

**MINUTES OF THE VETERANS AND MILITARY ADVISORY BOARD IN SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 14, 2020
AT 6:00 P.M., VIA 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

Chair Presmyk called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair Presmyk gave a brief welcome and led introductions.

Jake and Lora McManus introduced themselves and shared more about the Phoenix Navy League.

2. Roll Call

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

3. MINUTES – consider approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2020 and Special Meeting of July 7, 2020.

Member Rinesmith requested a change to the draft minutes for the July 7, 2020 meeting. The draft minutes stated, "Nikki Stratton shared that the original submarine was christened with Colorado River water and champagne." The word "submarine" would be changed to "USS Arizona Ship".

Member Rinesmith moved to approve the minutes; Member Lykins seconded.
Motion carried 7-0.

AGENDA ITEMS

4. Discussion of USS Arizona Project

Chair Presmyk reminded everyone that the group would be presenting to the Council on August 25, 2020. He said he planned to answer the Council's questions and hoped to get support from the Council.

Councilmember Spence provided an update on the project. He reported that there may be Town of Gilbert employees who were completing their master's degree and would need a capstone project. He said the 2nd meeting in August would be the presentation to the Council.

Nikki Stratton stated she was working on talking points and a mission statement for the project.

Jake McManus with the Navy League gave an overview of the Navy League, stating it was a military service organization and a way for civilians to give back to veterans. He stated it was a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supported America's sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. He added the Navy League could support the fundraising and business aspects of the project. He stated that there was not a dollar figure currently because it would be a legacy left and they did not want to limit the project. He said they intended to involve other statewide chapters and the national league, adding there could be projects beyond the main project.

Chair Presmyk assured the Board that the Town would have no financial obligation for the project. He said he would like to have more information about the expenses required for the project, adding goals and exact needs would be important to determine. He expressed concerns about other host cities that were not listed on information about the submarines that were built. He said he would like to see Gilbert be part of that legacy, adding the Board would continue to work on a presentation after talking points were provided.

The next meeting would be a regular meeting on July 21, 2020 in Room 300 and online. The purpose of the meeting would be to develop the strategic plan and vision for the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Presmyk adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Les Presmyk, Chair

ATTEST:

Bill Spence, Council Liaison