

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors

October 13, 2016

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680

Vancouver, Washington

**Chair: Bob Nichols**

**Vice Chair: vacant**

**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

Harold Olson

Lou Basté

John Raynor

**Bruce Maas**

**Skip Benge**

**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); Rodger Morrison, Merilee Donovan, Leann Abraham, Linda O'Leary (Windhaven Therapeutic Riding); Denise Bender (Partners in Careers); Renie Duvall, Shawn Price (Goodwill Ambassadors Program); Kelly Roby**

Shawn Price requested donations to help her high school daughter travel as a Volleyball Tour member with Goodwill Ambassadors Tours. Flyers passed out with donation information.

**September 8, 2016, Meeting Minutes**

**The minutes were approved following a motion by Steve Slegers that was seconded by Greg Whitson.**

**Partners in Careers Roots to Road and Homeward Bound Programs**

Denise Bender provides supportive services to at least 50 homeless female veterans and their families annually through the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program grant. To qualify, participants must be homeless and willing to look for work. Denise will provide the Board a count of homeless female veterans in Clark County.

## **Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

### ***An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors***

**October 13, 2016**

The Roots to Road program teaches veterans small-scale farming on 1½ acres at Heritage Farms. Farming operates April through October. Sponsors may receive a large bag of produce every-other week between July and mid-October for a contribution of \$150.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** No appeals last month.

**Policies and Procedures:** According to the policies, an unruly veteran may be banned from the Center. Clarification is being discussed on whether he/she may receive funding and the length of time the veteran may be banned. The veteran has a right to appeal.

#### **August Contractor Reports & County Fund Report**

The Veterans Assistance Center received 587 veterans' visits, of which 229 individuals identified as homeless. Five veteran households were served with the new housing assistance, and 74 veteran households received emergency assistance. The Center also benefited from 599 volunteer hours. The Free Clinic treated 16 dental patients; most patients were from the stand down. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$275,853 at the end of August.

#### **WDVA Report of Levy Rates across Washington**

A list of the assessed levy rates by Washington counties shows Clark County has the fifth highest veteran population and is 19<sup>th</sup> in the state based on levy rate. Budget discussions for 2017-2018 are ongoing within Clark County. The effect on the Veterans Assistance Fund is unknown.

#### **Freedom's Path Report**

As of September 26, Freedom's Path had 36 veterans in residence, of which 27 identified Clark County as their home before lease-up. Tenancy includes 34 households using project-based vouchers and two households using tenant-based vouchers. Four units are occupied by females. The remaining units were pending vouchers in September, and five remained available.

#### **Veterans Assistance Center Update**

- The Center assisted five veterans with expenses to move into Freedom's Path last month.
- Energy assistance through LIHEAP has started. Veterans must apply for LIHEAP assistance before applying to the fund for utility assistance.
- The annual gala will be held at the Heathman on April 28, 2017.

#### **Recognition:**

- A donation of \$870 received from the Fairway Village Senior Community's veteran's golf challenge.
- On October 21, H.B. Fuller Co. is providing lunches for all veterans at the Center
- Rebound is providing snack kits for homeless veterans on November 11.
- Home Instead Senior Care is sponsoring "Be a Santa to a Senior" gifts for senior veterans. Cards will be available on trees in banks and the gifts will be returned to the Center for distributing.
- Five Clark College volunteers are providing the Center with tremendous assistance.
- Columbia Title donates to the Center for each VA loan closing.

#### **Old Business**

- Windhaven Tour Schedule  
Board members are invited to tour Windhaven at noon on Saturday, October 22.  
It was requested the Center refer veterans to Windhaven who may benefit from this service.

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors**  
**October 13, 2016**

**New Business**

- 2017 Letters of Intent have been emailed. They are due December 1.
- Nominations of officers will occur at the November meeting and elections will take place at the December meeting.
- The 2017 budget and final contract will be discussed at the December meeting.

**Open Forum**

- The Mayor's breakfast for active military is November 11, at 11 a.m.
- The CMAC ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center is on November 11.
- Veteran Rodney Stallard passed away. Ceremony will be announced.
- The Vietnam Memorial dedication, honoring 59 Clark County veterans who died in Vietnam, will be held at the VA campus on October 15, at 10:00 a.m.
- Vancouver Barracks Military Center Halloween fundraiser is October 22, at 6:00 p.m., at the 40et8.
- Post 7824 is hosting a veterans' birthday party on October 15, at 5:00 p.m.
- The Veterans Solution Action Committee's new website is available at: [www.vsaonline.org](http://www.vsaonline.org).

**Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. following a motion by Greg Whitson that was seconded by Dixie Hotaling.**

**Next Meeting**

November 10, 2016, at 1400 hours, in the Public Service Center Hearing Room 680