

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA  
VETERANS MEMORIAL BOARD  
PEORIA CITY HALL  
PINE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**December 5, 2019**

A **Regular Meeting** of the Veterans Memorial Board of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened at 8401 West Monroe Street in open and public session in the Pine Conference Room at 5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Tad Snidecor, Anthony Irby, Anthony VanGoethem and Donald Scott

Members Absent: Eric Gagomiros and Terry Brezina

Municipal Officials Present: John Sefton, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director; Councilmember Bill Patena; Daniel Murillo, Council Assistant; and Cathy Foland, Executive Assistant

Audience: 2

Chairman Snidecor welcomed new Board Member Donald Scott. Mr. Scott introduced himself to the Board. He is a Peoria resident and served 13 years in the Army.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Irby moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, including the absences and minutes from the August 1, 2019 meeting. Anthony VanGoethem seconded the motion and, upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, 4 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. McCain Plaza Enhancement Project

John Sefton gave an update on the McCain Plaza Enhancement Project. He stated Salt River Project, Arizona Public Service and Southwest Gas donated a combined total of \$20,000 in sponsorship contributions. Opportunities are still available for \$10,000 and \$15,000 sponsorships of the benches.

No action taken

4. Veterans Day Celebration Wrap-up

Mr. Sefton stated Special Events staff executed a memorable and honorable Veterans Day event. Councilmember Patena agreed and stated it was very well done.

In response to a statement from Mr. VanGoethem, Mr. Sefton stated 69 names were added to the wall this year, which is in line with previous years.

Mr. Snidecor mentioned a family at the event recently lost their Navy son to suicide. They would like to have a bill passed regarding suicide prevention/support for service members. The family has spoken to City officials and our state senators regarding their request.

Councilmember Patena asked if enough is being done to prevent veteran suicide. Mr. Snidecor and Mr. Irby stated yes, support is available if it is requested. Discussion followed regarding veteran and active duty suicide prevention efforts.

No action taken

#### 5. Honor Wall Nomination Update

Mr. Sefton reiterated that 69 new names were added to the Honor Wall this year. The order process is going very smoothly, and will soon be taken over by Rio Vista Recreation Center staff. Staff is continuing to work on the website, and the order form will be updated this year.

No action taken

#### 6. Board Initiatives

Mr. Sefton asked the board members what types of initiatives they would like to take on over the next year.

Mr. Snidecor stated he would like to see more community engagement opportunities offered to the veteran community. These could include outdoor activities or restaurant discounts.

Mr. Scott talked about an "Adopt-a-Vet" program, where volunteers can help veterans in their transition back into civilian life by assisting them in finding a job, securing a loan, etc.

Mr. Snidecor stated starting next year Mr. Scott will set up a website to include monthly events. The website will include activities and available resources. The goal is to engage and involve veterans in the community.

Mr. Sefton stated City staff can utilize available resources to assist and facilitate the Board's efforts.

No action taken

#### 7. Veterans Group Connections

Mr. Sefton stated this agenda item came up as a result of a special request from a Ventana Lakes group for a speaker from the Veterans Memorial Board. There are other groups out there, and Board members may wish to attend their meetings to talk about this Board and its

function. These opportunities can bring awareness of the Veterans Memorial and Peoria's support and engagement in veterans' affairs.

No action taken

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (NON-AGENDA ITEMS): None

REPORT FROM STAFF: None

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Irby stated the Arizona Veterans StandDown is coming up January 24 and 25, 2020, at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

Mr. Snidecor stated Senator Sinema is sending out surveys to veterans asking how the Veterans Administration has been treating them.

In response to a question from Mr. Irby, Mr. Sefton stated the Peoria Old Town Festival will be held in conjunction with the Second Saturday event on December 14.

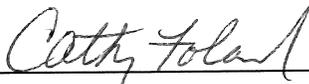
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Veterans Memorial Board falls on January 2, 2020. Mr. Sefton stated we will not meet on January 2. Staff will contact the board members to select an alternate date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

[REDACTED]

Tad Snidecor, Chair

  
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Cathy Foland, Executive Assistant