

MINUTES OF THE GILBERT VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, IN REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2024, AT 4:30 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING I, COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, GILBERT, ARIZONA

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor Peterson, Councilmember Tilque, Vice Chair Erin Hannigan and Member Les Presmyk

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Liaison Monica D’Ortenzio

GUESTS PRESENT:

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Chair Dine called the meeting to order at 4:32p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Welcome and Introductions

None.

5. Communications from Citizens

None.

6. Approval of Minutes

Member Rinesmith moved to approve the meeting minutes of the October 16th, 2024, meeting; Member Parker seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0*
Member Rosenfeld abstained

COMMUNICATIONS

7. Report from Staff

Staff liaison D’Ortenzio congratulated Member Parker and the board on a successful Veterans Day ceremony event. She also played a brief clip from the Town

Council meeting on November 19th of a resident expressing how grateful she was for the Town putting on well thought out patriotic events during Communications from Citizens.

8. Pillar Reports

Communications Wellness Pillar

Chair Dine reported that his Meet a Veteran video premieres this month and Member Rosenfeld's video will be up next month. He reminded the board to schedule their interviews with Vice Chair Hannigan and to provide her with any other names to be interviewed. Member Gauna-Barcklay reported that the next Military Muster is scheduled for December 12th at 830am at Garage East. A military discount will be offered.

USS Arizona Pillar

Member Rinesmith reported that 10 USS Arizona sailors attended the Veterans Day Ceremony. She gave them all a challenge coin. She mentioned that the public really enjoyed having the sailors at the event. She accompanied them to Joe's BBQ for lunch and then took the group to Gilbert Elementary School for a meet and greet.

Veteran Events Pillar

None.

9. Report from Board Members

Member Rinesmith – she attended the Veterans Breakfast at the Community Center and shared some Veterans Day coins with the Veterans at her table. She also handed out some of the homemade cards. She attended the Marine Corp Ball and met Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes who invited her to the Semiquincentennial and attend one of their meetings. She also attended the Gilbert Symphony Orchestra and had a table promoting VAB. She signed VAB up for the Volunteer Fair in February. Lastly, Member Rinesmith attended the Veterans Medical Leadership Council Heroes Luncheon and met one of the only two Code Talkers left from the Navajo Nation.

Member Rosenfeld reported that he also attended the Veterans Medical Leadership Council Heroes Luncheon who had Sammy Davis, a medal of honor recipient in attendance. He took Sammy Davis to Higley High School where JROTC Cadets from surrounding schools attended a meet and greet with the medal of honor recipient. He also gave kudos to Member Parker and his team for a successful Veterans Day Ceremony.

10. Report from Council Liaisons

No Council Liaisons were present due to a conflict with the Fall Retreat.

11. Report from Chair

Chair Dine reported that he couldn't have been happier with how the Veterans Day Ceremony went and how much it meant to the community. He requested the board members to always be actively recruiting volunteers to attend board and pillar meetings. The board can do so much for the community with just a little extra help.

AGENDA ITEMS

12. Mayor's Farewell Gift

Board members discussed an outgoing gift for the board liaisons. Talks about a plaque and metal photo frame with previous event flyers were mentioned. Chair Dine, Member Rosenfeld and Member Parker to get together and solidify potential options.

13. 2025 Board Meeting Dates

The board agreed to keep the current flow of meeting on the third Wednesday of the month for 2025 with no meetings in July and December.

Chair Dine motioned to keep the board meetings the third Wednesday of the month at 1630 with no meeting in July and December. Member Gauna-Barcklay seconded the motion. *Motion caried 5-0*

14. Year in Sight

Chair Dine explained what the "Year in Sight" is to the board. Essentially, it is a document with the months listed out. At the end of each year the board can go over what major events/meetings happened during that time to keep a record. The board ultimately agreed that they would like to keep a "Year in Sight" document.

15. Updates

- Meet a Veteran

Chair Dine reminded the board to schedule their interviews and submit names to Member Hannigan.

- Banner Program

Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio informed the board that the 2025 banner program launched on November 8th and they have already received two orders. Member Rosenfeld suggested creating a QR Code for the Military Banner Website and place this with Dale Glendenning's banner at HD South. He said that he had donated the banner but wasn't sure if it was up yet.

- Discount Program
 - Veteran Discounts for Town Services
 - None.

Discount program static clings arrived, and Member Rosenfeld talked about the program. He informed the board that businesses wishing to participate in the program will need to pay the \$25/year admin fee along with the name of the company, address, phone number, point of contact and position. Chair Dine recommended creating a Google Doc for the information that is being requested from the businesses. Participating businesses will be listed on the website and The Weekender. Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio also mentioned advertising the participating businesses at the Veterans Day event.

16. USS Arizona Update & Presentations

No updated from the USS Arizona Foundation.

Member Rinesmith said she is waiting for Member Presmyk to provide her a schedule from Gilbert Schools for the classroom presentations. Member Rinesmith to send names and emails of the ones participating in the presentation training to Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio. Presentations are scheduled for the first two weeks of December.

17. Community Events

- Military Muster Update

The next Military Muster is scheduled for December 12th at 830am at Garage East.

- Riparian After Dark

Chair Dine reported out on behalf of Vice Chair Hannigan that she will be able to donate an inflatable helicopter for the Riparian After Dark event and a Veterans Advisory Board sign will be displayed. The board requested Staff Liaison D'Ortenzio to look into how they can participate.

- Meet & Greet w/ VAB
 - None.
- Veterans Day Ceremony 11.8.24
 - After Action Review

Member Parker talked about how the Veterans Day Ceremony went. He said this year was the first year that they used Spotify to help advertise the event which got a lot of impressions. They used the high school band as part of the actual program. The coffee truck at the event said they had a great turnout. He will be working on thank you cards for the sponsors, vendors and volunteers. Other feedback about the event was: keep the start of the ceremony to be right at the end of the car show, make sure the announcement makes it in the Parks and Rec newsletter, create a hashtag for advertising, brainstorm with Events Pillar to see how to start collecting sponsorships early, announce which branch is being played during service songs, discuss if Veterans Day coins are necessary or switch to a general VAB coin.

Member Rinesmith passed out the extra coins and note cards left over from the event.

- Gilbert Days Parade 11.23.24
 - Flyers
 - None.

18. Communications:

- History of the board & Five -year plan

Chair Dine reported out on behalf of Vice Chair Hannigan and reminded everyone to work on their five-year plan. They will be discussed in January and do not need to be completely filled out.

- Increase public participation – pillars

Chair Dine requested the board members to brainstorm ideas on how to increase public participation at the pillar and board meetings. He requested everyone come with ideas to the January board meeting.

- The Weekender

Chair Dine plans to create a thank you video to those who attended the Veterans Day Ceremony and have it on The Weekender. He plans to upload all participant email addresses to The Weekender. He also requested board members to reach out to him for anything to include on The Weekender.

- Public Request for Information

Chair Dine said someone had filled out the interest form on the website and they are interested in the Wellness Pillar. He reached out to this person and invited them to an upcoming meeting. He also requested to the email distribution address be changed.

19. Fundraising/Promotional Items/Ideas:

- State48 t-shirts

Board members discussed placing another State48 t-shirt order.

Member Rosenfeld made the motion that contingent upon available funds, Vice Chair Hannigan be authorized to make a purchase of the red, white and blue State48 shirts in the same quantity number as the original purchase, cost not to exceed \$3,000. Member Rinesmith seconded the motion; *motion carried 5-0*

20. Future Agenda Items/ideas

Sponsorships for Memorial Day and Veterans Day
Presentation items – VAB coins

CONCLUSION

21. ADJOURN

Chair Dine adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm.

ATTEST:

Charles Dine, Chair

Monica D'Ortenzio, Staff Liaison