

Wednesday, September 1, 2021
9:00 AM

Grace Sparkes Activity Center
824 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

Minutes of the Mayor's Commission on Veterans Initiatives Meeting held on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

I. Meeting was called to order

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

- ✓ Howard Hinson
- ✓ Josh Hormor
- ✓ Pat Kuykendall
- ✓ Stan Goligoski
- ✓ Michelle Stacy-Schroeder
- ✓ Jenn Zimmerman
- ✓ Council Liaison, Phil Goode

Absent

- ✓ Staff Liaison, Melissa Fousek

III. Review and approval of the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes: Motion was made by Pat Kuykendall to approve the August 4th minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Howard Hinson. **Motion passed All Approved**

IV. Discussion about Current Events in Afghanistan

- A. Commission Input to support effort with US Vets/American Legion Post 6 to do a roundtable event?

Pat Kuykendall suggested holding a round-table discussion for Afghanistan Veterans, with the help of Carol Benedict and US Vets, to be held possibly at the American Legion Post 6. The idea would be to offer community support to the Veteran and their family. Carol stated that US Vets already has programs going on as does the VA. Carol offered a suggestion that if a round-table discussion was held, it would need to be done in a fairly large space. It is also imperative that we keep it a safe space.

Josh Hormer offered and Michelle Stacy-Schroeder reiterated that there is a need for a round-table discussion focused on the happenings in Afghanistan, but many Veterans are still apprehensive and a lot may not attend.

- B. Community Outreach/Support Resources

Carol Benedict stated that US Vets was reaching out to Vietnam Veterans to help facilitate discussion groups with newer Vets. Jenn Zimmerman said "if you offer it, overtime, more will attend

Scott Nardo with Yavapai College stated that he has sent out surveys to their students to find out if there is any interest in participating round table discussions.

Carol stated that she would start work on organizing the round-table in the coming weeks.

V. HopeFest September 11, 2021, Yavapai County Courthouse 10am-4pm

Hopefest will be at the Courthouse Plaza on Saturday, September 11. It will include booths with area non-profits offering support for homeless, Veterans, domestic violence and various other issue affecting our community. There will be an opening ceremony at noon with a Remembrance for the 9/11 Fallen and also a fly over

VI. Stand-down Update: US Vets

Stand-Down will take place Friday, September 17 and Saturday, September 18 at the US Vets Center. Carol Benedict stated that they had pallets of winter coats to hand out. It will also have Veterans Court, VA Health Screening and more. It is open to all Veterans.

VII. Veterans Day Parade Update: Michelle Stacy Schroeder

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder provided an update on the 2021 Veterans Day Parade. At this time there were 15 applications on hand. The theme is Honoring World War II Veterans: A Grateful Nation Salutes the Greatest Generation. Grand Marshall's for the parade are all WWII Veterans and there are 8 currently signed up. Michelle is working with the VA to get a fly over for the parade.

VIII. Supporting Prescott Veteran Owned Businesses: Discussion/2022 Plan to get them engaged

It was suggested by Pat Kuykendall to help get verified Veteran owned businesses more engaged, could we provide them with storefront window stickers?

Josh Horner discussed the possibility of adding information to the City website. Michelle Stacy-Schroeder said that she would talk with the Webmaster to see what the capabilities are. It would be helpful to add these businesses on the Commission page.

IX. VA Updates- Tim Howe

VA is working with Uber/Lyft to help transport patients in outlying areas to their VA medical appointments

VA is also working with the Red Cross to provide Facebook Portal tablets to patients at the VQA to help stay connected with loved ones.

X. Announcements

A. October 9 is the Whiskey Row Marathon. Team RWB is in need of volunteers at the Water Station #2 on Hassaympa.

B. US Vets is hosting a Patriotic Concert with Voices of Service on Friday, November 12, 2021. It will be held at YPAC. Tickets will go on sale September 25. There will also be a dinner and meet an great option.

XI. Adjournment

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder (signed electronically)

Michelle Stacy-Schroeder

_____, Chair

Date: _____