



Veterans' Affairs Committee
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Veterans' Affairs Committee MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson, on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

Members Present:

Donald Alff
Dr. Lester Potts
Bernard McCaffery
William Burks
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza
Norman Ross
Herbert Rogers
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson
Paul R. Hetrick
E. Wendell Hague

Members Absent:

Joan Shadwick
William Stein
Rose Anderson
Larry Byrd
Aaron Possien
Murray Handler

Others Present:

Jim Bufford
Saul Stoltz
PFC Christina Swenson
Karen Alff

Representing:

American Legion Post #7
American Legion Post #36
American Legion Post #73
DAV Cactus Chapter #2
DVA S. AZ. VA Health Care System
Korean War Veterans' Association
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA
Veteran's Employment & Training
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106
VFW Post #549

Representing:

AZ Department of Veterans Services
DAV Auxiliary Cactus #2
Esperanza En Escalante
Esperanza En Escalante
The Order of the Silver Rose
Tucson Jewish War Veterans

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paul Hetrick.

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Don Alff.

4. Introduction of Guests

Guests of committee members, Karen Alff and Jim Bufford were recognized, as were PFC Swenson of the Airport Lounge and Saul Stoltz a prospective new member.

5. Approval of New Members

It was moved, duly seconded and approved by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Joan Shadwick, William Stein, Rose Anderson, Larry Byrd, Aaron Possien, and Murray Handler absent/excused) to approve Saul Stoltz, a representative of the Tucson Jewish War Veterans, as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

6. Chairman's Report on Current Events

Chairperson Stevens provided information regarding e-mail use between committee members and the possibility of violating the Open Meeting Law. As the Chair, he decided it was best not to include e-mail addresses on the Veterans' Affairs Committee roster.

Chairperson Stevens reminded the committee that volunteers were needed for Operation Exodus both at the Airport Lounge and for assembling the bags of goodies to be given out.

7. Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2007 and November 12, 2007

It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Joan Shadwick, William Stein, Rose Anderson, Larry Byrd, Aaron Possien, and Murray Handler absent/excused) to approve the minutes of October 10, 2007 and November 12, 2007 as presented.

8. Recruitment of Organizations

Norman Ross reported on an article he had seen in the Arizona Daily Star regarding an all-female Marine organization. Mr. Ross volunteered to contact the organization to determine their interest in sending a representative to the Committee.

9. Discussion/Action on a Possible Community Calendar for Veterans Events

Due to the information provided by Chair Stevens earlier in the meeting, it was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Joan Shadwick, William Stein, Rose Anderson, Larry Byrd, Aaron Possien, and Murray Handler absent/excused) to continue to announce events at the Veterans' Affairs Committee meetings for the members to convey back to their organizations.

10. Report/Action on Stand-Down, Nam-Jam and the Veterans' Day Parade

Chair Stevens reported the Stand-Down was a success. One hundred seven homeless veterans were helped by various organizations, which included judicial participation by a sitting judge.

The success of Nam-Jam was discussed. There was concern that the event costs were more than could be recouped and the Vietnam Veterans group sponsoring the event might have to seek outside funds to help with those costs. Due to limitations of acting as a committee, members agreed that any contact with the City of Tucson Mayor and Council on the subject should be as concerned individuals and not as a committee.

It was noted that a letter of appreciation would be sent to Jim Click for the use of the donated automobiles for the Veterans' Day Parade. The committee expressed approval and appreciation of Mayor Walkup's generous invitation to PFC Swenson, the Airport Lounge liaison, to join him on the viewing stand to watch the parade.

11. Discussion/Action for Operation Exodus

It was reported that more than two thousand members of the military were expected to pass through the Airport Lounge at Tucson International Airport during the week including December 17 to December 22, 2007. Most of the troops leaving on the 19th and 20th of December were headed to the Middle East as rotation replacements. There was a request for volunteers for the Airport Lounge on Thursday Morning, the 19th of December, at 5:00 am and for assembling the goody bags on Saturday, December 15 at the VFW # 549 at 29th Street and Craycroft. It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a vote of 10 to 0 (Joan Shadwick, William Stein, Rose Anderson, Larry Byrd, Aaron Possien, and Murray Handler absent/excused) to purchase the necessary items for Operation Exodus on Saturday, December 15. It was noted that any left over goodies would be retained at the Airport Lounge and given to troops returning from the Middle East on January 3rd and 4th, 2008.

12. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action

a. Airport Military Lounge

PFC Swenson reported on supplies needed at the Airport Lounge. It was determined these needs would be met by the items supplied for Operation Exodus.

b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Joan Shadwick was not available to give a report. The committee agreed to request the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services appoint a second representative to the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Chair Stevens volunteered to make that request.

c. V A Hospital

Pepe Mendoza provided copies of recent publications from the Southern Arizona Veterans' Administration Health Care System. He also spoke about the new off-site clinics that would be opening, one in the northwestern and one in the southeastern part of the City. Chair Stevens commended Mr. Mendoza for his high quality of work.

d. Arizona Veterans' Employment Services

Chair Stevens said reports from the Arizona Veterans' Employment Services would be including statistics regarding demographics on the veterans helped through the service.

e. Financial Report

The financial report was given, and it was stated the Committee had one thousand six hundred dollars to use toward this year's Operation Exodus. The reconciliation audit done in October was reported and accepted by the committee.

13. Future Agenda Items

- Discussion/Action regarding organizations such as the AMVETS Foundation, Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV), and the Purple Heart Association.
- Discussion/Action regarding the Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 4th, 2008.

14. Annual Nomination and Election of Committee Officers

Nominations of Officers for the year 2008 were accepted. They were: Marty Stevens for Chairperson; Norman Ross for Senior Vice Chairperson; Pepe Mendoza for Junior Vice Chairperson; Wendell Hague for Treasurer with Don Alff the alternate signer on the committee account. It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Joan Shadwick, William Stein, Rose Anderson, Larry Byrd, Aaron Possien, and Murray Handler absent/excused) to elect those nominated.

15. Salute to Colors

The Salute to Colors was led by the Committee at large.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.