

MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024, AT 4:30 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Judy Martinez, Town Clerk Specialists Ashley Doering and June Wilson

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Brigette Peterson; Ann Fisher, Maura Mackowski, and Cathy Panella from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); Frank Dugie (Army Veteran and Chair of Gilbert Northrup Grumman site Veterans Employee Resource Group; Veritas) and his wife, Christina, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Chair Rosenfeld called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Deputy Clerk Martinez called roll and declared a quorum present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Rosenfeld led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Welcome and Introductions

Ann Fisher, Maura Mackowski, and Cathy Panella from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) introduced themselves, as did Frank and Christina Dugie who were interested in assisting the Board.

5. Communications from Citizens

None.

6. Approval of Minutes

Treasurer Presmyk moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024, meeting with the following correction to Item 16 regarding submarine stress boats – the text color should be “...from black to white”, instead of white to black. Member Rinesmith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

COMMUNICATIONS

7. Report from Staff

Chair Rosenfeld reported that Staff Liaison D’Ortenizo experienced an injury and would be working remotely for some time.

8. Pillar Reports

Veterans Wellness Pillar

Vice Chair Dine stated he would like to plan a new Military Muster soon.

USS Arizona Pillar

Member Rinesmith reported that the Legacy Foundation had a new Chair/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nicole LaSlavic. She said they believed the christening of the submarine would not be until late 2027. Chair Rosenfeld noted that LaSlavic had 12 years of experience with the Arizona Association of Realtors and lobbying.

Veteran Events Pillar

The group stated there was nothing to report outside of Memorial Day.

9. Report from Board Members

Member Gauna-Barcklay reported instead of a community service event, she was working on a happy hour event at Route 66 on June 6, 2024. Chair Rosenfeld noted there was a charitable fundraiser that day and he would not be able to attend; he asked if the happy hour could be scheduled to the week after, then said he would still like to see a community service event scheduled before it got too hot.

10. Report from Council Liaisons

Mayor Peterson distributed sticker samples she said her son-in-law had created and printed. She said he created two types, one shiny version and one not, as well as smaller, 3 inch stickers. She reported she and Gilbert Police Lieutenant Chris Timmins attended an event with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns that included a program through the Arizona Department of Transportation to alert officers of information regarding autism, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other factors that would allow responders to approach vehicles differently, without being tied to a license plate registration. She said they were hoping it would be approved without going through legislation, but if not, they were considering efforts to bring it through the legislation process. Lastly, she noted the Council would be issuing a proclamation for Gilbert Poppy Day at the Council meeting of May 21, 2024.

AGENDA ITEMS

11. Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Cathy, Panella, Treasurer Ann Fisher, and Regent Maura Mackowski of the Governor George W.P. Hunt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented the Board with two donation checks and thank you cards to help further the efforts of the Veterans Advisory Board. They said they hoped to continue their relationship of collaborating on efforts.

12. Veteran Board Bylaws Review & Amendment

Chair Rosenfeld reviewed the following proposed amendments to the Veteran Advisory Board bylaws:

- Article II, C - Qualifications - add the words “currently serving” to read, “No less than five of the seven members shall be **currently serving** or honorably discharged members of the United States Armed Forces.”
- Article II, F - Officers - No. 4 - strike Treasurer position section entirely
- Article IV, E - Procedures not contained in the bylaws - remove *Robert’s Rules of Order* to read “...the most current edition of the Town of Gilbert Rules of Procedures for Public Meetings...shall prevail.”
- Article IV, I - Reimbursement - strike Treasurer to read, “...out-of-pocket expenses unless approved by the Chairperson in coordination with respective Town staff and must be in accordance with...”
- Article IV, J - Budget - strike Treasurer to read, “The Chairperson, in coordination with the Vice Chairperson, shall present a budget...”

Chair Rosenfeld suggested adding an Intergovernmental Liaison position, which he said would be a member of the Board to reach out to other agencies. Mayor Peterson said she would like to think about it.

Chair Rosenfeld asked for the revisions to be drafted and sent to him for possible approval at the June meeting.

13. Memorial Day 2024

Treasurer Presmyk reported that the event would take place on Monday, May 27, 2024 beginning at 8:30 a.m. He said all of the fundraising and purchasing was completed. He discussed an issue with A2Z Rentals with them not having staff to put up tents, but said all tasks were completed including speakers and speaker gifts. Chair Rosenfeld asked about rewriting the script and if speaker devices would be added in the back to improve sound. Mayor Peterson noted five members of the Council would be present, some with guests. Vice Chair Dine discussed thank you notes for donors. Treasurer Presmyk stated he would work with Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio to get thank you notes out.

14. Veterans Day 2024

Member Parker informed the Board that he and Treasurer Presmyk would finalize the event date, location, and other details soon.

15. Discount Program

Vice Chair Dine stated he had the program worked out but would be putting together a written document soon. Chair Rosenfeld asked about samples of window clings; he said he did not want to get it all approved and then have to wait to get the supplies. Mayor Peterson said a company called “Vulgr” could potentially make the clings.

16. Promotional Items:

- Sticker design

- State48 t-shirt design

Member Hannigan discussed various shirt and slogan designs. The group agreed on the saying “Proud Veteran” on half of the shirts; the same design would be used on the other shirts without that saying. The chosen design was to have the Arizona flag on the upper right of the shirt. The group discussed the costs of the shirts at approximately \$18 per shirt with no design fee, then discussed purchasing 100 shirts to be sold through the Town of Gilbert online store.

Treasurer Presmyk made a motion to approve the purchase of 100 State48 t-shirts, not to exceed \$2,500 from the Town’s appropriation; Member Gauna-Barcklay seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

- Submarine stress boats

Deputy Clerk Martinez provided an update from Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio, stating approximately 300 stress boats were found. Treasurer Presmyk stated he would discuss how many should be ordered next with D’Ortenzio. Member Rinesmith said she would ask if the Legacy Foundation would consider purchasing.

17. Pillar Mission Statement

- Events
- Wellness/Communication
- USS Arizona

Treasurer Presmyk made a motion to continue the item to the next regular meeting in June; Member Rhinesmith seconded the motion. *Motion carried 7-0.*

18. Addition to Intergovernmental Liaison

This item was postponed; no action was taken.

19. Meet a Veteran Update

Member Hannigan stated she would like assistance with editing the videos. The group discussed ways of scheduling future interviews.

20. Banner Program Update

Deputy Clerk Martinez provided an update from Staff Liaison D’Ortenzio stating 54 banners were sold and the last 6 were still being printed and shipped. Chair Rosenfeld requested the other banners be hung before Memorial Day.

21. Military Muster Update

Member Gauna-Barcklay noted she would try to move the event at Route 66 from June 6, 2024 to June 13, 2024.

22. Bright Ideas!

Vice Chair Dine suggested a change to the Veterans Resources page of the Town’s website with the “Memorial Day Initiative Survey” button to instead read “In Memoriam” and to add widgets for the public to add the names of fallen soldiers who died in combat. It was noted he would have to work with Town Staff to accomplish that change to the website. Chair Rosenfeld suggested the names be taken from the HD South Memorial and added to the “In Memoriam” so that they were not starting with a blank slate.

23. Report from Chair

Chair Rosenfeld said June 6th was the anniversary of D-Day and noted Red Robin Restaurants would be doing a fundraiser to benefit the Veterans Medical Leadership Council (VMLC). He spoke of a mental health symposium with the VMLC, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and Senator Krysten Sinema. He provided statistics of veterans who committed suicide and said those most at risk were 17-25 year olds and those 70 and older. He discussed a law with the COMPACT Act that allowed any veteran in the country to go into any emergency room and be treated with the bill completely covered, if they said they were in crisis; he added if the situation was deemed a crisis, they would have up to 90 days of inpatient care. Chair Rosenfeld also noted a lawsuit that prohibited veterans to pay a buyer’s agent to represent them, which he said would put them in a disadvantage; he noted veterans who had concerns could reach out to the realtors on the Board.

24. Future Agenda Items

Chair Rosenfeld and Treasurer Presmyk discussed the upcoming item in June to elect new officers from the Board members. Treasurer Presmyk noted that Chair Rosenfeld was at his term limit as Chair after serving two years. Chair Rosenfeld noted the Board would no longer have a Treasurer; he said it would also be the time to add new pillar assignments.

CONCLUSION

25. ADJOURN

Chair Rosenfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Rosenfeld, Chair

Judy Martinez, Deputy Town Clerk