Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm
City Manager's Conference Room – 1st Floor
City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona

Summary Minutes
Approved September 11, 2019

1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Bruce Hamilton at 6:00 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present	**Representing:**
Carol Rundell	Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Cactus Chapter 2
C.W. Hall	Disabled American Veterans Chapter 4
William Burks	Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26
Phyllis Russell	Esperanza En Escalante
Henry Johnson	Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
Terry Byron	Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

(Committee Member T. Byron was present, but did not count towards quorum or vote, since she has not taken her loyalty oath.)

William Wojciechowski	Military Officers Association of America, Tucson Chapter
Robert "Bob" Slocum	Military Order of the Purple Heart
Joel Stoltz	Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Mark Levine **(arrived 6:05 pm)**	Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Bruce Hamilton	Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans
Martin Belden	Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106
Melvin Morgan	Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106
Luke Johnson	Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Peter Kane (Advisory Member)	Tucson Airport Authority

Absent:

Gary Ochoa	Arizona Department of Veteran's Services
Lester Craig	Korean War and Korea Service Veterans
Shaun Pfund	Tucson Veteran's Cemetery Group

Staff Member Present:

Delma Sanchez	City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary
Jaime Corrales	City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Committee Member H. Johnson.

4. Introduction of Guests

Mayor J. Rothschild

5. Presentation for Mayor Rothschild and update/discussion on Hats Off to Heroes

Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Vietnam Veterans of America was presented to Mayor Rothschild by Committee Members M. Belden and M. Morgan, for his continued support of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Mayor Rothschild accepted his award and thanked the Committee. He spoke on Hats Off to Heroes. It was decided to proceed with the Hats Off to Heroes Event. Mayor Rothschild's office will be in contact with Chair B. Hamilton and Committee Member L. Johnson. Committee Member C. Rundell asked Mayor Rothschild if he would consider riding in the Veteran's Day Parade with the Committee. Mayor Rothschild agreed.

6. Approval of Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes from April 10, 2019 meeting

No discussion was held. It was moved by Committee Member C.W. Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 13 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, G. Ochoa and S. Pfund absent.), to approve the Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

Report was given by Committee Member M. Belden, and the financial report was distributed. A discussion was held. It was moved by Committee Member C.W. Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 13 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, G. Ochoa and S. Pfund absent.), to accept the Financial Report.

8. Committee Reports

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

Committee Member L. Johnson briefed the Committee on upcoming events within the VA Hospital. He reported and distributed handouts on the following: Census Bureau is currently hiring Veterans; May 13-17, 2019 is National Prevention Week at the VA Hospital. Various resources would be available each day. Wednesday, May 15, 2019 there will be a Woman Veterans Health Clinic open house as well as a VA2K "Walk-&-Roll", and on Friday, May 17, 2019 a movie night will take place. Refreshments will be served and entertainment provided prior to the movie. He also updated the Committee on changes to the VA Healthcare. He stated that Optical Service would no longer be staffed by contractual employees and would now be operated by VA staff. He also discussed the VA Mission Act of 2018, which is due by June 6, 2019. He distributed a fact sheet and briefly discussed with the Committee some of the major changes within the VA Mission Act.

b. Tucson Veterans Cemetery

No report was given.

c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

No report was given

9. Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony Update/Discussion

It was announced by Chair B. Hamilton that the event was scheduled, as planned, for February 2020. No formal action was taken.

10. Military Lounge Update/Discussion

Committee Member Stolz informed the Committee that the lounge currently has six full replaceable bottles of water. No formal action was taken.

11. Operation Exodus Update/Discussion

Advisory Member P. Kane informed the Committee that he had secured a pair of round trip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines (destination TBD) for their Operation Exodus fundraising efforts. A discussion was held. It was moved by Committee Member J. Stolz duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 13 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, G. Ochoa and S. Pfund absent.), to grant Chair B. Hamilton full authority on behalf of the Committee in all matters pertaining to the Southwest Airlines raffle. A discussion was also held on the raffle ticket price, and on how many tickets each member would receive to sell. It was moved by Committee Member C.W. Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 13 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, G. Ochoa and S. Pfund absent.), to charge $10.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for $50.00; and that each Committee Member would receive twenty-four (24) tickets to sell. It was also decided the drawing would be held at the Hats Off to Heroes event on November 10, 2019.

12. Hats Off to Heroes Update/Discussion

Chair B. Hamilton stated the event was scheduled for November 10, 2019 and he and Committee Member L. Johnson would continue to meet. No formal action was taken.

13. Military Officers Association of America partnering - Scholarship Funds Update/Discussion

Committee Member W. Wojciechowski made a presentation relating to the Scholarship program offered by the Military Officers Association of America, Tucson Chapter. He updated the Committee on their efforts in providing scholarships. He stated that they were currently seeking further donations. Committee Member W. Wojciechowski distributed his presentation and a discussion was held. He asked that this item be brought back up in September. No formal action was taken.

14. Veterans' Affairs Committee Fundraising Update/Discussion

Committee Member T. Byron stated that she had a list of businesses who contributed to various Veteran groups. A discussion was held and it was decided to forward Committee Member T. Byron a copy of the fundraising letter, so she could begin the process in contacting these organizations for support.

15. Dealing with Water Contamination Update/Discussion

Committee Member B. Slocum informed the Committee about his communication with Ana Marrufo, Management Assistant with the City Clerk's Office, and their mutual understanding relating to Water Contamination throughout the City and surrounding areas. It was suggested he attend the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) and express his concerns with them. He agreed to attend their meeting while VAC was on hiatus, and update the Committee when they return in September. A discussion was held. No formal action was taken.

16. Forming Sub-Committees Update/Discussion

The Committee was informed that sub-committees could only be formed on issues directly relating to the Veterans' Affairs Committee (VAC). No formal action taken.

17. 2019 Arizona State Legislature HB 2011 - Relating to Military Pensions Update/Discussion

Committee Member W. Wojciechowski informed the Committee that HB 2011 did not pass and would be revisited next year. He informed the Committee that he would be in communication with Arizona Senators in providing future updates to the Committee. No formal action was taken.

18 Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order

Reports regarding various upcoming events were provided by Committee Members, M. Belden, T. Byron, B. Slocum, M. Levine, H. Johnson, Chair B. Hamilton and Advisory Member P. Kane.

19. Future Agenda Items:

- **Veteran's Day Parade**
- **Dealing With Water Contamination**
- **Military Officers Association of America partnering with other organizations in combining scholarship programs**
- **Wreaths Across America**
- **Appreciation for Mayor Rothschild**

20. Salute to Colors

21. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.