

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
March 10, 2016

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington

Chair: Bob Nichols

Vice Chair: Thomas Kula

Secretary: Candis Oliver

Meeting called to order by Bob Nichols

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
Randy Warneke
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Bruce Maas
Skip Bengé
Greg Whitson
Kevin Lawson
Candis Oliver
Jennifer Hibbs
Kelly Jones

ALTERNATE

Sam Grooms
Dean Collins
Shawn O'Neil
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick
Bubba Conway
Frank Hyatt
Morris Giesler
Ron Brandon
Michael Cassel
Dale Rex
Dave Barton
Joseph Fettig

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: **Judy Russel, Nick Herber** (Veterans Assistance Center); **Michael Torres**, (Clark County); **Jesse Estes** (VSAC, VFW); **Michael Langsdorf** (VSAC); **Donald Johnson** (citizen)

February 11, 2016, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by **Dixie Hotaling** that was seconded by **Steve Slegers**.

Veterans Solutions Action Committee (VSAC) Update

To distribute information to veterans, Mike Langsdorf and Jesse Estes are creating a website. The site will include resource pages for veterans, women, government, and health-related issues. VSAC is meeting March 17, 8:00 a.m. at Clark College to discuss adding parking to the VA campus. VSAC meetings are open to everyone. They meet every Wednesday, 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the VFW on Andresen. VSAC requests a list of names of all the service organizations for the website.

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
March 10, 2016

Committee Reports

Appeals: One appeal for car repair was approved; one for rent assistance was denied due to a recent prior claim.

Policies and Procedures: Dixie announced that the Policies and Procedures committee will have its first meeting on the first Thursday of the month, 8:00 a.m., at the 40 et 8. The policy on receiving rental assistance only twice in a lifetime, and the policy requiring 15 or more appointments or a job to receive gas vouchers, will be discussed.

January Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Veterans Assistance Center received 501 veterans' visits and 429 volunteer hours; 88 veterans received emergency assistance (*editor's note: revised report shows 71 veterans received assistance in January*). The Free Clinic treated four veteran dental patients, for which the fund was billed \$1,364. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$325,595.75 at the end of January.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

Judy Russel provided the following updates for the Veterans Assistance Center:

- The Center is hosting their fourth annual Black and White Gala, May 13, at the Heathman Lodge. This is their biggest fundraiser of the year and flyers have been sent to board members.
- A Golf Tournament will be held June 21, at the Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield.
- The Stand Down is August 10, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Due to a fire at the DOD warehouse, many supplies were destroyed. The Stand Down committee is seeking donations of cash or supplies a homeless veteran would need.
- LINKS is no longer regularly providing sandwiches and snacks to the Center, so they are looking for food donations to provide to veterans who visit the Center.
- Thank you to Bob Nichols for monetary donations he has given the Center.
- Other donations recently received are from: Home Depot, Legacy Six, Columbia River Detached 826, Southwest Contractors Association, and the Marine Corps League. Donations are always welcome.

2015 Veterans Assistance Fund Annual Report

The 2015 Annual Report was distributed for review.

State Legislature Update: ESHB 1213, definition of veteran

The State Legislature passed the revised definition of veteran and it is waiting for the governor's signature. The definition allows the advisory board to recommend expand services to additional discharge characteristics with BOCC approval.

Old Business

No discussion at this time.

New Business

Vice Chair Thomas Kula is retiring. Nominations and voting to fill the Vice Chair position will be conducted at the April meeting since Bob Nichols will not be available for the May meeting. Bruce Maas volunteered for the position and Randy Warneke was nominated for the position.

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
March 10, 2016

Open Forum

- Vietnam Veterans of America made a donation of \$250 for the Veterans Assistance Center's stair lift and \$250 toward the Stand Down. The donations were presented to Joe Fettig and Skip Bengé.
- Washington State Patrol Trooper Todd Sorum requested assistance in creating cards listing resources for persons encountered by law enforcement officers. A sample from Cowlitz County was provided.
- A sign-up will be available beginning with the April meeting for people who want to speak during Open Forum. Meetings will continue to have an open forum as time allows.
- Women Veterans Connect meets March 26, 11:00 a.m., at the 40 et 8.
- Our Community Salutes, recognizing students going into the military post-graduation, is April 28, 6:00 p.m., at Skyview High School.
- CMAC's annual Memorial Day event will be at the Fort Vancouver Gazebo at 11:00 a.m. Monday, May 30.
- The VA Fisher House will have a grand opening dedication March 23.
- Columbia Credit Union is sponsoring a fundraiser in Battle Ground for the Veteran's memorial in Kiwanis Park April 15.
- U.S. Digital provides a chaplaincy program that works with law enforcement.

Adjournment

Dixie Hotaling moved to adjourn the meeting; Bruce Maas seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

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