



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission June 11, 2025

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, in a hybrid format via Microsoft Teams and in-person at Tempe Public Library.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jim Lange, Vice-Chair
Melanie James, Secretary
William "Dennis" Gorman
Romaldo Gonzales
Phil Kraft
Aaron McBride

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Gwendolyn "Gwen" DeNeal
Ryan Swearingen
José Moreno
Juan Garcia

City Staff Present:

Dr. Jacqueline Webster, Deputy Community Health and Human Services Director - Social Services Division
Rachael Brickner, Community Health and Human Services Administrative Manager
Michael Garrison, Veterans Services Coordinator
Karla Dominguez, Administrative Assistant II+

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Guest Appearances

There were no guest appearances.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

MOTION: Commissioner W. D. Gorman moved to CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER at 6:20 p.m.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commissioner P. Kraft; Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 - Attendance

Commissioners Gwendolyn "Gwen" DeNeal, Ryan Swearingen, José Moreno, and Juan Garcia were absent from the meeting.

Agenda Item 3 - Call to the Audience for Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 4 - Review and Approval of April 9, 2025, Tempe Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner P. Kraft moved to APPROVE the April 9, 2025, Minutes.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commissioner W. D. Gorman; Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 - Vice-Chair's Remarks

Vice-Chair J. Lange encouraged the commission members to keep showing up to fulfil their mission of serving Tempe's veterans.

Agenda Item 6 - 2025-2026 Slate of Officers Nominations

Commissioner M. James agreed to continue serving as Secretary of the Tempe Veterans Commission.
Vice-Chair J. Lange accepted the nomination to become Chair of the Tempe Veterans Commission.
Commissioner P. Kraft accepted the nomination to become Vice-Chair of the Tempe Veterans Commission.

Agenda Item 7 - 2025-2026 Slate of Officers Elections

MOTION: Commissioner W. D. Gorman motioned to APPROVE the 2025-2026 Tempe Veterans Commission Slate of officers.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commissioner P. Kraft; Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 - Community Health and Human Services Staff Updates

Rachael Brickner introduced Karla Dominguez and mentioned that Ms. Dominguez will be providing staff support for future Tempe Veterans Commission meetings.

Dr. Webster Introduced Michael Garrison as the new City of Tempe staff liaison for the Tempe Veterans Commission.

Mr. Garrison introduced himself as a veteran and noted his background working for the forest service and City of Tempe CARE7 team. Mr. Garrison listed the upcoming events of interest to the Veterans Commission.

Dr. Webster mentioned the US Army 250th birthday celebration on June 14, 2025, held at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Agenda Item 9 - Community Outreach and Advocacy: Navy's Neptune Society

Agenda item deferred due to guest speaker absence.

Agenda Item 10 - Community Outreach Opportunities

- Vice-Chair J. Lange suggested reaching out to Arizona State University ROTC and Tempe Union High School District ROTC to connect those organizations with the Tempe Veterans Commission.

Agenda Item 11 - Future Agenda Items

- Tempe Veterans Commission meeting at Bricks and Barley
- Richard White Pickett, owner of Polymath Photography - invitation from Commissioner G. DeNeal
- Noah Fraher, Congressional Aide for Congressman Greg Stanton - invitation from Commissioner P. Kraft
- Agent Orange Awareness Month proclamation in October - City of Tempe Mayor and City Council
- Navy's Neptune Society - invitation from Juan Garcia

Agenda Item 12 - Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner P. Kraft motioned to ADJOURN the Meeting.

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commissioner W. D. Gorman; Motion passed unanimously.

Chair J. Lange declared the meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Minutes Prepared by: Karla Dominguez

Reviewed by: Rachael Brickner

Jim Lange, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission