

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
May 14, 2015

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington

Chair: Bruce Maas

Vice Chair: Thomas Kula

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting called to order by Bruce Maas

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
Member at Large

PRIMARY

Sam Grooms
Dixie Hotaling
Elisa Cotton
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Bubba Conway
Thomas Kula
George Raynor
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Bruce Maas
Skip Bengé
Greg Whitson
Kevin Lawson

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers
Dean Collins
Shawn O'Neil
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick
John Lovejoy
Frank Hyatt
Randy Warneke
Ron Brandon
Gary Dowler
Dale Rex
Dave Barton
Joseph Fettig

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, (Veterans Assistance Center); Mike Wilson (CDM); Marie Peterson, (Peacehealth)

April 9, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Bob Nichols moved to approve the April minutes. Lou Baste seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Appeals

In April, one gas voucher appeal was approved and an over-income appeal was denied.

Policies and Procedures

The Policy and Procedures committee recommended three changes:

1. All references to Veterans Resource Committee (VRC) changed to Clark County Veterans Advisory Board (CCVAB);
2. All references to Board of Commissioners changed to Clark County Board of Councilors.
3. Section 2.2 to add the following italicized content: "Service Requirements. 'Veteran' includes all persons qualified under RCW 41.004.005 and 41.04.007. General discharge under honorable conditions will also be an allowable service type per HB 1806. Any veteran who has been released because of a medical condition or any honorable discharge should be considered as having completed the term of service commitment *or having completed his/her initial obligation. This includes National Guard and Reserve.*"

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A motion to accept the changes was made by Thomas Kula and seconded by Joe Fettig. Motion passed with one dissension. Additional discussion on Policies and Procedures will occur Saturday, July 11, 11:00 a.m., at Post 14. Changes will be presented to the Board of County Councilors for approval after all changes have been determined.

March Contractor Reports & County Fund Report

The Veterans Assistance Center received 461 visits, served 262 veterans, and welcomed 518 volunteer hours in March. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$309,022 at the end of March. The Free Dental Clinic treated six veterans for a total cost of \$1,289, of which the fund was billed \$1,498. The Veterans Assistance Center provided emergency assistance to 52 veterans, at a cost of \$24,800. Ten households received rent assistance, and thirty received food assistance, among other services.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

The downstairs remodel is underway and storage is complete. Additional services are already being provided in the increased space by other veteran agencies. The annual Gala fundraiser is May 15, 2015.

Old Business

The Clark County Consolidated Plan presents goals and strategies for the use of CDBG and HOME funds for the next five years. Goals include providing affordable housing, community and neighborhood assistance, and alleviating homelessness. The Plan was approved by the Board of County Councilors and has been submitted to HUD for approval. The 2015 Action Plan details projects that will receive CDBG and HOME funds, including a permanent supportive housing complex for veterans on the VA campus.

A tour of the CDM facility will be arranged.

New Business

Samantha Whitley mentioned that Clark County Facilities has implemented a new fee for meeting set up. It would be approximately \$70 per month. Samantha and/or CVTV and/or board members will set up the tables for the meetings in the future.

Open Forum

Dixie Hotaling read a letter from Mr. Golden of LINKS, seeking support from the Veterans Fund. He provides donated food to various posts, the Assistance Center, and the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Bob Nichols explained that all recipients must qualify for the VAF to provide funding. Mr. Golden will be invited to speak at the June meeting, and his request will be forwarded to the Board of County Councilors with support of the Veterans Advisory Board.

Christopher Driggen of Parrots for Patriots, which provides service animals to veterans, will be speaking at the June meeting.

- There are many Memorial Day events, May 25.
- The Rose Festival fleet will be in Portland in June.
- The Veterans Stand Down is in August.
- An open house for the Fisher House is anticipated for September.

Adjournment

Bob Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Dixie Hotaling seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

June 11, 2015, at 1400 hours, in the Councilors' Hearing Room.