

MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024, AT 5:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING I, COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, GILBERT, ARIZONA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Rosenfeld, Vice Chair Charles Dine, Treasurer Les Presmyk, Members Lori Gauna-Barcklay Erin Hannigan, Peyton Parker and Pamela Rinesmith

COUNCIL ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Liaison Monica D’Ortenzio

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Peterson, Councilmember Kathy Tilque, and Jim Lykins

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 Hannigan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Welcome and Introductions

None.

5. Communications from Citizens

None.

6. Approval of Minutes

Member Presmyk moved to approve the meeting minutes of the November 15,2023 meeting; Vice Chair Dine seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

AGENDA ITEMS

7. USS AZ Legacy Foundation Update and Navy Week

Member Rinesmith reported out that Tanay from the USS Arizona Foundation was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Member Rinesmith informed the board of the tentative agenda for Navy Week in March, adding they were still working out the logistics and waiting on a final headcount of Navy personnel. Chair Rosenfeld informed the board that the City of Phoenix was in partnership with the Navy and they were expecting about ten ships with six to ten members on each ship to total about one hundred Navy personnel. It was noted there would be a big foundation kick off party that would be a public event and all the board members were invited, but seating would be limited. Member Rinesmith said she was hoping to have several board members meet the sailors at the airport, and Chair Rosenfeld requested the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) be involved. Treasurer Presmyk mentioned that Joe's Real BBQ would host the sailors and currently had 30 seats reserved, but would need a final headcount as it got closer to the visit; he said he was also working with Woody Hodges on meet and greets with the schools and there were currently seven schools confirmed.

8. Veteran Discount Program

Member Dine passed around quotes for window clings with the approved board design. The board discussed how the program would be ran and who would be administering. Members also discussed whether to have the Gilbert Chamber involved and what that could potentially look like. Councilmember Tilque explained to the board how the Gilbert Chamber ran their discount program and what would be asked of the board if they decided to go that route; they discussed other options on how the program could be administered, such as having a third party or the board taking on the responsibility. The board ultimately decided to table the program while a business plan was created.

9. Banner Program Update

Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio reported out the program was up and running. She showed the board how the advertising looked on the Veteran's webpage and where to place a banner order, noting unlike last year, online payment was available this year through the Gilbert Town Store. She also passed around flyers with information on the banner program for members of the board to share.

10. Meet a Veteran Update

Member Hannigan reported out that the first Meet a Veteran video was posted this morning at 9 a.m. and a new video would be uploaded monthly and the next one was to be uploaded on February 21, 2024 at 9 a.m. Member Hannigan informed the

board that she was still looking for other veterans to interview and planned to set up a time to interview each veteran board member. Chair Rosenfeld mentioned a veteran in his neighborhood that may be interested. He also requested Member Hannigan send the video link to Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio to share with Gilbert Digital.

11. Deletion of Treasurer Position

Chair Rosenfeld and Treasurer Presmyk discussed if it was beneficial to keep the position of the treasurer as part of the Veterans Advisory Board, adding Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio and Town staff managed the board’s financials overall. Treasurer Presmyk provided background to board members on what the position of the treasurer did; he also explained that as the board became more professional with more events being planned and current events expanding, it may be valuable to keep the position. Treasurer Presmyk added although the Town would ultimately manage the board’s financials, it would be beneficial to have a treasurer position to keep track of financials for events. The board agreed to keep the position. Chair Rosenfeld requested Treasurer Presmyk to outline the responsibilities of the treasurer position for the board.

12. Evolution of Pillars

- Events
- Wellness
- USS Arizona
- Volunteer Service Coordinator
- Communications

Chair Rosenfeld and the board discussed whether or not it would be beneficial to add two new pillars for Communications and Volunteer Service Coordinator. Chair Rosenfeld mentioned that although communications technically fell under the Wellness Pillar, it may be valuable to have as its own pillar, adding communication was an integral part of the board being able to connect with the residents and Veterans with resources and upcoming events. Member Rinesmith suggested adding additional board members if the two pillars were created. Chair Rosenfeld explained that was not the direction he thought the board should be going at the time. The board agreed to keep the pillars at the current structure but to make sure that communications was a priority.

13. National Volunteer Service Awards

Chair Rosenfeld provided a background on National Volunteer Service Awards. He expressed that each member of the board puts in a lot of time and hard work that he would like to see them getting recognized for their accomplishments.

14. Military Muster Update

Nothing to report at this time.

15. Bright Ideas!

Nothing to report at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

16. Report from Staff

Nothing to report.

17. Pillar Reports

Veterans Wellness Pillar

Member Gauna-Barcklay reported out that she was working with Vice Chair Dine and Member Hannigan on when the next Military Muster would take place.

USS Arizona Pillar

Member Rinesmith reported out that she would like to invite the Council to the meet and greet at Joe's BBQ for when the sailors were in town. She would coordinate with Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio who worked directly with the Mayor and Councilmembers. She also passed around a list of upcoming events for the board members.

Veteran Events Pillar

Treasurer Presmyk reported out that the Events Pillar was looking to move the location, day, and time for this year's Veterans Day Celebration. He also mentioned that they would like to look into the possibility of live-streaming the event for the Veterans and family members who were unable to make it in person. The pillar was thinking of having multiple keynote speakers at Veterans Day and potentially rethinking the outline for the Gold Star Family presentations. The pillar was working on getting thank you letters sent out from Veterans Day 2023. He would be providing a budget outline for Veterans Day and Memorial Day events.

Vice Chair Dine provided an update on the Weekender and apologized to members for it taking so long to get completed; he expressed that the board could make the Weekender look however they wanted and encouraged members to come to each board meeting with what they would like the Town to know. He added The Weekender did not just put out information to about the board, but about things to do around the valley.

18. Report from Board Members

Nothing to report at this time.

19. Report from Council Liaisons

Mayor Peterson reported out about her time spent in Washington, D.C. for Pearl Harbor Day and the events she attended. Mayor Peterson and Chair Rosenfeld got to participate in the cocktail hour with members of the USS Arizona crew. She also encouraged the board members to take photos while they were out at school presentations.

Councilmember Tilque stated she was working with the Town Clerk, Town Attorney, Attorney General’s Office and the legislature on a solution to streamline agendas to move through quicker. She said she was also looking into boards ability to meet outside of board meetings.

20. Report from Chair

Chair Rosenfeld thanked the board for sticking out the long meeting. He thanked Councilmember Tilque for her service and said he appreciated everyone for putting up with his thoughts and ideas, then mentioned that everyone must be in agreement with items to move forward for the board.

21. Future Agenda Items

Nothing to report at this time.

CONCLUSION

22. ADJOURN

Chair Rosenfeld adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Rosenfeld, Chair

Monica D’Ortenzio, Staff Liaison