeless and SMI
Questions?
Contacts

- Timothy Rogers
  timothy_rogers@tempe.gov
  480-858-2108 Office
  480-431-2028 Cell

- CARE 7 Crisis Response Unit 24/7
  480-350-8004
MEMORANDUM

TO: Troy Friedman, Tempe Veterans Commission Chair
FROM: Parrish Spisz, Council Aide
DATE: February 4, 2019
SUBJECT: Tempe Community Salutes – May 13

At prior Veterans Commission meetings, we have discussed how the Commission can be more involved in the Tempe Community Salutes event. One idea mentioned was to recognize local veterans and present a community service award. We will continue to recognize veterans in attendance, but the award presentation would be best suited for a separate event around Veterans Day.

The focus of Tempe Community Salutes must remain with the newly enlisted. This is our “hometown send-off” where we celebrate the commitment of future military servicemembers and their families. However, there is a place for our Veterans Commission to be a valued partner at the event.

I’d like to suggest the Commission host a Tempe Veterans Commission table where you would distribute Tempe Community Salutes gift bags and register recruits for the Hometown Tempe program. I’m working with local Tempe resident and veteran, Doug Royce on collecting items for the gift bags. I will also provide registration forms. Each recruit will receive a gift bag once they register.

Registering attendees has been a challenge in the past. The service branches haven’t shared the personal contact information of recruits. I’ve relied on interns in previous years, but that has yielded less than 5% of attendees. Capturing the contact information of these Tempe recruits is a priority because it will be used for our communication efforts. We want to establish and maintain a hometown connection. Our goal is to let recruits know that after they serve their country, Tempe will welcome them home.

Please let me know if the Veterans Commission would like to participate in this capacity at Tempe Community Salutes on May 13, 6:00 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts. If yes, I can work with you, or your assigned team on details and logistics.
Proposed Mentorship Program

Background

Veterans are experiencing legal issues because of personal choices and adverse circumstances. The East Valley Regional Veteran’s Court is a resource for veterans that allows them to address infractions and improve the veteran’s quality of life.

While the court has personnel that provide needed assistance to these Veterans via established organizations and professionals (i.e. Veterans Administration, Care 7, social workers), there is a need for personal mentorship for many of the veterans. The East Valley Regional Veteran’s Court is looking to establish a mentorship program to support veterans who are enrolled in the program.

Observation

On my most recent visit to East Valley Regional Veteran’s Court held at Tempe’s Municipal Court building, I observed several cases with common offenses. Many of the vets were under 30, served less than six years, and had an offense relating to substance abuse. Many of the cases parallel the personnel issues I faced in my last tour. If not for an effective mentorship program, I believe the command would be forced to administratively separate (often a result of Non-Judicial Punishment) a greater number of at-risk personnel.

As a Command Master Chief, one of my primary responsibilities was the mentorship program for the commands that I was assigned. Often the command was able to identify personnel who needed a greater amount of engagement and bring back on course through strong mentorship. I believe that quality mentorship can provide a holistic approach and further aid the court in addressing difficult situations.

Recommendation

For a mentorship program to be successful, it will need to have program management and a pool of qualified engaged mentors. The East Valley Regional Veteran’s Court is an incredible asset to our community and has had outstanding success in aiding veterans. A mentorship program would further enhance the court’s ability to understand and address issues facing our veterans. The City of Tempe Veteran’s Commission has the resources and experience to support a mentorship program and it is aligned with the commission’s charge. I recommend that the commission identify an individual to lead the effort in establishing a mentorship program. Additionally, I believe it would be beneficial to have members of the commission provide guidance and establish the MVGP (Mission, vision and guiding principles).

Respectfully,
Jeremy Farr
City of Tempe, Veterans Commission
Member-At-Large