



City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Final Task Force on Honoring Founders

*Mayor Nancy Smith
Councilmember Eric Goettl
Councilmember Bob Marsh*

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

4:00 PM

City Hall

1. Call To Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 3 - Mayor Nancy Smith, Councilmember Eric Goettl, and Councilmember Bob Marsh

3. Agenda Items

3.1 [TFHF 25-01](#)

The Task Force members will review and discuss options for honoring founding members of the City of Maricopa. Discussion only.

Mayor Nancy Smith began the discussion by stating the task force's goal: to find methods for honoring the city's founders and other important contributors throughout history.

Executive Assistant, Marlene Pearce, shared that her research on how 13 Arizona cities honor their founders and notable individuals. She reported that most cities recognize founders only up to the point of incorporation. Ms. Pearce noted that there were no instances of citywide celebrations for individuals beyond incorporation. Next, she reported that several cities have annual Founders Day events, primarily focused on incorporation dates, and none of the cities researched financially support memorialization activities beyond founders.

Councilmember Bob Marsh proposed creating a memorial, akin to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C., featuring small plaques for notable contributions, suggesting a 30-40-foot marble or stone wall durable enough to last 100 years.

Councilmember Eric Goettl highlighted the importance of intentionally memorializing individuals who significantly contributed to the city's development, suggesting a partnership with the Historical Society to develop policies for recognizing such individuals.

The Task Force deliberated on various recognition methods, such as collaborating with the Historical Society, establishing an objective selection process, differentiating between founders (up to incorporation) and later contributors, and considering a 10-year block approach for later recognition. They favored the history walk for its location and considered using metal plaques on a polished stone wall.

The next steps discussed included meeting with the Historical Society and key

individuals to establish parameters and names for incorporation-era recognition, initiating budget discussions, exploring initial project costs, standardizing plaque size and content, and considering a historical section on the city website.

Councilmember Marsh and Councilmember Goettl offered to serve as council liaisons to the Historical Society.

The Task Force agreed to schedule their next meeting for June 19th at 4:00 p.m.

4. Adjournment

This meeting Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.