



MINUTES OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, JANUARY 12, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M., VIA CONFERENCE ROOM 132, MUNICIPAL BUILDING II, 90 E. CIVIC CENTER DR., GILBERT, ARIZONA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Les Presmyk, Chair; Dave Rosenfeld, Vice Chair; Michael Bailey; and Pamela Rinesmith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Bobadilla, Jim Lykins, and Brenda Sullivan

COUNCIL/STAFF PRESENT: Council Aide Monica D’Ortenzio (Staff Liaison)

GUESTS: Chair of Memorial Day Committee Josh Bring, Denise Lopez, Jeff Carmichael and Alma Riedel.

1. CALL TO ORDER OF SPECIAL MEETING

Chair Bring called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Staff liaison Monica D’Ortenzio called roll and declared a quorum present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Rosenfeld led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Items

4. Location

Committee Chair Bring informed the Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) and Memorial Day Planning Committee that the location of the Town of Gilbert Memorial Day event would be on the Park University Lawn, with the event to start at 8:30 a.m. with patriotic music and ceremony to begin at 9 a.m. He stated some Committee members had expressed that the fountain at the location may be too loud for guests to be able to hear the ceremony. Committee Chair Bring stated he would investigate possibly turning the fountain off for the event.

5. Fundraising

Committee Chair Bring informed the committee they would need fundraising to cover the cost of a stage, chairs, banners, a-frame signs, water, ice chests, and possibly bathrooms etc. VAB Vice Chair Rosenfeld recommended putting up a banner in the downtown Heritage District on Gilbert Rd. Guest Jeff Carmichael said he would submit the applications for the Water Tower lighting and the banner across Gilbert Road. Committee Chair Bring stated he would reach out to Denise Merdon from the Parks and Recreation Department to see if the Town could donate the usage of the indoor bathrooms. The Committee established a fundraising goal of \$2,000, which was collectively met between the leftover budget from last year’s event and some committee and VAB members. Guest Alma Riedel stated she would look into having the Memorial Gardens donate water.

6. Volunteers

Denise Lopez and Committee Chair Bring stated they would reach out to Just Serve for volunteers. Committee Chair Bring also mentioned former volunteers from last year’s event had reached out to help again this year.

7. Keynote Speaker

Denise Lopez stated she reached out to Barb Farmer, a former ex-marine, to get some ideas as to who the guest speaker should be for the event. VAB Vice Chair Rosenfeld asked the committee which “era” the speaker should be from. VAB Member Rinesmith requested having a female guest speaker.

8. Program

Committee Chair Bring informed the VAB of some feedback from last year’s event, stating it was requested to have a longer moment of silence. He mentioned that last year wasn’t long enough and some guests felt it was blown over. VAB Vice Chair Rosenfeld agreed to reach out to the Luke Airforce Base Honor Guard. Committee Chair Bring agreed to reach out to the National Guard Band to play “Taps”. VAB Member Bailey agreed to work on having the wreaths donated by the American Legion. The Committee agreed to decide who should carry out wreaths at the ceremony.

9. Logistics

VAB Vice Chair Rosenfeld requested flag stands to be available for each branch of service. VAB Member Bailey agreed to work with the American Legion on getting flag stands donated. The Committee discussed possibly having the event live streamed. VAB Vice Chair Rosenfeld mentioned having the Gold Star families be presented a coin sometime during the event; the stage would be placed on the south side close to Park University and would be 12ft by 18ft and be under natural shading. The Committee was still deciding if tents on the lawn would be necessary. VAB Member Rinesmith asked about bathroom access for the event. Committee Chair Bring said they would look into it and the event would be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Les Presmyk, Chair

ATTEST:

Monica D’Ortenzio, Staff Liaison