



Honoring an Exceptional Leader Task Force  
16000 North Civic Center Plaza  
Community Conference Room  
Surprise AZ 85374

September 11, 2018

**MEETING MINUTES – Approved w/footnote**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mike Gent, Honoring an Exceptional Leader Task Force Chair; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call**

Margaret Lieu, Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission Chair; Wayne Turner, Community & Recreation Advisory Commission Chair; Michael Frazier, Assistant City Manager; Robert Wingo, City Attorney; and \*Matthew Keating, Planning & Zoning Commission Chair (\*arrived at 6:13 pm)

**Staff in attendance**

Diane Arthur, Marketing & Communications Director; Gloria Bianco, Task Force Secretary and Seth Dyson, Human Service and Community Vitality Director.

**Staff Report**

Chair Gent recognized the significance of the meeting date, which fell on September 11, Patriot's Day, which is dedicated as a national day of service and how special it was that the task force was assembled that night to continue exploring ways in which to honor Brian Mancini who gave so much of himself.

He also acknowledged the leadership, coordination, and support of two staff members: Marketing and Communications Director Diane Arthur and Sr. Management Analyst Gloria Bianco.

**Item 1 – Approval of January 9, 2018, Honoring an Exceptional Leader Task Force meeting minutes.**

Chair Gent explained that due to recent commission chair changes that occurred since the last task force meeting, that we are welcoming two new task force members. Margaret Lieu from the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission and Matthew Keating,

Planning & Zoning Commission. Because they are new to the task force they will abstain approval of the minutes from the June 28 meeting. Wayne Turner and Robert Wingo were absent at the last meeting and they also abstained. Matt Keating was absent at the time of the motion. Motion to approve June 28, 2018, Honoring an Exceptional Leader Task Force minutes was made by Michael Frazier. Seconded by Mike Gent. Two yes votes. Motion carried.

*Footnote to the June 28, 2018 meeting minutes*, the minutes indicated that the next meeting would occur Thursday, July 26, 2018.

“Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting was later officially scheduled and posted to the city website for Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 6:00 pm in the Community Room.”

## **Item 2 – Discussion Pertaining to Potential Ways and Ideas to Honor Brian Mancini.**

Chair Gent opened with describing the location of the Veterans Reflection Circle, between the Surprise Regional Library and Surprise Lake. He noted the berm around the circle which provides a more peaceful and serene location.

Presented options to honor Brian.,

- Establish a *Veterans Reflection Circle*, in honor of Brian Mancini, next to the library. This was an area that Brian occasionally visited to relax. A two-part plaque would be installed, with one side of the plaque telling Brian’s story, and the other side featuring a poem written by Brian called “*Pity*.” The area would also include a water feature to provide a calming water sound.
- Name the Surprise Resource Center’s conference room after Brian and showcase posters telling his story and self-authored “*Pity*” poem in the room. The center houses various veteran employment programs including the Surprise Veteran Job Club and weekly veteran employment assistance from the Veterans Administration and the state's Disabled Veteran Outreach Program.

Mr. Turner asked if additional name plates could be added later for other Surprise veterans.

Ms. Lieu did like the Pity poem idea and a horizontal negative edge pool vs. the vertical fountain.

Mr. Frazier discussed the scholarship idea mentioned at the last meeting. He indicated that the city’s policy only directs city staff to recommend the naming of city assets or establishing an event as a way to honor recipients.

## Public Comments:

Andy Cepon, liked that water symbolizes life, and the copper fountain shown in the presentation ties to Arizona's copper industry. He also thought the new library, soon to be under construction, in the city's northern area could be a more suitable site.

Barry Curseaden, liked the idea of the Veterans Reflection Circle, copper fountain and keeping the "Pity" poem, stating how important it is to remind the community of the sacrifices veterans make for us.

Greg Hickson, liked the Veterans Reflection Circle concept and the it is in honor of Brian Mancini, not simply named after him to make it more about Brian's service to all veterans. He also expressed support for the copper fountain and the look of nature and serene appearance.

Robert Wingo indicated that while Mr. Cepon's suggestion had merit, the location has a tie-in for Mr. Mancini as a spot he came to relax. He also noted how it fit in well next to the other memorials nearby to create a triangle of special memorials in our city..

Michael Frazier mentioned we would be considerate of the language of the plaque, so everyone understands that the Veterans Reflection Circle is for everyone. He also asked if the photo of Brian on the plaque should be changed from his official military photo to a civilian photo, most veterans that worked with him post military remember Brian by his civilian photo or should both photos be included.

Matthew Keating suggested named pavers in the area that would allow other veterans to have their names featured in the circle. He also suggested a plaque with phone numbers to help others connect to assistance or suicide prevention. Mr. Cepon also liked the idea of the pavers.

Seth Dyson advised in Arizona there is a 211 number that is a catch-all helpline for veterans. He also mentioned that because so many organizations change their phone numbers over time that we may not want to include phone numbers in a permanent plaque.

Chair Gent felt that enough feedback was received that evening to be able to come back to the third meeting with costs, options and further guidance to make informed recommendations that would later be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

**Item #3 – Discussion and action pertaining to scheduling the date and time of the next task force meeting.**

Matthew Keating motioned to hold our third meeting on October 9, 2018, at 6:00 pm, in the Community Room. Margaret Lieu seconded. Six yes votes, the motion carried.

Michael Frazier motioned to adjourn the meeting. Margaret Lieu seconded. Six yes votes, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm

The foregoing instrument is a full, true and correct copy of the original document on file in the office of the City Clerk, City of Surprise, Arizona.

ATTEST BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Bianco, Task Force Secretary

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Note: Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting was later officially scheduled and posted to the city website for Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers.*