



**Minutes
Tempe Veterans Commission
December 6, 2016**

Minutes for the Tempe Veterans Commission Meeting held on December 6, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library 2nd Floor Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Commission Members Present

Keith Finkle, Chair
Mario Aguirre
Bryan Durham
Scott Essex, Secretary
Troy Friedman
Dale Groen
Patricia Little-Upah
Michelle Lopusky
David Lucier
Laura Skotnicki (telephonically)

Commission Members Absent

Michelle Bravo, Vice-Chair

Staff Present

Valerie Kime Trujillo, Human Services Deputy Director
Robin Arredondo-Savage, Vice-Mayor

Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order at 6:04 PM

Item 2 – Public Appearances – None Present

Item 3 – Review and Approval of November 1, 2016 Minutes

Motion by Commission Member David Lucier to approve minutes; Motion seconded by Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah; Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Recap of Recognition for Veterans Supportive Employers

There were five (5) employers present for the Mayor's Recognition for Veterans Supportive Employers. Chair Keith Finkle was pleased with the turnout of employers and support received from Mayor and Council. Human Services Deputy Director has certificates for the employers who were unable to attend the recognition ceremony and

asked for direction from the Commission as to where/how the certificates should be sent. The Commission agreed to send from the Mayor's Office and Commission Member Mario Aguirre will send contact information to staff. Commission Member David Lucier suggested connecting with the Southwest Veteran Chamber of Commerce

Item 5 – East Valley Regional Veterans Court Support Discussion and Approval

The East Valley Regional Veterans Court requested permission to list members of the Tempe Veterans Commission as supporters towards a new grant application process to the Arizona Department of Veterans Services to help fund the establishment of the East Valley Regional Veterans Court and the Coordinator position that supports the Veterans Court. Vice-Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage suggested submitting a formal letter of support to Amanda Chavez. Commission Member Bryan Durham will abstain due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commission Member David Lucier that the Tempe Veterans Commission formally support the East Valley Regional Veterans Court; Motion seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 – Discuss working with Tempe Chamber of Commerce

The Commissions overall goal in seeking partnering with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce is to gain as many Veteran Supportive Employers as possible. Chair Keith Finkle feels by getting these businesses involved as Veteran Supportive Employers, they then become part of the resource network through the Arizona Coalition for Military Families which will then give them access to resources not readily available before. The Commission will extend an invite to the new Tempe Chamber of Commerce President, Anne Gill for the February meeting

Item 7 – Arizona Coalition Pilot Program – Commission Member Mario Aguirre

Commission Member Mario Aguirre gave an overview of the Arizona's Military/Veteran Resource Network beta site and navigated matching Veterans to resources. The Arizona Coalition has trained over 1800 navigators in the last five (5) years. Chair Keith Finkle suggested discussing this program with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. Any resources Commission Members have can be submitted to Commission Member Mario Aguirre.

Item 8 – Commission Member Announcements

Chair Keith Finke:

- City of Tempe Lobbyist Registration Program
 - Effective January 1, 2017
 - Any person or organization who is compensated to communicate with any City of Tempe public official to influence official action must register as a lobbyist, prior to lobbying or within ten (10) calendar days after first lobbying
 - A public official is defined as a member of the Tempe City Council, a Board or Commission member, or a Hearing Officer

- Lobbyist registration and expenditure reporting is the responsibility of the lobbyist, not City of Tempe public officials or employees

Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah:

- Meeting with new head of Arizona State University Public Service Academy
 - Discussing the possibility of a student project on enhancing the availability of childcare services for Veterans

Commission Member Laura Skotnicki:

- Valor on Eighth Housing Project
 - Elevator and stairwell construction done

Commission Member Dale Groen:

- Dignity Health Volunteer Veteran Focus Group ([flyer attached](#))
- Vets Community Connections ([flyer attached](#))
- Due to a recent change in federal law (Fair Labor Standards Act), may be forced to resign

Commission Member Michelle Loposky:

- Graduation week at Arizona State University

Commission Member Bryan Durham:

- Arizona Department of Veterans Services grant cycle is open until December 15, 2016
 - Community partners needing to submit a grant over \$5000 need to submit by deadline date

Commission Member Troy Friedman:

- Film Screening – Ground Operations: Battlefields to Farm fields – Irish Cultural Center

Commission Member David Lucier:

- Applications are now being accepted for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame
 - <http://avhof.org/>
- Office of Strategic Studies has been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal

Commission Member Scott Essex

- The 161st Air Refueling Wing on the south side of Sky Harbor airport is changing its name to the Goldwater Air National Guard Base on Friday, December 9 ,2016

Item 9 – Strategic Plan Dates:

- **Tuesday, January 10, 2017 4:00 – 8:00 PM – Meeting Room A**
- **Saturday, January 14, 2017 8:0 AM – 4:00 PM – Tempe Learning Center**

Suggested items of discussion at Strategic Planning:

1. Marketing material (business cards, brochures/flyers etc.)
2. Educating various community groups on the Tempe Veterans Commission

Item 10 – Adjournment

Next meeting to be held on January 10, 2017, Tempe Public Library, Lower Level – Meeting Room A 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Placencia
Reviewed by: Valerie Kime Trujillo

Keith Finkle,
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission

UNAPPROVED



Dignity Health Volunteer Veteran Focus Group

- Do you have great ideas?
- Would you like to help design a hospital visitation program for veterans?
- Would you like to volunteer in a new service area supporting veterans?

Please consider joining a focus group consisting of veterans, volunteers and community members to learn (and have input on) a new volunteer service area at both Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Place: Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, Medical office Building
Behind the Hospital, 3420 Mercy Road, Gilbert AZ 85296 (third floor) – McAuley A&B Conference Rooms

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

RSVP: Barb Farmer, 480.728.7186 or barb.farmer@dignityhealth.org

A new resource available to all
Maricopa County
veterans, military and their families



Connecting those who serve
with community members for answers to
questions about life in Maricopa County

In partnership with:



VetsCommunityConnections.org

Call 2-1-1 or 1-844-VET-CONX



Through Vets' Community Connections, veterans, military and their families get answers to a host of questions that fall outside the realm of traditional veteran service organizations. Examples include:

- Can you recommend a trusted home or car repair expert?
- Can I talk to someone in the health field to find out if that career is really for me?
- Who can tell me what the schools are really like in this neighborhood?
- What are the museums and venues that offer discounts or special engagements for veteran/military families?

HOW IT WORKS:



Vet/Military member or spouse call 2-1-1 and ask for the Vet Connector.

Vet Connector will link you with a local community member who has the knowledge/expertise to answer your question.

Arrange a time to talk. Get your answers!



Call 2-1-1
or 1-844-VET-CONX
to learn more and
get your questions answered.



@VetsCommunity