

MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022 AT 5:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING II, CONFERENCE ROOM 100, GILBERT, ARIZONA

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Member Michael Bailey

STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Peterson, Councilmember Kathy Tilque, Mayor's Aide Kirsten Morgan, Staff Liaison Monica D'Ortenzio

GUESTS PRESENT: Joe Parker and Jim Schorie

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

Member Lykins moved to approve the meetings of the February 23, 2022 meeting; Member Bobadilla seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

AGENDA ITEMS

5. Community Outreach

Chair Presmyk reported that he would like Board members and volunteers to eventually attend schools and teach kids about Pearl Harbor Day and bring awareness to the USS Arizona and a basic outline of information would be provided

to those who attended. He said once the outline or curriculum was created it would then need to be approved by the schools. Member Rinesmith said she would put together some information for the curriculum on the USS Arizona. Once everything was approved, practice would run-throughs would be provided to those who were interested.

Vice Chair Rosenfeld reported that he was approached by a woman regarding her WWII Veteran father who would be turning 100 years old. She wanted to see if the Board would be interested in helping celebrate his birthday. Vice Chair Rosenfeld said he would get more details for the Board and requested Member Bobadilla add that information to the website.

Volunteer Jim Schorie passed around new Board patches, stating they had the same look but were a little bigger in size. He also passed around the duffle bag that was created for the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) competition. Mr. Schorie also reported that he found a database regarding Veterans in Gilbert. Vice Chair Rosenfeld asked Mr. Schorie to look more into the company that created the database to make sure of its legitimacy. Mr. Schorie and Member Bobadilla were assigned to connect and discuss demographics of the Town.

Mayor Peterson reported that she received an email from Mercy Gilbert Hospital that requested an updated Veteran letter from the Mayor. Mercy Gilbert Hospital would provide the letter along with a resource guide to all Veterans that were seen at Mercy Gilbert Hospital. She said she thought it would also be a great way for the Board to get information out about the Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) and what services they provided. Member Rinesmith mentioned that they could also add a one page of information about the USS Arizona.

6. Fairways for Warriors Golf Scramble

Volunteer Eric Ballester said he reached out and vetted the organization putting on the event. He reported to Vice Chair Rosenfeld that after several conversations the organization was good and would recommend supporting the event. The Board agreed to support the event and to help get the word out. Member Bobadilla offered to have that event added to the news section of the Town's website.

7. Veterans Advisory Board and Subcommittees – Letterheads and Shirts for Subcommittee Members

The Board agreed to have letterhead created for Board member use only. Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio was assigned to reach out to Gilbert Digital for assistance in creating the letterhead. The Board also agreed to ordering shirts or polos that had

the logo and say “Volunteer” on them. The Subcommittees would like the volunteers to look more official at events.

8. Veterans Advisory Board Foundation

Chair Presmyk reported that he would be reaching out to the Parks & Recreation Foundation Chairman for a visit or presentation at the next Board meeting. He said the Parks & Recreation Foundation went through an easier process to be created because it was originally the Riparian Foundation. Vice Chair Rosenfeld requested Chair Presmyk put together a list of current Board members of the Parks and Rec Foundation. Councilmember Tilque informed the Board the item would need to be approved by the Council prior to implementing. No set date on when the process for creating the foundation had been set yet, but Chair Presmyk said he was hoping by June. Volunteer Shorie asked if it would be appropriate to set up a Subcommittee to create a Foundation Board, that once the Board decided to move forward with creating the foundation, then a Subcommittee could be created.

COMMUNICATIONS

9. Report from Staff

Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio was tasked to send out information on the upcoming Flags for First Graders Event.

10. Subcommittee Reports

Veterans Wellness Subcommittee

Member Bobadilla said he had a meeting with CEO of the Gilbert Chamber, Sarah Watts, and Jan Simon regarding setting up a program where Veteran-owned businesses were introduced to Veterans. The Subcommittee would like to create a printable/downloadable PDF of all the resources available for Veterans.

Member Sullivan informed the Board that the next Wellness Event would be at Bergie’s Coffee Shop on April 14, 2022 for the first coffee meetup for Veterans. She said she was still working on the logistics and should have more information after the Wellness Subcommittee meeting on Thursday.

USS Arizona Subcommittee

Member Rinesmith reported that at the last USS Arizona Subcommittee Meeting they had guest speaker, Erich Schmidt, who presented on his experience of a ship being commissioned. Volunteer Will Black from Go Daddy would create the website for the Legacy Foundation. She said the Legacy Foundation had a new Board

member named Danielle Scrannick. Member Rinesmith informed the Board that Nikki Stratton would be in Gilbert on March 24th and 25th, 2022 with a dinner scheduled on the 24th. She requested if any board members were interested in attending to notify her. Member Rinesmith said she attended the Vietnam Pinning ceremony in Mesa. At the ceremony said she met the person in charge of the JROTC, he was a marine; she noted the Air Force General who was speaking and got his info contact. She said she also met with Congressman Andy Biggs and gave him a VAB coin, and he was thrilled. Member Rinesmith asked any Board members who were Vietnam Veterans to stand, and she presented them with a coin and a Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War.

Veteran Events Subcommittee

Vice Chair Rosenfeld informed the Board that he had a volunteer who would be taking the lead of the discount program and a volunteer for the Veteran's banner program. He said the Memorial Day planning was still in full force and would be reaching out to the Gold Star Families to try and get the attendance up. He informed the Board that even if a member of a Gold Star Family attended the Memorial Day Ceremony, they would still be presented a coin and treated like Gilbert family.

11. Report from Chair

Nothing to report at this time.

12. Report from Board Members

Nothing to report at this time.

13. Report from Council Liaison

Councilmember Tilque reported to the Board that the Citizen Engagement Task Force was up and running and they already had their first meeting. She said the Task Force was getting ready to have the difficult conversations regarding what is happening in the Town of Gilbert today.

Mayor Peterson reported to the Board that Nikki Stratton had been named a USA Navy Ambassador by the State of Colorado.

14. Future Agenda Items and Review Future Meeting Dates

Agenda Items:

- Community Outreach
- Community Outreach
- Member Bobadilla to provide an update to the board

Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2022 @5pm

CONCLUSION

15. ADJOURN

Chair Presmyk adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

Les Presmyk, Chair

Monica D'Ortenzio, Staff Liaison