

MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 17TH, 2023, AT 5:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING I, COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, GILBERT, ARIZONA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Rosenfeld; Vice Chair Jim Lykins; Treasurer Les Presmyk; Members Michael Bailey Charles Dine, Lori Gauna-Barcklay, and Pamela Rinesmith

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Liaison Monica D’Ortenzio

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Peterson and Vice Mayor Tilque

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Chair Rosenfeld called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Rinesmith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Welcome and Introductions

None.

5. Communications from Citizens

None.

6. Approval of Minutes

Treasurer Presmyk moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023; Vice Chair Lykins seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

AGENDA ITEMS

7. Banner Program Update

Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio reported out that she had finally received all the banners from military tribute banner company. The banners had been dropped off to Public Works and would be hung tomorrow, Thursday, May 18, 2023, at around 5 a.m. She stated the banners would remain hung in the Heritage District until just after July 4, 2023. She added she planned to send a follow-up email to all who had purchased a banner after she received word from Public Works that they had all been hung.

8. Memorial Day 2023 Update

Vice Chair Lykins went over the logistics for Memorial Day stating everything was coming together along with the guest speakers and fundraising. Vice Chair Lykins said he was looking for a Gold Star Family list. He reported that the Gold Star Family Foundation would not release the contact information of the families but they would share the flyer with the event details.

9. Meet a Veteran Update

Nothing to report.

10. Bright Ideas!

- Uniformed Services of America – Recognition Ceremony – follow up

No Board members were able to attend the event. Chair Rosenfeld said he would like to start talking about next year’s event and perhaps host it here in Gilbert. He suggested maybe having a joint event with the City of Chandler. The board agreed that the responsibilities and planning logistics would fall under the Events Pillar.

11. East Valley Veteran Group Update

Chair Rosenfeld reported out that there was a wonderful presentation for Cadet Cramer at the May 2, 2023 Town Council meeting. He reported that Cadet Cramer was off to Texas A&M for the Junior Reserves Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) program and nursing program. Chair Rosenfeld reported out that this was probably the last year for this competition due to lack of participation.

12. USS Arizona Flyer Review/Discussion

Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio shared the draft USS Arizona flyer to the Board. The Board discussed potential updates along with adding the Quick Response (QR) code. Member Rinesmith to create a draft kid-friendly side to the flyer with fun facts about the USS Arizona SSN 803.

13. Board Member's Recognition

Chair Rosenfeld presented service awards to Vice Chair Lykins and Member Bailey. He thanked them for all their support and years of service on the Board.

COMMUNCIATIONS

14. Report from Staff

Nothing to report.

15. Pillar Reports

Veterans Wellness Pillar

Treasurer Presmyk reported out that he and Member Dine had a meeting with Gilbert Digital the following day to discuss changes to the website. Member Gauna-Barcklay reported out that the pillar was working on the next Military Muster which will be on June 24, 2023 at Desert Monks Brewery.

USS Arizona Pillar

Member Rinesmith reported out that the pillar was working on updating the USS Arizona informational flyer. She said the Drop Zone event on Saturday went really well and they were able to collect quite a few names for volunteers and The Legacy Foundation was currently working on increasing the amount of members on the Board. She said she was still working on potential swag items for the pillar and Board to hand out at events.

Veteran Events Pillar

Vice Chair Lykins reported out that Peyton Parker was already ready to talk about Veterans Day and the logistics for the event, adding currently the pillar was deciding on a date for the event.

16. Report from Board Members

Nothing to report.

17. Report from Treasurer

None.

18. Report from Council Liaisons

Vice Mayor Tilque reported out that the Council approved a grant program, Heal the Hero Foundation, that had no cost to the Town, adding the Foundation focused on mental health and currently Police and Fire were going through the pilot program. She said if this program was successful, Vice Mayor would like to see it offered to the Veterans Advisory Board and all Veteran employees at the Town.

Mayor Peterson informed the Board that there were 27 applicants for the Veterans Advisory Board and the Council would rank the applicants and hold interviews on June 20, 2023. She said the Electric Boat Company sent over a model of the USS Arizona SSN 803; Mayor Peterson opened and revealed the model to the Board and said this model would be displayed in the lobby downstairs.

19. Report from Chair

Chair Rosenfeld reported out that Member Rinesmith and her husband Tim attended the Congressman Biggs Stand Down event last Saturday and this was the largest Stand Down event so far. Chair Rosenfeld attended the event that Kathy from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) spoke about at the last meeting. Chair Rosenfeld thanked everyone on the Board for their hard work and dedication. He asked the current Board members to think about the positions they would like to hold, adding this would be discussed at next month's meeting.

20. Future Agenda Items

- Rinesmith board letter
- Veterans Day
- Memorial Day – after action review
- Wellness communication plan
- USS Arizona Flyer
- New member oaths of office
- Board assignments

CONCLUSION

21. ADJOURN

Chair Rosenfeld adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Rosenfeld, Chair

Monica D’Ortenzio, Staff Liaison