

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors

August 11, 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** (Veterans Assistance Center); **Liz Johnston** (Armed Forces Reserve Center); **Rodger Morrison, Linda O'Leary** (Windhaven Therapeutic Riding); **Phil Parker** (Disabled Veteran); **Michael Torres** (Clark County)

## **July 14, 2016, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by **Mike Gibson** that was seconded by **Dixie Hotaling**.

## **Windhaven Therapeutic Riding program**

Windhaven's Therapeutic Riding program will primarily serve veterans with PTSD and traumatic brain injury. Horses facilitate physical and emotional healing. The program includes eight 8-week sessions, or 18-months, beginning with ground work, basic riding, arena riding, and then trail riding. It ends with a horse camp at the end for those interested in participating. PATH-certified instructors allow for maximum independence without jeopardizing safety. Bonding with animals helps veterans work on memory, sequencing, physical strength, endurance, and social interaction. Classes are starting the second week of October. Funding is provided through the VA. Windhaven is located at 35318 NE 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue, La Center, and may be reached at [www.windhaventherapeuticriding.org](http://www.windhaventherapeuticriding.org), or at 503-422-1692.

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**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** An appeal for eyeglasses and an appeal for rental assistance were approved in July.

**Policies and Procedures:**

The County Councilors approved proposed policy and code changes, including raising the threshold for applying for housing assistance to 200 percent of poverty level, on August 9. The Columbian positively reflected this in an article the same day.

**June Contractor Reports & County Fund Report**

The Veterans Assistance Center received 546 veterans' visits and 763 volunteer hours; 67 veteran households received emergency assistance. The Free Clinic treated nine veteran dental patients. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$373,872 at the end of June.

**Veterans Assistance Center Update**

- The annual Stand Down on August 10 had excellent turnout. Numbers are not yet available.
- The Warriors and Wheels Cruise-In and barbecue is August 27, 10:00-2:00, at Kings Way School.
- Michael Fisher, the new Portland VA director visited the Center on August 9.
- The stair lift is complete, and a grand re-opening is being planned.

**Old Business**

- Service Officer Training  
Volunteer service officers provide assistance with filing claims for service-connected disabilities. Training is arranged through state service organizations. More service officers are being sought.
- Veterans Village Groundbreaking is Saturday, August 13, 2016, 11:00 a.m. First phase will house 18 homeless women veterans.

**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. at Post 176. Please RSVP.
- Post 27 is holding its annual soccer ball Kick for Nick campaign to send balls to the troops. Toyota is donating 500 balls.
- To get a better count of homelessness in Clark County, the Veterans Assistance Center will collect data in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), and the count from Stand Down will be used.

**Adjournment**

**Meeting was adjourned at 15:55.**

**Next Meeting**

September 8, 2016, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.