

**MINUTES OF THE VETERANS AND MILITARY ADVISORY BOARD IN SPECIAL MEETING, June 23, 2020
AT 6:05 P.M., ROOM 300, 50 EAST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE and Microsoft Teams, GILBERT, ARIZONA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicki Bartram, Victor Le Mai, James Lykins, Les Presmyk, Pamela Rinesmith, and Dave Rosenfeld

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Bobadilla

STAFF PRESENT: Councilmember Bill Spence (Council Liaison), Mayor's Aide Valerie Shaffer (Staff Liaison), Council Aide Monica D'Ortenzio (Staff Liaison)

CALL TO ORDER OF SPECIAL MEETING

Councilmember Spence called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, Introduction, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Spence gave a brief introduction of the board, shared his background, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Oaths of Office/Swearing-In

Councilmember Spence administered the Oaths of Office to Nicki Bartram, Victor Le Mai, James Lykins, Les Presmyk, Pamela Rinesmith, and Dave Rosenfeld.

Phil Bobadilla was not present to take the oath.

3. Roll Call

Mayor's Aide Valerie Shaffer called roll and declared a quorum present.

4. Introduction of all members and staff

The members of the board introduced themselves, shared their background and service in the Military.

Staff liaison Valerie Shaffer reviewed basic Open Meeting Law requirements and informed the Board that they will need to complete an online course arranged by the Clerk's Office.

5. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

The group discussed the appointment of officers for the Board. A motion was made by James Lykins to appoint Les Presmyk as Chair and Dave Rosenfeld as Vice Chair; seconded by Pamela Rinesmith.

Motion approved 6-0 vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

6. Discussion of USS Arizona Project

Chair Presmyk discussed an opportunity brought by Councilmember Spence to engage with the USS Arizona Project and to secure a letter of intent to Mayor Daniels from the Board to ask for her support. He suggested this could be a subcommittee created at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Rosenfeld expressed support.

Councilmember Spence expressed support and eagerness to seek Mayor Daniels' partnership.

A motion was made by Member Rosenfeld to move forward with a letter of intent to Mayor Daniels regarding the USS Arizona Project; seconded by Member Lykins.

Motion approved 6-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

7. Determine Meeting Schedule

Chair Presmyk led a discussion of determining Board meeting dates through the end of 2020.

The Board will meet at 6pm, unless otherwise noted, on the below dates:

- July 21st
- August 18th
- Sept 22nd
- Oct. 20th
- Nov. 17th
- Dec. 15th at 5pm

8. Board Assignments

Chair Presmyk discussed the need to develop a strategic plan for the Board to set 3-year plan and goals. The next meeting will be 2 hours for the brainstorming. Board subcommittees were discussed including marketing. He does not want the Board to duplicate programs and services already available in the East Valley. The Board can assist in communicating what is available and determine what may be missing. Veterans Day Committee is well established and does a great job. They may host Veterans Day Ceremony at the new Gilbert Regional Park. Subcommittees can have support from community members and Veterans who are involved in the community.

Councilmember Spence discussed having a facilitator to help create strategic plan. He agreed that there are dozens of people who want to help with their efforts.

Staff Liaison Valerie Shaffer offered to work with HR to secure a facilitator. She suggested involving additional staff within the Town to support subcommittees.

Member Rosenfeld suggested tracking volunteer hours for eligibility with the Presidential Volunteer and Service Award.

Chair Presmyk directed staff to investigate eligibility for volunteer award.

Member Bartram asked if we have a mission and vision.

Chair Presmyk discussed that this will be part of our brainstorming as well as reviewing bylaws.

Staff Liaison Shaffer will send out contact information for Board Members.

Member Lykins also asked for contact information of those that applied.

9. Future Topics

Councilmember Spence recommended that all ideas for future meeting topics should go through the Chair.

Member Rosenfeld will work with Mike Leppert for lists that are collected from the annual Veterans Day Ceremony to send an introduction of the Board.

Councilmember Spence has talked with Chandler contacts who would like to partner with Gilbert on an East Valley Coalition for Veterans.

Member Rosenfeld discussed Drop Zone, an event that provides health and mental health resources to Veterans. It was supposed to be held in Gilbert but was cancelled due to COVID. Gilbert can be more involved and support the event.

Chair Presmyk encouraged the group to be involved in Honor Flight. He appreciates the Board members willingness to serve.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Presmyk adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Les Presmyk, Chair

ATTEST:

Bill Spence, Council Liaison