

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors

December 10, 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

Members at Large

PRIMARY

Steve Slegers

Dixie Hotaling

Elisa Cotton

Robert Nichols

Michael Gibson

John Lovejoy

Thomas Kula

George Raynor

Lou Basté

John Raynor

Bruce Maas

Skip Benge

Greg Whitson

Kevin Lawson

Candis Oliver

ALTERNATE

Sam Grooms

Dean Collins

Shawn O'Neil

Richard Langenbach

Jonathan Frederick

Bubba Conway

Frank Hyatt

Randy Warneke

Michael Cassel

Dale Rex

Dave Barton

Joseph Fettig

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, (Veterans Assistance Center); Michael Torres (Clark County) Bridget Schwarz (Veggies 4 Vets) Michael Langsdorf (Attorney, retired)

November 12, 2015, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Bob Nichols and a second by Lou Baste.

Introduction: New Housing and Community Development Manager

Michael Torres, 12-year Navy veteran, is the new Clark County Community Housing and Development manager.

Veggies 4 Vets (V4V Project)

Bridget Schwartz invites volunteers to garden her 10.5 acres of cultivatable land at regularly scheduled times and to distribute what is harvested to veterans. It was suggested the Links program may be able to help with distribution, and Washington State University's extension program may be able to provide gardeners. Fisher House, the Veterans Assistance Center, Partners in Careers, and therapeutic court, may have interest in the produce.

Committee Reports

Appeals

Seven denials were approved on appeal. Most were for gas vouchers.

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Policies and Procedures

The proposed changes to the policies will be heard by the Board of County Councilors at 10:00 a.m., December 15, 2015.

Nominations

Kevin Lawson and Candis Oliver provided Letters of Intent to continue their membership at large for 2016. **Dixie Hotaling made a motion to accept both members at large. Bob Nichols seconded. Motion carried.**

Bob Nichols moved to amend Section 4.1 of the bylaws, to allow alternates and members at large to serve as secretary of the board. The motion was seconded by John Lovejoy. Motion carried. Bylaw 4.1 will now read as follows: "Section 4.1 – Officers. The Chair and Vice Chair of the CCVAB must be a primary representative of a nationally recognized veteran's organization."

Tom Kula was nominated for vice chair, and Candis Oliver was nominated for secretary. **Bob Nichols made a motion to affirm these nominations. Lou Baste seconded. Motion carried and the nominees were affirmed.**

Bruce Maas, Bob Nichols, and Dixie Hotaling were nominated for chair. Following a vote of the members, Bob Nichols will serve as the chair for 2016.

October Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Veterans Assistance Center received 490 veterans' visits and 614 volunteer hours; 63 veterans received emergency assistance. The Free Clinic treated seven veteran dental patients, for which the fund was billed \$1,829. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$450,019 at the end of October.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

Appreciation was expressed for private citizens who invited veterans as Thanksgiving guests or provided meals to be taken to veterans.

The 2016 lease does not include a rent increase; however the Center will now be paying all utilities.

The 2015 Point in Time Count identified only eight homeless veterans in Clark County. The Center is now asking veterans if they are homeless. Fifteen homeless veterans were served at the Center last month. The next Point in Time count is January 8, 2016. Volunteers are welcome to participate.

Toys will be delivered to the Center on December 11, 2015, for children of veterans served through the Center.

Old Business

The Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Board met in Vancouver November 19, and discussed issues of concern to Clark County. Joseph Fettig received a gold coin from the Olympia WDVA director in honor of his work with the veterans.

New Business

No discussion at this time.

Open Forum

Michael Langsdorf has established a committee of volunteers to develop a collaborative website to disseminate veteran information. The site will include information on the Veterans Assistance Center, recording of DD-214s, a list of veterans organizations, and events or information important to veterans. Samantha Whitley offered to volunteer time if needed.

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Adjournment

Bob Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting; **Randy Warneke** seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

January 14, 2016, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.