



**Minutes
Tempe Veterans Commission
October 4, 2016**

Minutes for the Tempe Veterans Commission Meeting held on October 4, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library Connections Café Classroom, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Commission Members Present

Scott Essex, Secretary
Bryan Durham
Troy Friedman
Michelle Lopusky
David Lucier
Laura Skotnicki

Commission Members Absent

Keith Finkle, Chair
Michelle Bravo, Vice-Chair
Mario Aguirre
Dale Groen
Patricia Little-Upah

Staff Present

Valerie Kime Trujillo, Human Services Deputy Director
Parrish Spisz, Council Aide
Melissa Placencia, Administrative Assistant

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

Item 2 – Public Appearances – None Present

Item 3 – Review and Approval of September 6, 2016 Minutes

Motion by Commission Member David Lucier to approve minutes, Motion seconded by Commission Member Laura Skotnicki; Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Veterans Parade Discussion

The Commission discussed becoming part of the planning process for the Veterans Day Parade. The Commission asked staff how they can go about officially become involved in planning; Council Aide, Parrish Spisz advised the Commission there is an open invitation for those who would like to participate and suggested the Commission meet with Jim Groen and possibly have a presence in the parade. Commission Member Scott Essex will work the Council Aide, Parrish Spisz on scheduling a meeting with Jim Groen and will report to the Commission at the next meeting.

Item 5 – Tempe Based Businesses Update – Tabled for next meeting

Human Services Deputy Director, Valerie Kime-Trujillo noted that this has been added to the Council Priorities. The Commission continues to express interest in collaborating with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and would like to schedule a meeting with the new Chamber of Commerce President, Commission Members Troy Friedman and David Lucier and Vice-Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage in order to meet this initiative.

Item 6 – Final Update on Stand Up

Commission Member Troy Friedman updated the Commission on the Stand for Veterans Event; there are fifty (50) community agencies and an equal amount of employers involved. Dignitaries scheduled to attend are Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell, Vice-Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage, the Dean and Associate Dean of Rio Salado Community College. The Commission was encouraged to share the information as much as possible, especially on social media.

Item 7 – Finalize Annual Report

Commission Member Laura Skotnicki expressed the need for edits in attendance specific to her membership. Chair Keith Finkle will be submitting goals for the Commission at the next meeting. Suggested goals are as follows: leasing up the Valor on Eighth project, moving the Stand for Veterans event to the Spring, raise awareness of the Veterans Commission in the City of Tempe, increase the number of Veterans Supportive Employers. Goal suggestions can be submitted until October 24, 2016.

Item 8 – Strategic Planning – Finalize Date

The Strategic Planning Session dates have been suggested by the facilitator for Tuesday, January 10, 2017 4:00 – 8:00 PM – Tempe Public Library, Meeting Room A and Saturday, January 14, 2017 8:00 – 4:00 PM – Tempe Public Library, Tempe Learning Center. Staff will send a save the date calendar invite to Commission Members.

Item 9 – Veterans Housing Groundbreaking

The Arizona State University Color Guard will be presenting the colors. It was suggested those attending to take the light rail as parking may be an issue.

Item 10 – Commission Member Announcements

Commission Member Michelle Loposky:

- Pat Tilman Veterans Center invited Tempe Police and Arizona State University Police to sit with guests in Honor Row.
- Salute to Service is the week of Veterans Day
 - Student project consists of a gallery of photos
 - Showcased during Salute to service
 - Seeking members of all branches of the Military

Human Services Deputy Director, Valerie Kime-Trujillo:

- Celebration of the Regional Veterans Court
 - Invite will be sent out by staff

Item 11 – Next Meeting Agenda Items – November 1, 2016

- **Post Groundbreaking for Valor on Eighth Report**
- **Post Stand for Veterans Event Report**

Suggested items can be submitted to Chair Keith Finkle who will then submit to staff.

Item 12 – Adjournment

Next meeting to be held on November 1, 2016, Tempe Public Library, 2nd Floor Board Room, at 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Valerie Kime-Trujillo

Keith Finkle,
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission