



**Minutes  
Tempe Veterans Commission  
August 2, 2016**

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

**Commission Members Present**

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

**Commission Members Absent**

Michelle Loposky  
David Lucier

**Staff Present**

Valerie Kime Trujillo, Human Services Deputy Director  
Marie Chapple-Camacho, Public Information Officer  
Robin Arredondo-Savage, Vice-Mayor

**Public Appearances**

James Taylor, Tempe Resident

**Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 PM**

**Item 2 – Public Appearances – James Taylor**

Tempe Resident, James Taylor recently retired from the Marine Corps introduced himself to the Commission and offered his assistance to the Commission and is interested in what the Commission is working on.

### **Item 3 – Approval of June 7, 2016 Minutes**

Motion by Commission Member Troy Friedman to approve minutes, Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo; Motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 4 – Stand Up Event**

Commission Member Troy Friedman informed the Commission the Stand Up Event is moving along. Marketing materials are now available. If copies are needed at specific locations, Commission Member Troy Friedman will notify the marketing department. The East Valley Veterans Center and Goodwill are working together to identify twenty-five employers in the East Valley that are interested in participating in the event. Commission Members Troy Friedman and Mario Aguirre are working together to identify businesses in the process of becoming a Veterans Supportive employer. The event is from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM; the hiring event begins at 10:00 AM. Vice-Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage will notify surrounding cities of the event. The Commission is asking East Valley cities for a partnership in the future for this event.

### **Item 5 – Follow Up with the Coalition on Tempe based businesses**

Commission Member Mario Aguirre will send a list of current Veterans Supportive employers to Commission Member Troy Friedman. There are currently six Veterans Supportive employers that have completed the training and are located in Tempe. The list consists of Sharp Decisions, FNF Construction, Schreiber Foods, DHL, City of Tempe, Arizona State University and TEAM Security; there are approximately sixty overall. Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo suggested the Commission recognize employers who have completed the training; The Commission decided it will recognize these employers and any additional Tempe employers who complete the training at the November 3, 2016 City Council Meeting.

### **Item 6 – Mission and Vision Review and Vote**

The Mission of the Tempe Veterans Commission is To Support Local Veterans through Collaboration with Strategic Partners across Sectors Utilizing a Synergistic Approach Connecting Veterans to Necessary Resources.

Vision: Tempe Is the Most Veteran Supportive City in America through Employment and Quality of Life.

Motion by Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo to approve the mission and vision, Motion seconded by Dale Groen; Motion passed unanimously

### **Item 7 – Strategic Planning**

The City of Tempe's Strategic Initiatives Office has offered to assist the Tempe Veterans Commission. The Commission tentatively set a date to begin the Strategic Planning process on December 6, 2016 at 4:00 PM.

### **Item 8 – Care 7 Collaboration**

Commission Member Scott Essex will be talking to the Chamber of Commerce about working with Care 7 on reduced hotel rates and transportation assistance, etc. Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah would like to reconnect with Care 7 at the next Commission meeting.

### **Item 9 – Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Collaboration**

Chair Keith Finkle spoke with the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Co-Chair about drafting a memorandum of understanding and forming a partnership between Tempe and Phoenix. Chair Finkle and Vice-Chair Bravo plan to meet with Phoenix members to start this discussion.

### **Item 10 – Commission Member Announcements**

- Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo:
  - The City manager has asked for an annual report submission by November 15 of each year
    - The report will be coordinated by the Commission Chair and approved by the Commission
    - The report will include membership, accomplishments, goals, attendance, overall work of the Commission
    - All reports will be combined for City Council review
    - Chairs may present their reports to the City Council at a Work Study Session upon request
- Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah:
  - Honor House and the Culinary Institute of Arizona will now provide free cooking classes once a month on Saturdays to Veterans and a guest beginning August 6, 2016
- Chair Keith Finkle:
  - Encouraged the Commission to submit events to include on the Veterans Commission website
- Commission Member Dale Groen:
  - The Fourth Annual Glendale Stand Up for Veterans Event
    - September 24, 2016 at Glendale Community College from 8:00 – 1:00 PM

- Commission Member Troy Friedman:
  - Three new partners present at the East Valley Veterans Education Center on a weekly basis
    - Arizona Department of Veterans Services will have a Service Officer present to augment the service officers from other organizations.
    - Will provide intake services into Veterans Affairs
    - Every Tuesday and Thursday, Housing Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing will have counselors available
    - Department of Labor is developing programs to target employing Veterans
    - Targeting six locations, including the East Valley Veterans Education Center
  - Center expansion is moving forward

#### **Item 11 – Next Meeting – Suggestions**

- Stand Up Event
- Tempe Based Businesses Update
- Annual Report to City Council
- Strategic Planning
- Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Collaboration Update

#### **Item 12 – Adjournment**

Next meeting to be held on September 6, 2016, Tempe Library Board Room, at 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

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

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Keith Finkle,  
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission