

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
1300 Franklin Street, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington

January 8, 2015

Chair: Bruce Maas

Vice Chair: Thomas Kula

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting called to order by Bruce Maas @ 1400 hours

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
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW # 12028
Vietnam Vets #512
Member at Large

PRIMARY

Sam Grooms
Dixie Hotaling
Elisa Cotton
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Richard Alvarez
Frank Hyatt
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Bruce Maas
Skip Bengé
Greg Whitson
Kevin Lawson

ALTERNATE

Dean Collins
Shawn O'Neil
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick
Bubba Conway
Thomas Kula
Ron Brandon
Gary Dowler
Dale Rex
Dave Barton
Joseph Fettig

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley

GUESTS

Judy Russell and Kenn Seydlitz – Clark County Veterans Assistance Center; Melanie Denno – Citizen

December 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes

John Raynor moved to approve the December minutes as written; Thomas Kula seconded. Motion passed.

Washington State Guard Letter of Endorsement

Bruce Maas suggested writing a Letter of Endorsement in support of initiating a Washington State Guard, as presented in December by Larry Good. John Raynor requested more discussion and research before making this endorsement. The suggestion was tabled for a later meeting.

Gift Baskets for Veterans High School Project Presentation

Nolan Rose will present the Gift Basket Project at the February meeting.

Committee Reports/Assignments for 2015

Appeals

Five appeals were received in December. One veteran received assistance from another agency. Another appellant did not have a driver's license to support receiving a gas voucher. A third appellant

exceeded income limits. A gas voucher was approved for a veteran who lives outside the bus service area. Another veteran received a landline telephone to be in compliance with the Veterans Therapeutic Court.

A volunteer is needed for the Appeals Committee. Appeals are reviewed and discussed by email. Mike Gibson chairs the committee, and Skip Bengel is a member. John Raynor and Kevin Lawson volunteered.

Policies and Procedures Nominations

These items to be discussed in the February meeting.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

Judy Russell reiterated that additional space is opening at the Center's current location. The landlord has agreed to donate renovations to the space. County Service Officers and DAV Officers will continue to have private offices. The 2015 contract has been executed. Judy will join Bruce Maas and Thomas Kula at the January 13 Board of County Councilors' meeting for introductions.

November Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

John Raynor made a motion to accept Kevin Lawson as a Member at Large. Lou Baste seconded, and the motion passed.

The Veterans Assistance Fund served 84 veterans with a total of \$34,008.54 disbursed. Rent, food, and auto repair were in the highest demand.

There were nine denials and five appeals, as Mike detailed previously.

The Free Clinic Dental Program assisted five veterans, providing one extraction, seven fillings, no x-rays. Total cost was \$2,446. The fund was billed \$1,367.

At the end of November, the Veteran's Assistance Fund balance was \$432,265. The December reports will be distributed in February, and a year-end report will be available in March.

CVTV provided a count of viewers accessing the Veterans Advisory Board meetings through the CVTV website. In December, 16 viewers accessed the recording; 29 people viewed in November; and 21 viewers watched in October. The Board will continue to receive the report quarterly. CVTV charges an annual fee for recording the meetings. The Board of County Commissioners pays for this service. Discussion will occur later in year regarding continuing the service.

Old Business

Veterans have been encouraged to apply for LIHEAP assistance before accessing the Veterans Assistance Fund. It is often difficult to get an appointment, however Clark Public Utilities (CPU) provides preference to those in danger of losing heat. CPU staff will be invited to a Veterans Board meeting to share more information on the types of assistance available.

Further discussion is needed on the Strategic Plan.

New Business

There are no known changes to consider in regards to the new charter or the change to County Councilors.

Veterans Advisory Board meetings were changed to the second Thursday of the month to accommodate CVTV coverage. Discussion has been requested regarding meeting on a different day of the month. Samantha Whitley will research possible dates for which the room and CVTV are available.

The proposed meeting dates for 2015 will be discussed in the February meeting.

Open Forum

Upcoming events include:

- A Veterans' Appreciation Ball, February 7, 2015, sponsored by SW Washington Surplus, Shanahan's Pub, and the American Legion Post #14. Pre-registration is requested, and may be completed through: www.swwsurplus.com/goto/veterans_ball.
- A Spaghetti feed at the Veterans Community Garden, 117th and Padden, February 23
- The eighth annual Heroes Sisters for Adaptive Sports on June 24
- The VFW Winter Conference is January 10-11 at the Heathman Hotel
- The American Legion Winter Conference is January 31-February 1 at the Vancouver Hilton

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1450 hours.

Next meeting: February 12, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.