

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors

March 12, 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

VAW #4278

VAW #7824

VAW # 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

Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Michael Langsdorf (citizen); Jerry Keen (40et8); Mike Wilson, Dick Halvorson (CDM); Tim McPharlin (Clark College Veterans Resource Center)

February 12, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Bob Nichols moved to approve the February 2015 minutes; Dixie Hotaling seconded. Motion carried.

2014 Year-End VAF Report

Samantha Whitley reviewed the 2014 Annual Report for the Veterans Assistance Fund. The report summarizes services provided for emergency assistance and at the Veterans Assistance Center, the Free Dental clinic, and the annual Stand Down. The fund balance at the end of 2014 was \$344,683.89. The Annual Report is available online at www.clark.wa.gov/veterans.

Committee Reports

Appeals

Mike Gibson shared that two appeals for water/sewer reconnection were approved.

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Policies and Procedures

Dixie Hotaling reported the first policies and procedures meeting is March 21, at 11:00 a.m. Binders of the previous policies and procedures, the current by-laws, the strategic plan, and the RCWs have been compiled.

Nominations

There are no updates to nominations.

January Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Dental Clinic performed three procedures in January, at a cost to the fund of \$633.

January tax revenues totaled \$1,200. The ending fund balance is \$344,773.

The Veterans Assistance Center assisted 80 veterans, including 52 with food, 13 with rent, and 13 with transportation, for a cost of \$29,645 in services.

There were five appeals. Three gas vouchers and a phone installation were approved.

The Center received 476 visits in January. Eight veterans worked with the American Legion Service Officer, 15 were assisted by the DAV Officer, and one was served by the VVA Officer. The value of volunteer hours to the Center was \$11,697 in January.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

The entire building is now rented and occupied by the Center, Judy Russel reported. The landlord will be remodeling the first floor, and upstairs space includes an office for other agencies to assist veterans. The Center is holding a Black and White gala fundraiser on May 15. Tickets are \$60 each, \$110 for a couple, or \$500 for a table of 10.

Old Business

The presentation on Agent Orange may be aired by Metro West or CVTV. Samantha Whitley will send a notice to members of the date.

New Business

CDM provides care for elderly and disabled veterans to remain in their homes or in an adult daycare setting. Jerry Keen read a letter addressed to the Advisory Board and the County Councilors requesting funding. John Raynor clarified that the money would not come from the Veterans Fund but from the County Councilor's money. Samantha Whitley stated that this request may not qualify for Veterans Assistance Funds because of RCW and Policies and Procedures requirements. She also mentioned that these services were not identified in the Advisory Board's Strategic Plan. Joe Fettig made a motion to support sending the letter to the Council. The motion was seconded by Bob Nichols. The motion carried. Sam said she would prepare a cover letter that showed the Veterans Advisory Board supported the request.

Open Forum

All female veterans are invited to a Women's Vets-Connect meeting, March 28, 11 a.m., at the 40 et 8, 7607 NE 26th Avenue.

Clark County Veterans Court Board is having a Cinco de Mayo celebration and fundraiser for the Veterans Community Garden at the 40 et 8, May 5. Tickets are \$15 online, or \$20 at the door.

Mike Langsdorf raised awareness of legal financial obligations, which are overwhelming veterans with large financial debt from law enforcement encounters.

Adjournment

Bob Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned.

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Editor's Note: March 20, 2015

Bruce Maas, Bob Nichols, Joe Fettig, Mike Langsdorf and Samantha Whitley met with Mark McCauley and Bob Stevens to discuss impact of new county charter on Veterans 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.

Next Meeting

April 9, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.