



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission August 2, 2022

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, 6:00 p.m., via In-person.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Abe McCann, Vice Chair
Chantele Carr
William (Bill) Blair
Phillip Kraft
Beno Thomas
Juan Garcia

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Celia Sadhu
Cory Pechtl

Staff Present:

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director
Danielle Palka, Administrative Assistant

Guest:

Christian Romero, Chase Bank
Craig Hayton, City of Tempe Deputy Community Services Director
Jake Hoselton, Grass Clippings
Jim Hoselton, Grass Clippings
Trevor Barger, Espiritu Loci

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Vice Chair Abe McCann called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances-

The Tempe Veterans Commission welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Commission may only discuss matters listed on its meeting agendas. Matters brought-up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the meeting agenda cannot be discussed by the Commission. A three (3)-minute time limit per person will be in effect.

Commander Gary Sheets of VFW Post 3632 attended the meeting and shared about his organization. He is interested in learning more about the Veterans Commission and networking.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of June 7, 2022 minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE June 7, 2022, minutes by Phil Kraft

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Chantele Carr

AYES: Commission Members William (Bill) Blair, Beno Thomas, Juan Garcia, Vice Chair Abe McCann

Agenda Item 5 – Chair’s Remarks

Vice Chair Abe McCann informed the commission that the role of Chair for the Commission and consequently Vice Chair, would be voted on tonight as he would be resigning to begin employment as the City of Tempe’s Veterans Services Coordinator. The position of Secretary would also be voted on.

Agenda Item 6 – Introduction of new Commission Member – Juan Garcia

Agenda Item 7 – Nominations – Commission Vice Chair and Secretary

Vice Chair Abe McCann asked for a motion to move this agenda item to after Item 9 as the guest speakers needed to leave.

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE by Juan Garcia

SECOND: Motion seconded by William (Bill) Blair

AYES: Beno Thomas, Phillip Kraft, Chantele Carr, Vice Chair Abe McCann

Nominations for the open positions were as follows:

Commission Member William (Bill) Blair nominated Phil Kraft to be Chair. **AYES: Chantele Carr, Beno Thomas, Juan Garcia, William (Bill) Blair, Vice Chair Abe McCann**

Commission Member Phil Kraft nominated William (Bill) Blair to be Vice chair. **AYES: Chantel Carr, Beno Thomas, Juan Garcia, Phil Kraft, Vice Chair Abe McCann**

Commission Member Beno Thomas volunteered to be Secretary. **AYES: Chantele Carr, Juan Garcia, William (Bill) Blair, Phil Kraft, Vice Chair Abe McCann**

Agenda Item 8 – Veteran Financial Literacy

Christian Romero, VP Community Manager at Chase Bank shared the services they have to offer veterans. They focus on education with topics such as basic financial literacy, budgeting, building credit, fraud and ID theft protection, investing. They would like to collaborate with more veterans groups to offer these classes and webinars. Chase has a staff in Tucson and Christian in Phoenix who are offering these classes.

Agenda Item 9 – Rolling Hills Golf Course Development

Craig Hayton, City of Tempe Deputy Community Services Director introduced the project to redevelop Rolling Hills Golf Course. Through this process it was identified that engagement of the community and especially veterans' groups would be essential.

Jake Hoselton presented the overview of Grass Clippings and their vision for the space at Rolling Hills. There will be emphasis within the project to have more reasons to visit than just golf, such as upgraded food & beverage, event space, outdoor movies, family activity lawn and a lighted golf course which will be the first of its kind in the valley. The footprint will allow for 15 acres to be available for other recreational uses still to be determined. Suggestions were given by the commission on how Grass Clippings may engage with the veterans community on the operation of the course.

Agenda Item 10 – Review 2022 Commission Goals

The Commission reviewed their progress as follows on their stated goals for the year:

- Support the 2022 Veterans Day event – In progress, will reach out and make contact with the Veterans parade organizer.
- Community Salutes – Achieved, Two commission members were present at the event.
- Increase veteran listserv by 10% - In progress, will ask for update from the City of Tempe's Communications Manager
- Recommend mentorship program - In progress, will follow up with the Veterans Services Coordinator
- Speakers from community organizations or businesses related to veterans' issues – In progress, monthly meetings have had speakers regularly attend
- Encourage increasing the number of Tempe Veteran Supportive Employer – In progress,

Agenda Item 11 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

Beno -GI Bill has increased their housing allowance but it is still not enough to cover living expenses.

Bill – no update. Chantele – Maricopa Community Colleges start school August 22. Phil – Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce would like to network with the other local Veterans Commissions in the area. Their upcoming Patriots ball will honor female veterans. Juan -no update. Abe – no update.

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – September 6, 2022

Suggested agenda items: Robert Garcia with AZ Commerce Authority, AZ Coalition of Military Families and Operation Shockwave. Any suggestions, concerns or comments for the next agenda, please reach out to Octavia.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Commission Member Juan R. Garcia

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member Beno Thomas

AYES: Chantele Carr, Vice Chair Abe McCann, Phillip Kraft, William “Bill” Blair

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be on September 6, 2022

Minutes Prepared by: Danielle Palka

Reviewed by Octavia Harris

Abe McCann, Vice-Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission