

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors

July 14, 2016

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680

Vancouver, Washington

Chair: Bob Nichols

Vice Chair: Randy Warneke

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

Michael Langsdorf

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); **Liz Johnston** (Armed Forces Reserve Center); **June Gaylord** (Clark County); **Rodger Morrison** (Windhaven Therapeutic Riding); **Anna Drylea** (Employer Support of the Reserve volunteer); Linda O'Leary (citizen)

June 9, 2016, Meeting Minutes

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

Committee Reports

Appeals: One appeal in June was approved.

Policies and Procedures:

- **Dixie Hotaling made a motion to change policy 3.4 to state that financial assistance is limited to \$1,000 per year instead of \$2,000 in two years. The motion was seconded by Randy Warneke, and was approved.**
- **Dixie Hotaling also made a motion to add that all financial assistance is based on funding availability. The motion was seconded by Randy Warneke and approved.**
- The Policies and Procedures committee will meet August 4, at 8:00 a.m., at the 40 et 8.

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May Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Veterans Assistance Center received 567 veterans' visits and 615 volunteer hours; 64 veterans received emergency assistance. The Free Clinic treated twelve veteran dental patients, for which the fund was billed \$3,859. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$426,188 at the end of May.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

- The proposed 2017 budget adds additional funds for utilities, the Stand Down, administration at 40 hours per week, and assumes that the policies and procedures are approved by the County Council to provide increased housing assistance to veterans. These items increase the requested budget to \$569,707. **A motion was made by Randy Warneke, and seconded by Steve Slegers, understanding that this increased budget may dip into reserves. Motion carried.**
- Monitoring of the Veterans Assistance Center occurred today. All records reviewed were documented appropriately.
- The Center has seen an increase in new veterans seeking housing, rental, and food assistance.
- The golf tournament raised over \$10,000 for the Center. Special thanks to Coldwell Banker Seal for supporting and sending golfers.
- The Warriors and Wheels Cruise-In and barbecue is August 27, 11:00-2:00, at Kings Way School.
- Additional permits are being acquired to install the stair lift. Installation is expected within two weeks.

Veterans Stand Down update

The Stand Down is August 10, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. The Stand Down committee is seeking donations of cash or supplies a homeless veteran would need. Donation barrels are in all county offices.

Old Business

No discussion at this time.

New Business

No discussion at this time.

Open Forum

- The Vietnam Veterans of America Welcome Home barbecue is August 27, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Please RSVP.
- Rodger Morrison of Windhaven Therapeutic horsemanship for veterans will be presenting at the August board meeting. Windhaven serves veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.
- Clark County has only one Veteran Service Officer. Training is being sought as well as more support from the WDVA.
- The Portland VA has a new benefits director, Will Streitberger. On July 25, the new VA hospital organizer will be Mike Fisher.
- A memorial for law enforcement is July 17, at 3:00 p.m., at Post 7824.
- Groundbreaking for the Vietnam memorial at the Veterans hospital will occur in about three weeks. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for October 15, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception preceding at 10:00 a.m.
- Fallen first responders will be remembered at a Patriots Day ceremony on September 11, at 9 a.m. at City Hall.
- Post 27 is holding its annual soccer ball campaign.

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Open Forum (continued)

- The Employers Symposium is August 19. It involves a partnership with Employment Transition Services and Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve.
- The Armed Forces Reserve Center has grants available to assist veterans with housing. It pre-screens veterans for referral to the Veterans Assistance Center as appropriate.

Adjournment

Randy Warneke moved to adjourn the meeting; Greg Whitson seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

August 11, 2016, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.