



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, April 9, 2008, 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:

Norman Ross
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza
Herbert Rogers
Saul Stoltz
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson
Paul R. Hetrick

Representing:

Korean War Veterans' Association
So. AZ. VA Health Care System
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA
Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Veteran's Employment & Training
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106

Members Absent:

Dr. Lester Potts
George Bowens
William Stein
Larry Byrd
E. Wendell Hague

Representing:

American Legion Post #36
DAV Cactus Chapter #2
DAV Auxiliary Cactus #2
Esperanza En Escalante
VFW Post #549

Others Present:

PFC Chris Swenson
Ernie Minchella

Representing:

US Army Garrison, Ft. Huachuca
American Legion Post #36

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Norman Ross.

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Pepe Mendoza.

- 4. Introduction of Guests**
No guests were introduced.
- 5. Approval of New Members Abel Moreno, American Legion Post #7, Leopoldo Quiles, Jr., Disabled American Veterans Cactus Chapter 2 and Ernest Minchella, American Legion Post #36**
It was moved, duly seconded and approved by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Lester Potts, George Bowens, William Stein, Larry Byrd and Wendell Hague absent/excused) to approve Able Moreno, a representative of American Legion post #7, Leopoldo Quiles, Jr., a representative of Disabled American Veterans Cactus Chapter #2 and Ernest Minchella, American Legion Post #36, as members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.
- 6. Chairman's Report on Current Events**
Chair Stevens discussed the ongoing effort to bring a Veterans Cemetery to the greater Tucson area. The committee was reminded that the City considered the metro area to include South Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, Green Valley, Sahuarita, Corona de Tucson, and Vail.
- 7. Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2008 and March 12, 2008**
It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Lester Potts, George Bowens, William Stein, Larry Byrd, and Wendell Hague absent/excused) to approve the minutes of February 20, 2008 with a correction to the spelling of Ernie Minchella's name and the minutes of March 12, 2008 with a correction to the spelling of Cheryll Frazier's name.
- 8. Recruitment of Organizations**
The committee discussed the possibility of contacting Pima County to help with the process of asking the local Native American Tribes to donate eighty to one hundred acres of land for a National Veterans Cemetery in the greater Tucson area. Chair Stevens volunteered to contact the Tucson City Clerk's Office for direction.
- 9. Discussion / Action for the Four Chaplains Ceremony**
Pepe Mendoza delivered a memo from Chaplain Zinck, the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care Services Chaplain and Pastoral Coordinator, recommending the memorial tribute ceremony be canceled for 2008 and preparation for the 2009 event begin as soon as possible. Chaplain Zinck also suggested a tribute to remaining World War II veterans be incorporated in the ceremony. The committee agreed to mention the Four Chaplains in the Memorial Day ceremony
- 10. Informational Report Regarding Available Programs from the Veterans' Administration by Guest Speaker, Cheryll Frazier**
Cheryll Frazier was unable to attend. She was invited to speak at the May 14, 2008 meeting.
- 11. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action**
 - a. Airport Military Lounge**
PFC Swenson reported on the Military Lounge and requested water. Paul Hetrick and Marty Stevens reminded Committee members the Airport Military Lounge was for both active duty military and for veterans.
 - b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**
Norman Ross informed the committee of the ceremony for the new bell tower being held at the National Veterans Cemetery in Phoenix, at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 20.

c. V A Hospital

Pepe Mendoza presented handouts and information from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. He reported new clinics opening in the Casa Grande and Vail areas in 2008, these being in addition to the one opened last year in Northwest Tucson at Ina Road and Shannon Road.

d. Arizona DES Employment Administration Veterans' Employment Services

Chair Stevens informed the committee of the State hiring freeze.

e. Financial Report

No report was given due to the absence of Treasurer Wendell Hague. The financial report was to be presented at the next meeting, or provided to the Clerk's Office before that meeting.

12. Future Agenda Items

- Discussion / Action for contacting Pima County for help with the effort to bring a National Veterans Cemetery to the Tucson area.
- Discussion / Action for the Memorial Day Ceremony with the incorporation of a tribute to the Four Chaplains.

13. Salute to Colors

The Salute to Colors was led by Chair Stevens.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.