Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Wednesday, July 22, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Jeremy Farr, Chair
Abe McCann, Vice-Chair
William “Bill” Blair
Phillip Kraft
Michelle Loposky
David Lucier
Alfred Trevino
Cameron Johnson
Courtney Smythe

(MEMBERS) Absent: Timothy Rogers

Staff Present:
Doreen Garlid, Councilmember
Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director
Robin Arredondo-Savage, Councilmember
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant II
Tori Feltman, Administrative Assistant II
Terrisa Mays, Administrative Assistant II

Guests Present:
Randy Salazar, Arizona Coalition for Military Families

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order
Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of June 2, 2020 Minutes
MOTION: Motion to APPROVE June 2, 2020 minutes by Commission Member William “Bill” Blair
SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member David Lucier
AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Vice-Chair Abe McCann, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Alfred Trevino, Cameron Johnson and Courtney Smythe
Chair Jeremy Farr informed the Commission that Melissa Placencia will be relocating and resigning from the City of Tempe.

Councilmember Doreen Garlid is a newly elected City of Tempe Councilmember. She comes from a family with an extensive military background and has served as President of National Charity League.

Randy Salazar provided the Commission with overview of statewide program SkillBridge which seeks to train employers on military and veteran culture in order to foster internships and employment for veterans and their family members. SkillBridge has become a national best practice. The Commission asked Randy for metrics for Tempe employers, which he will provide them with. Facility management and IT has seen growth for veteran employment, specifically: non-cyber, software development, and manufacturing. Digital collaboration between the Commission and SkillBridge to be discussed further.

Jeremy suggests questions be ranked by Commission before being posted on Tempe Forum. Subject matter experts from Strategic Management to assist with developing valid questions. Commission asks for representative from Strategic Management to be present at next meeting.

Organize a 2020 Veterans Day event
- Due to impact of COVID-19, event-based goals will be virtual.
  - David to draft event plans for 2021
- Creating an Award honoring Kyle Brayer
Create a quarterly Veterans Newsletter
  - Octavia to follow up with Nikki Ripley for best practices regarding building listserv
  - Octavia to reach out to Neighborhood Advisory Commission for “Veteran Spotlight” feature
- Support Veteran Supportive Organizations from Tempe to be connected with SkillBridge

**Agenda Item 10 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements**
- Congratulations extended to Doreen Garlid for her election to City Council
- Reminder to refer Military Family Relief Fund to veterans who may be in need

**Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items – August 4, 2020**

**Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting will be on August 4, 2020

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays
Reviewed by Octavia Harris

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission