

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
April 9, 2015

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington

Chair: Bruce Maas

Vice Chair: Thomas Kula

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting called to order by Bruce Maas

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #27
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Assoc. #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW # 12028
Vietnam Vets #512
Member at Large

PRIMARY

Sam Grooms
Dixie Hotaling
Elisa Cotton
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Richard Alvarez
Thomas Kula
George Raynor
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Bruce Maas
Skip Bengé
Greg Whitson
Kevin Lawson

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers
Dean Collins
Shawn O'Neil
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick
Bubba Conway
Frank Hyatt
Randy Warneke
Ron Brandon
Gary Dowler
Dale Rex
Dave Barton
Joseph Fettig

Clark County Representatives

Samantha Whitley

Guests

Jerry Keen, Dick Halvorson, Mike Wilson (CDM); Darren Wertz (Post 44)

March 12, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Bob Nichols moved to approve the March 2015 minutes as corrected to show additional guests; Joe Fettig seconded. Motion carried.

CDM Funding Discussion

CDM requested County funding in a letter presented at the February meeting, which was supported by the Veterans Board and forwarded to the County Administrator. The County Councilors requested clarification regarding whether the funding was to come from the Veterans Assistance Fund or other County funds. Jerry Keen and Dick Halvorson specified funding was sought from the County outside the Veterans Assistance Fund. CDM was encouraged to take the request directly to the County Councilors, and members of the Board would support the request. **Bob Nichols made a motion to support CDM's request to the Councilors for funds from outside the Veterans Assistance Fund. The motion was seconded by Sam Grooms. Motion carried.**

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Committee Reports

Appeals

Only one appeal was received, and two denials were issued in February.

Policies and Procedures

Dixie Hotaling reported the first meeting to discuss policies and procedures was held March 21, 2015. In the policies, all instances of Veterans Resource Committee (VRC) need to be changed to Clark County Veterans Advisory Board (CCVAB). All references to Clark County Board of Commissioners need to be changed to Clark County Board of Councilors. It was discussed whether to add to the definition of Section 2.2 Service Requirements. **John Raynor made a motion to delay making changes until the State legislature has completed review of the veteran definition. Bob Nichols seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

A meeting regarding the Strategic Plan will be held at Post 14 on May 16, 2015, at 11:00 a.m.

Nominations

There are no updates to nominations.

Charter clarification and Veterans Assistance Fund meeting update

Bruce Maas, Bob Nichols, Joe Fettig, Mike Langsdorf, and Samantha Whitley met with Mark McCauley and Bob Stevens to discuss any impact the new County charter has on the Veterans Advisory Board and Fund. Because the Veterans Advisory Board and Veterans Assistance Fund are established by RCW, very little would change under the new County charter. The Board of County Councilors is still solely in charge of the Veterans Assistance Fund levy and budget.

February Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Veterans Assistance Center received 406 visits, served 227 veterans, and had 510 volunteer hours in February.

Veterans Assistance Fund provided emergency assistance to 59 veterans, at a cost of \$25,338. Rent and auto repair were in the highest demand.

Four applications were not appealed in February since the applicants' income exceeded the limit.

The Free Dental Clinic treated six veterans for a total cost of \$1,953, of which the fund was billed \$898.

The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$317,785 at the end of February.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

Officers were elected for the Veterans Assistance Center. Furniture is being moved to the upstairs rooms on Saturday, and a stair lift will be acquired, Saturday, for installation.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

A bill to exempt veterans who are 100% disabled from all property taxes is being heard in State legislative committee. This bill expands the current senior and disabled tax exemption offered to low-income homeowners.

Open Forum

All female veterans are invited to a Women's Vets-Connect meeting, April 25, 11:00 a.m., at the 40 et 8, 7607 NE 26th Avenue. Ten women were in attendance at the first meeting in March.

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Soldiers Angels is hosting a Tea for women veterans and their families, May 2, at 2:00 p.m., at American Legion Post 14.

Our Community Salutes is honoring high school seniors who are joining the military and their families at a ceremony at Heritage High School on April 16, at 7:00 p.m.

The Veterans Assistance Center annual fundraiser gala is May 15 at the Heathman.

A position for a Veterans Resource Center coordinator is opening soon at Clark College.

A memorial for decorated Command Sargent Major David Silvernail will be held at Post 7824, 3:00 p.m., April 11.

Adjournment

Bob Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

May 14, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.