

**MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 AT 5:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING II, CONFERENCE ROOM 100, GILBERT, ARIZONA**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Les Presmyk, Vice Chair Dave Rosenfeld, Members Michael Bailey, Phil Bobadilla, Jim Lykins, Pamela Rinesmith, and Brenda Sullivan

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mayor Brigette Peterson, Mayor's Aide Kirsten Morgan, Staff Liaison Monica D'Ortenzio

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jim Schorie

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

1. Call to Order

Chair Presmyk called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio called roll and declared a quorum present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Bobadilla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

Member Lykins moved to approve the meetings of the January 25, 2022 meeting; Member Rinesmith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

**AGENDA ITEMS**

5. Wellness Subcommittee Demographic Update

Member Bobadilla provided a veteran demographic update to the Board. Vice Chair Rosenfeld suggested adding something on the Town's water bill to try and get veterans to come to the Gilbert website and connect with veterans that way,

adding even if residents had registered for an electronic water bill, a QR code could be potentially added. The Board discussed creating a veteran database where veterans could register as a veteran in the Town of Gilbert. Staff liaison D'Ortenzio was assigned to reach out to Leslie Giltner about getting that info on the water bill. Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio assigned to reach out to the Digital Team to see about a database that could store veterans' names. Jim Schorie recommended buying a database contact list and said he would let Chair Presmyk know more information when he found it.

## 6. Gilbert Veterans Foundation

Chair Presmyk said he spoke to the Town Attorney to find out the history of the Parks and Recreation Foundation, which originally started in 2001 as the Riparian Foundation. He said he was exploring the idea, as it should be easier to raise money for all the veteran events and programs. Instead of having the money go to the Town it would be going to the Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) Foundation, adding it would be tax-deductible and any money left over would stay in the Foundation instead of going to the General Fund. The Foundation Board would consist of "X" number of members separate from VAB. Chair Presmyk expressed the hardest part would be finding 7-11 people to populate the Board. Chair Presmyk explained the process of picking the 7-11 members to sit on the Board's foundation. Mayor's Aide Morgan was assigned to connect with Chair Presmyk on foundations that were already established on the do's and don'ts.

## 7. Roles and Responsibilities of the Veterans Advisory Board Subcommittees

Chair Presmyk explained the roles and responsibilities of the VAB Subcommittees (Wellness, Events & USS Arizona), adding each Chair of the Subcommittees needed to work with the other subcommittees but only if asked to. Chair Presmyk also reminded the Board to please get agenda items to Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio by Wednesday or Thursday the week prior to the Board meetings. Vice Chair Rosenfeld explained that he was happy to help with any Subcommittee that had events. Vice Chair Rosenfeld explained that he had an army of volunteers that could help make any event successful.

## 8. Speakers Bureau, community outreach

Member Rinesmith explained she did not have enough people to try and complete the assignment by May but would try to be ready for December. Member Rinesmith also explained that a coloring book specific to the USS Arizona was to be created. Vice Chair Rosenfeld suggested having Member Rinesmith's marine friend attend Gilberts' high schools to talk about the logistics of being a marine.

## COMMUNCIATIONS

### 9. Report from Staff

Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio reported that she would be sending out the Word document that Member Bobadilla presented to the Board. She also reminded the Board that she would be out of town the following week.

### 10. Subcommittee Reports

#### Veterans Wellness Subcommittee

Member Bobadilla reported that they now had fourteen people attending the Wellness subcommittee meetings and they had branched out into 3 different subcommittees to work on more project and get local resources, three different projects that would culminate around October of this year.

#### USS Arizona Subcommittee

Member Rinesmith reported that Luke days had been canceled for this year. She said she was looking for volunteers at the Gilbert Expo and Global Village event. She informed the Board that Victor Mia would be taking a step back once the foundation 501C3 was set up and would no longer be the Chief of Staff for Nikki Stratton.

#### Veteran Events Subcommittee

Vice Chair Rosenfeld reported that the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Cadet Competition was underway. Jim Schorie said he had taken the lead and ordered the gym bags instead of polos with the veteran’s logo, noting Member Bailey was unable to participate on the panel and Member Bailey would cover.

### 11. Report from Chair

Nothing to report.

### 12. Report from Board Members

Nothing to report.

### 13. Report from Council Liaison

Mayor Peterson showed the board a rendering of where USS Arizona could potentially be in the remodel of Municipal Center I. Vice Chair Rosenfeld asked if there could be space to add a plaque for the future winners of the JROTC Cadet competition and Mayor Peterson expressed that there should be space for it.

14. Future Agenda Items and Review Future Meeting Dates

Agenda Items:

Approval of letterhead for each subcommittee and a letterhead that the VAB could use.

**CONCLUSION**

15. ADJOURN

Chair Presmyk adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Les Presmyk, Chair

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Monica D’Ortenzio, Staff Liaison