

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Commissioners

Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington
November 13, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Greg Whitson

Vice Chair: Bob Nichols

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting Called to order by Greg Whitson @ 1405 hours

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

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

PRIMARY

Sam Grooms
Dixie Hotaling
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Richard Alvarez
Frank Hyatt
Thomas Dombek
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Roy Billings
Skip Benge
Greg Whitson

ALTERNATE

James Resleff
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick
Benjamin Long
Thomas Kula
Robert Sumrill
Ron Brandon
Steve Stetson
Bruce Maas
Joseph Fettig

Members at Large

Kevin Lawson

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Darren Wertz – AL #44

September 11, 2014, Meeting Minutes

The meeting lacked quorum. Minutes will be considered at the December 11, 2014, meeting.

Committee Reports

Appeals

Skip Benge reported that six appeals had been received in September. Two were approved. Those denied were over-income or did not meet residency criteria. One appellant withdrew his appeal upon finding the food bank.

Policies and Procedures

There was no discussion on policies and procedures.

Nominations

Bruce Maas expressed that he had not received any additional nominees since the last meeting. The names to date include: Bob Nichols for Chair; Sam Grooms for Vice Chair, and no nominees for Secretary. A nomination of Bruce Maas for Chair was added to the list by an e-mail from Tom Dombeck.

September Contractor Reports & County Fund Reports

Rebecca explained the Veterans' Assistance Fund served 71 veterans in September, of which 39 received food assistance, 15 received rental assistance, 17 received utility assistance, and 17 received transportation. She mentioned LIHEAP opened October 20 for utility assistance. Veterans should seek assistance through LIHEAP before obtaining assistance at the Center.

Visits to the Veterans' Assistance Center totaled 442 veterans in September. This includes 181 through the Center, 8 to the DAV service officer, 245 to the veterans' assistance fund, and 8 to the American Legion officer. This was supported by 374.5 volunteer hours and 4 community outreach hours.

The Free Clinic helped six veterans with dental care, including extractions, fillings, x-rays, and restorations. The value of services was \$1,235.

The Veterans' Assistance Fund balance was \$373,895 at the end of September, 2014. The balance will be higher following the receipt of October tax revenues. The contract takes into consideration average tax revenues to protect from overspending.

Old Business

Bob stressed the need to make an effort to have all Primary members attend the December meeting for elections.

Bob asked about the 2015 contract. Rebecca stated that she was not sure of the status, but would check when she returned to the office. There was still uncertainty regarding the lease with the property owner. [Editor's Note: The contract has been routed for signature. A modification may be needed if the VAC moves to the new location.]

New business

Rebecca reminded the Board that Letters of Intent (LOIs) for 2015-2016 appointment to the advisory board are due. Only six have been returned to date. Rebecca will send another copy by mail to the posts stressing the loss of membership and voting rights if the form is not returned.

Bob informed the board that the WDVA and the Washington State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America are making an effort to have all Washington counties collect a veterans' assistance fund to provide for veterans.

Open Forum

Creekside Mortgage has asked the Center for names of individuals in need of a food box for Thanksgiving. The Center is also picking up extra food boxes from Sunshine for Holidays.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1429 hours.

Next meeting: December 11, 2014, at 1400 hours, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room