

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Commissioners

Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington
October 9, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Greg Whitson

Vice Chair: Bob Nichols

Secretary: Mike Gibson

Meeting Called to order by Greg Whitson @ 14:00 hours

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Vet Assoc. #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

PRIMARY

Sam Grooms
Dixie Hotaling
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Richard Alvarez
Frank Hyatt
Thomas Dombek
Lou Basté
John Raynor
Roy Billings
Skip Benge
Greg Whitson

ALTERNATE

James Resleff
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Frederick
Benjamin Long
Thomas Kula
Robert Sumrill
Ron Brandon
Steve Stetson
Bruce Maas

Joseph Fettig

Members at Large

Kevin Lawson

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley

GUESTS

Judy Russell -CCVAC; George Raynor – Korean War Veterans; Bob Stevens—Clark County Office of Budget, Jerry Keen—40et8, Ryan Treglow—Clark County Community Services

September 11, 2014, Meeting Minutes

Dixie Hotaling moved to approve the minutes as written; Roy Billings seconded. Passed.

Veterans' Assistance Fund Questions and Answers

Bob Stevens reported the Veterans' Assistance Fund budget in the County's baseline budget for the 2015/2016 biennium will be at the statutory mandated minimum. This means that the budget for the biennium will be \$968,000, or \$487,000 per year. However, due to fund balance carry-forward, which will not be calculated until early 2015, it is estimated the spending authority will be \$1,226,646. The budget in 2016 may also increase slightly due to new construction growth. These funds are directly diverted from the General Fund to the Veterans' fund from tax revenues based on the maximum

allowed millage rate. Commissioner hearings to discuss this budget are December 1 through December 3, with the vote expected on December 3.

2015 VAF Proposed Funding; CCVAC Budget Request

A proposed modified contract for the Veterans' Assistance Center was presented. The Center opened in July, and has already provided direct Veterans' assistance of \$84,000. It is estimated an additional \$100,000 is needed to fund the Center through the end of the year. It was suggested to add \$60,000 to meet the direct veteran assistance funding needs. Additional funding needed in the operating budget may be moved from the administrative budget. **Sam Grooms moved to accept this proposal; Frank Hyatt seconded. Motion passed.**

The 2015 Proposed budget for the Veterans' Assistance Center was presented. The 2015 budget represents increased rent costs, as approved in September's meeting, equivalent personnel costs, and reduced operating and stand-down expenses. It also represents increased direct service funding and a small increase in administrative costs. The total proposed budget is \$443,485. This contract can be renewed annually and replaces the current Memorandum of Understanding. **Frank Hyatt moved to accept the contract; Skip Bengtson seconded. The motion passed.**

Committee Reports

Appeals

There were three appeals in September, of which two were denied and one was approved. One denial was a veteran who had not been a resident for at least a year in Washington, per Clark County Code and State Statute. The other denial was for a gas voucher. This person reapplied with more documentation, and was approved for a monthly bus pass.

Policies and Procedures

Dixie reported there are no updates to the policies and procedures discussion. Since these were last updated July-August, it was recommended to pick up this discussion in the spring while discussing the budget.

Nominations

The Committee submitted a list of possible candidates for the officer positions, and some outside names were suggested. Bob Nichols indicated he would be willing to serve as the chairman for one year. Voting is in December.

August Contractor Reports and County Fund Report

Clarification was provided that \$600 posted to the transportation column in the Veterans' Assistance Center's August, 2014, report (line 17) should have been posted to rent. The Center served 76 veterans in August, for a total \$32,992. The Center also saw 425 Veteran visits in August, including 164 at the Center, 8 by the DAV Service officer, 8 by the American Legion Service officer, and 245 through the Veterans Assistance Fund. Total volunteer hours of 587 included 464 general volunteer hours and 123 community outreach hours.

The Free Clinic was at Stand Down in August. It provided 12 veterans with 19 extractions and 2 fillings, for a total billing of \$843.

The Veterans Assistance Fund report was provided. Expenses for August totaled \$69,090. The fund balance stands at \$417,741.

Discussion was initiated on whether funds returned to the County through VA claims submitted can be reported. The Center files claims, but does not know whether people successfully receive funding. The information will be reported anonymously when it is volunteered to the Center.

Old Business

The Assistance Center is working with the landlord of the new office space for 2015 lease. The landlord's attorney is writing one. It will be presented to the board for review when it is available.

New Business

Notice of Public Hearing is scheduled for October 14, 2014, 10:00 a.m., in the Commissioner's Hearing Room. The meeting will discuss changes the County Code. Everyone is encouraged to attend to show support. Comments will be accepted.

Open Forum

Hunting with Heroes last month took 32 veterans to Klickitat to fish and to hunt for pheasant.

October 14, the Secretary of the Navy will be in town to commission a ship.

November 5: CDM Services Symbol of Freedom dinner. Proceeds help aging veterans with in-home care. Special speakers include a pilot shot-down over North Vietnam and the pilot who shot him down.

November 11, 11:00 a.m., CMAC Veteran's Day ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Other Veteran's Day events: Most Veterans Posts will have special events on Veteran's Day. This includes a free breakfast hosted by Post 14, beginning at 7:00 a.m., a free lunch, hosted by Post 168 at the New Nicks, and flags placed at the Fort Vancouver barracks cemetery by Post 7824. Many restaurants also provide free meals for veterans. Check the newspaper for details.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 15:30 hours.

Next meeting: November 13, 2014 @ 1400 hours in the Commissioners' Hearing Room