



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 6:00 pm
City Manager's Conference Room – 1st Floor
City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona

Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

Meeting called to order by Senior Vice Chairperson Luke Johnson at 6:00 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Gary Ochoa
Carol Rundell

C.W. Hall
William Burks
Kevin Dumas
Phyllis Russell
Terry Byron
Henry Johnson

William Wojciechowski

Robert "Bob" Slocum
Luke Johnson
Mark Levine
Shaun Pfund
Martin Belden
Melvin Morgan

Peter Kane (**Advisory Member**)

Absent:

Joel Stoltz
Bruce Hamilton

Staff Member Present:

Jaime Corrales

Representing:

Arizona Department of Veteran's Services
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary,
Cactus Chapter 2
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 4
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28
Esperanza En Escalante
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
and Post 81 Scottish American Military Society
of Southern Arizona
Military Officers Association of America,
Tucson Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Tucson Veterans Cemetery Group
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106

Tucson Airport Authority

Representing:

Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Committee Member Henry Johnson.

**Legal Action Report
Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 12, 2020**

4. Introduction of Guests

Gaeton Briseno
Marlon Ruiz

Korean War Veteran's Association, Pima Chapter
Military Order of World Wars, Region XIII

5. Approval of Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes from Dec. 11, 2019 meeting

No discussion was held.

It was moved by Committee Member CW Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 15 to 0 (**Committee Members Joel Stoltz and Bruce Hamilton absent**), to approve the Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting

6. Treasurer's Report

Report was given by Committee Member M. Belden and a discussion was held.

It was moved by Committee Member H. Johnson, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 15 to 0 (**Committee Members Joel Stoltz and Bruce Hamilton absent**) to approve the January 2020 financial report.

7. Consideration/Approval of Members

There were no appointments for the February 12, 2020 meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a. Southern Arizona VA (Veterans' Affairs) Health Care System

Committee Member L. Johnson informed the Committee of the new VA Director; Jennifer Gutowski who started February 3, 2020. He stated that she wishes to be more involved with Community Partners. He also reminded the Committee that Thursday, February 20, 2020, was the Rodeo Parade, and that this event will block the Ajo Gate Entrance from 8 am to 12 pm, as it sits on the parade route.

b. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery - Marana

Committee Member S. Pfund informed the Committee that the next Missing In America Project Mission would be on April 25, 2020, starting at 10 am at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery - Marana. He also stated that a Memorial Day Event was being planned and he would provide the Committee with the details once the flier was complete.

c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Committee Member G. Ochoa stated [*for clarification purposes*] that the correct name for the Tucson Veterans' Cemetery is Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery – Marana. He reminded the Committee of the Veterans' Donation Fund specifically the Military Family Relief Fund; he stated that most people are donating to the pre 911 fund; but now that the post 911 fund has been authorized, donations are needed for that specific fund. He also informed the Committee that Be Connected has been authorized three counselors for the State of Arizona; one for each region (Northern, Central and Southern).

**Legal Action Report
Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 12, 2020**

9. General Fundraising Efforts

Committee Member T. Byron informed the Committee that she has begun sending the fundraising letter to various organizations/businesses on the list. Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson stated that he would like to review the letter and possibly revise/update the letter. It was decided to hold off until the letter had been reviewed and any necessary changes made, before reaching out to more potential donors. He asked that a sub-section be added to item 9 on the VAC Agenda, regarding the fundraising letter, and a second sub-section be added to item 9 on the VAC Agenda, regarding the donor list, to discuss these items further. Committee Member T. Byron also suggested a possible collaborated effort with the Tucson Roadrunners Hockey Team and the VAC, as a possible fundraising event. She suggested contacting Sam Ulan, who is the person in charge of ticket sales for the Tucson Roadrunners. Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson stated that he could contact Mr. Ulan. Committee Member T. Byron stated that she could invite Mr. Ulan to the next meeting as a guest speaker. Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson asked for a third sub-section be added to item 9 on the VAC Agenda, regarding Tucson Roadrunners Hockey Team/Sam Ulan.

10. Hats Off To Heroes

Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson informed the Committee that a meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020, to discuss the future of the Hats Off To Heroes Event. He informed the Committee that Tucson Subaru, one of the major contributors to the event had pulled out. He stated that he would keep the Committee informed as to the outcome of the meeting.

11. Veteran's Day Parade

Committee Member S. Pfund stated that the new Chair for the Veterans' Day Parade was JC Baird. He provided Mr. Baird's contact information to the Committee. He informed the VAC that the Veterans' Parade Committee would meet every third Thursday of the month at 6pm at Post 7. Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson asked if the Committee had confirmed the Mayor's attendance. Committee Member C. Rundell stated that she had been in contact with the Mayor's staff, and she had filled out the necessary paperwork, requesting her presence at the Tucson Veteran's Day Parade and extending the invitation to various other VAC events.

12. Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony Update/Discussion

Committee Member T. Byron thanked all Committee Members who participated and helped make the event a success. Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson suggested that next year's event might benefit from a little more exposure; possibly looking at forms of advertising and involve more people.

**Legal Action Report
Veterans' Affairs Committee
February 12, 2020**

13. Military Lounge Update/Discussion

Judge Advocate CW Hall informed the Committee that he had recently received a copy of Resolution 13647, and had not had an opportunity to fully read it. He stated that from what he had read so far, it appeared the VAC was not in compliance with Resolution 13647. He stated that it was his belief from the information gathered, that the Military Lounge was supported by Fort Huachuca. He stated that per Resolution 13647, the VAC may "terminate this agreement upon the giving of one hundred eighty (180) days advance written notice of intent to the other parties." This was due to the fact that Fort Huachuca was no longer involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the lounge. Committee Member M. Belden stated that terminating the agreement could also eliminate the Committee's participation with Operation Exodus.

Committee Member H. Johnson made a motion that no action be taken regarding Resolution 13647, motion was duly seconded. Discussion was held. No voice vote was taken. No formal action was taken.

Committee Member G. Ochoa stated that he would like to see more inclusion to the Tucson Veterans' population. He stated that as a Committee, they need to figure out what was best for the City of Tucson. Committee Member T. Byron suggested reaching out to Davis Monthan Air Force Base, and solicit their involvement with the VAC. Vice Chair L. Johnson stated that he (personally) wanted to read the Resolution and Bylaws prior to taking any action on this issue.

A motion was made by Senior Vice Chair L. Johnson to repeal the original motion (to take no action on Resolution 13647) duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 15 to 0 (**Committee Members Joel Stoltz and Bruce Hamilton absent**). It was decided that further discussion was necessary and this would remain as an agenda item. Committee Member S. Pfund stated that as a whole, the VAC should have more input into the revisions to Resolution 13647.

14. Operation Exodus Update/Discussion

No discussion was held.

15. Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order

Reports on upcoming events were provided by Committee Members M. Belden, M. Morgan, C. Rundell, T. Byron, R. Slocum, S. Pfund, H. Johnson, CW Hall and M. Levine

16. Future Agenda Items:

- Add sub-section "a" to agenda item 9 as "Fundraiser Letter"
- Add sub-section "b" to agenda item 9 as "Fundraising Potential Donor List"
- Add sub-section "c" to agenda item 9 as "Tucson Roadrunners Hockey Team/Sam Ulan
- Add sub-section "a" to agenda item 13 as "Resolution 13647"

17. Salute to Colors

18. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm