



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission September 10, 2019

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m., at the Military & Veteran Success Center, 3320 South Price Road, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Troy Friedman, Chair
Jeremy Farr, Vice-Chair
William Blair
Phillip Kraft
Patricia Little-Upah
Michelle Lopusky
Abe McCann
Jezreel Ramirez
Alfred Trevino

(MEMBERS) Absent:

David Lucier

City Staff Present:

Robin Arredondo-Savage, Councilmember
Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director
Donna Kennedy, Economic Development Director
Anne Gill, Tempe Chamber of Commerce President/CEO
LeVon Lamy, Human Services Manager
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant II

Public Appearances

Ron Webb, Tempe Resident

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Troy Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Agenda Item 3 – Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Chair’s Remarks

- Troy announced that Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah is not seeking reappointment and Joanna Sweatt has resigned.
 - Commission Members are encouraged to share with their organizations and networks. New appointments are scheduled for the December 12th Regular Council Meeting.

- The City Clerk's office requested each Board and Commission to finalize their 2019 schedule.
 - The Commission confirmed the following meeting dates for 2019: October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd. This will allow ample time to compile the 2019 Annual Report.
- At the July meeting, the Commission discussed creating a Veterans newsletter. This has been tabled to allow time for presentations and for the Annual Report. The Commission will re-visit this idea in January.
- Troy thanked Commission Member Michelle Lopusky for inviting the Commission to sit in Honor Row at the recent ASU game.

Agenda Item 5 – Review and Approval of the July 16, 2019 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE July 16, 2019 minutes by Vice-Chair Jeremy Farr

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah

AYES: Chair Troy Friedman, Vice-Chair Jeremy Farr Commission Members William Blair, Phillip Kraft, Patricia Little-Upah, Michelle Lopusky, Abe McCann, Jezreel Ramirez and Alfred Trevino

ABSENT: Commission Member David Lucier

Agenda Item 6 – Tempe Chamber of Commerce/Tempe Veterans Commission Collaboration Discussion – Anne Gill

Tempe Chamber of Commerce CEO, Anne Gill shared the history of the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee (MAC) and discussed possible ways for the Chamber and Veterans Commission to collaborate. The Commission is encouraged to attend the following two events:

- <https://tempechamber.eventbank.com/event/annual-copper-5-honors-event-15920/>
- <https://tempechamber.eventbank.com/event/arizona-veteran-supportive-employer-training-16237/>

Jeremy asked Anne if there is any data on Tempe Veteran-based businesses; Economic Development Director, Donna Kennedy will follow-up with this information.

Melissa will share Anne's contact information with the Commission as a resource or for ideas on future collaboration.

Agenda Item 7 – Shared Housing Opportunity Discussion – LeVon Lamy, Human Services Manager

City of Tempe Housing has a vacant five-bedroom, three-bathroom unit available as a shared housing opportunity for Veterans. This unit is currently under renovation. Housing is looking to partner with a Veterans non-profit organization to lease the unit. Anyone interested in touring the unit can reach out to LeVon. Melissa will send LeVon's contact information to the Commission to be shared with organizations interested.

Agenda Item 8 – 2019 Board and Commission Annual Report – 2019 Accomplishments

- Suggested goal:
 - Troy – support Veteran Supportive Organizations from Tempe to be connected more with Skill Bridge
- Accomplishments:
 - Presentations from:
 - East Valley Regional Veterans Court (EVRVC), Judge Maxon and EVRVC Coordinator Teresa Vargas – January 8, 2019
 - CARE7's Veterans Services, Timothy Rogers – February 5, 2019
 - Veterans Furniture Center, Colonel Bruce Pagel – March 19, 2019
 - Future Commission Marketing efforts, Melissa Quillard – July 16, 2019
 - Shared Housing Opportunity Discussion, LeVon Lamy – September 10, 2019
 - Tempe Chamber of Commerce Collaboration, Anne Gill and Donna Kennedy– September 10, 2019
 - Veteran Supportive training efforts – Abe McCann

- Continued support of Tempe Community Salutes
- Proposal of the Mentorship Program – Jeremy Farr

Troy asked the Commission to compile their goals and accomplishments and provide at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Military & Veteran Success Center Update – Chair, Troy Friedman

None

Agenda Item 10 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

Jeremy:

- Recently met with Naomi regarding the mentorship proposal and is moving forward

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items – ~~October 1, 2019~~ October 15, 2019

- Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce Presentation, Tom Sheets – Executive Director (*November*)

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be on ~~October 1, 2019~~ October 15, 2019

Minutes Prepared by: Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Naomi Farrell

Troy Friedman, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission