

**MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD WELLNESS
SUBCOMMITTEE, IN SPECIAL MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 AT
5:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING II, CONFERENCE ROOM 100, GILBERT,
ARIZONA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Phil Bobadilla
Vice Chair Brenda Sullivan
Member Pamela Rinesmith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Liaison, Kathy Tilque

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Liaison Monica D'Ortenzio

GUESTS PRESENT: Les Presmyk, Veterans Advisory Board Chair;
Dave Rosenfeld, Veterans Advisory Board Vice Chair;
Felix Cwynar IV and Eric Ballester

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Dave Rosenfeld led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

Member Rinesmith moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022, meeting; Chair Bobadilla seconded the motion. *Motion carried 3-0.*

AGENDA ITEMS

5. Discussion on Potential Wellness Gatherings

Vice Chair Sullivan passed around a rough draft flyer for the subcommittee's first event at Bergie's. She said she was working on the logistics for the event. The subcommittee agreed to hold this event on April 14, 2022 at 8am. Vice Chair Sullivan said she already had sponsors lined up for this event.

The subcommittee started brainstorming on their second and third event, a ride and picnic with the American Legion and a hike. Chair Bobadilla informed everyone that it was just an idea for now and no logistics had been worked out.

Guest Eric Ballester mentioned the idea of a car show for a local veteran who took his own life recently. Guest Ballester stated he would get approval from the family first to ensure this was an event they would like to see in their son's honor. Guest Ballester said he was not sure if this would be an event that raised money, brought awareness, or both.

6. 2022 Work Plan Assignment Updates

Chair Bobadilla passed around the current work plan assignment form. Vice Chair Sullivan requested to have people sign up for work assignments and said if anyone had any questions to please reach out to Vice Chair Sullivan directly. Guest Felix Cwynar IV asked if there was a budget available for community outreach events. Vice Chair Sullivan informed Guest Cwynar IV that currently they would be looking into sponsorships for events and would not use the Veterans Advisory Board budget.

7. Discussion and Recommendations on Media Resources/Strategy/ for Gatherings of Projects

Staff Liaison Monica D'Ortenzio informed the subcommittee that she was working with numerous Town departments to help get the word out of the website. Chair Bobadilla said he would work with Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio on creating a Gilbert Veteran Registration form, with the plan to have Gilbert Digital post this form and the website information to several social media platforms and potentially on the Gilbert water bills that go out to residents.

8. Discussion on utilization of the Mesa Veterans Resource Center for VSO Referrals and VA Benefits

Guest Felix Cwynar IV informed the subcommittee that he was now the director of Mesa Veteran Resource Center and has an employee who helps with VA benefits. He said the resource was also available to anyone in the Town of Gilbert, not just Mesa residents. He mentioned the possibility of having his employee on site one or two days a week at the Gilbert Municipal buildings for Gilbert Veterans.

COMMUNICATIONS

9. Reports from VAB Board Members

Member Rinesmith said she met with Alma Riedel who was wanting to help with sponsor events at Gilbert Memorial Park. She said Ms. Riedel would like to collaborate on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Chair Bobadilla informed the subcommittee that it had been approved at the recent Veterans Advisory Board meeting that the board would be creating letterhead that the subcommittees could use. He said volunteers could assist with writing letters, but it must be approved by the subcommittee chair to send the letter out on the official letterhead.

10. Report from Vice Chair on Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Sullivan requested to email her for any future agenda items.

11. Report from Chair and or Vice Chair

Nothing to report.

12. Report from Council Liaison

Council Liaison not present.

13. Future Agenda Items and Review Future Meeting Dates

Subcommittee Vice Chair Sullivan requested discussion of a potential future wellness event at the next meeting.

CONCLUSION

14. ADJOURN

Chair Bobadilla adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Phil Bobadilla, Chair

Monica D'Ortenzio, Staff Liaison