

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
VETERANS MEMORIAL BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING
August 6, 2020**

A **Regular Meeting** of the Veterans Memorial Board of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened in a virtual session at 5:09 p.m.

Members Present: Tad Snidecor, Terry Brezina, Anthony Irby, Donald Scott and Duane Danner

Members Absent: Anthony VanGoethem and Kacie Franklin

Municipal Officials Present: John Sefton, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director; Ted Mariscal, Assistant City Attorney; Marylou Stephens, Arts and Events Manager; Daniel Murillo, Council Assistant; Cathy Foland, Executive Assistant

Audience: 0

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Danner moved to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2020 meeting. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and, upon vote, the motion carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. Veterans Day Event

Following up on the discussion from the July meeting, Mr. Sefton stated that, due to COVID-19 limitations, Veterans Day 2020 will be commemorated with a virtual event, rather than the traditional in-person ceremony at the Veterans Memorial at Rio Vista Community Park. As suggested, four Peoria employees who have served in the military have agreed to be interviewed for a Veterans Day video.

Marylou Stephens, Arts and Events Manager, discussed ways in which Veterans Day can be observed online, on a variety of platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. She suggested reaching out to local businesses and spotlighting those that are interested in taking part. The virtual event and videos do not need to be limited to just one day.

Discussion followed regarding alternative programming, and Board members supported the idea of offering a grab 'n go breakfast drive-through at Rio Vista on Saturday, November 7.

Mr. Scott suggested a flyer be prepared containing links to the virtual events and videos, including sponsor information, as well as a list of the newest Honor Wall members. This flyer would be distributed with the breakfast.

Mr. Sefton asked the Board members to continue brainstorming ideas, and email them to him and Cathy.

No action taken

NEW BUSINESS

3. Peoria Veterans Honor Wall

Mr. Sefton stated staff has only received seven new Honor Wall orders so far this year. In order to be included on the wall by Veterans Day, the deadline for orders is September 30. Staff is currently revamping the Honor Wall brochure, and is working with the Office of Communications to get the word out to the public about how they can honor those who have served by purchasing space on the Honor Wall.

Staff will email the new brochure to the Board when it is complete, along with the communication plan to market the program.

Chairman Snidecor just noticed the Board members' names are listed at the John McCain Memorial Plaza, and he was surprised. He encouraged the other Board members to check it out on their next visit. Mr. Sefton stated there is a panel in front of the Rio Vista Recreation Center that also includes their names.

No action taken

4. VA – Phoenix Regional Office Phone Appointment Website/App

Mr. Irby stated the Phoenix Regional Office of the Veterans Administration recently implemented a new, user-friendly website/app for veterans to schedule appointments, request services and have questions answered. The link is:
<https://v2.waitwhile.com/welcome/departementofveterans2>

Mr. Sefton stated he will request that this link be placed on the City of Peoria's Veterans Memorial Board website.

Chairman Snidecor thanked Anthony, and expressed appreciation for the VA's recent improvements to its customer service processes.

No action taken

REPORT FROM STAFF: Mr. Sefton stated events and activities have been on pause. Council meetings will be back in session beginning August 18. He stated Paloma Community Park is nearing completion, with a "soft opening" to be scheduled in late September or early October.

Ms. Foland asked the members to review their current photos and biographies on the City's Veterans Memorial Board website, and email her any updates. She also reminded two of the new members to submit their information.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Chairman Snidecor stated he meets with Senator Sinema biweekly to address veterans' issues. He encouraged the Board members to contact him, or refer anyone with concerns about veterans' matters.

Mr. Scott shared that he recently learned that the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona has a backlog of over 3,000 pending memorial service benefits for eligible veterans in Arizona. They suspended the service with full honors due to COVID-19.

Chairman Snidecor thanked Mr. Scott, and asked that he forward the information to him so he can share it with Senator Sinema.

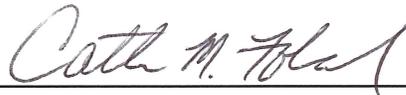
Chairman Snidecor expressed his appreciation for Mr. Sefton and his work on behalf of the Veterans Memorial Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Tad Snidecor, Chair



Cathy Foland, Executive Assistant