

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

July 9, 2020

Meeting held remotely. Audio at: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-services/veterans-advisory-board>

Chair: Kelly Jones

Vice Chair: David Daly

Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #44
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

Morris Geisler
Dixie Hotaling
Darren Wertz
Bob Nichols
Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy

Earl Edwards
Steve Slegers
Shannon Roberts
Bruce Maas
David Daly
Greg Whitson
Kelly Jones
Kevin Lawson
Bryan McGillis
Michael Langsdorf
Jim Jensen
Tiffany Plous

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers
Karla Bean
John Rose

Les Schreiber
Vannis Pratt

John Stofiel
Dana Difford
Michael Harding
Doyle Flemming
Tom Mielke

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Rebecca Royce, Alissa Page, Janet Snook** (Clark County); **Daniel Ledgett** (Employment Security Department)

January 9, 2020, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved on motion by Steve Slegers that was seconded by Bruce Maas.

Member and County Updates

- VFW 4278 meets via Zoom on Wednesday mornings for coffee
- 40et8 meets for coffee on Thursdays. Participants are screened before entry
- Daniel Ledgett is now the Consolidated Veteran Service Representative for the Washington Employment Security Department. Contact for Veterans seeking work
- The VA is seeing patients for critical conditions. Precautions are in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19
- Support Veterans in isolation who are struggling with mental health disorders
- Clark County remains in Phase 2 reopening. Meetings will be held online through the end of the year. CVTV will record and broadcast future remote Veteran Advisory Board meetings

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- County revenues appear to be less impacted than originally predicted. County spending is reduced. But the County continues to operate at a structural deficit. The Veterans fund should not be impacted

Committee Reports

Appeals: No appeals have been received

Policies and Procedures: A policy change for assisting Veterans with rent assistance during this pandemic was requested. The following wording will be submitted to the Clark County Council following a motion by Shannon Roberts that was seconded by Jim Jensen and passed unanimously:

During a state or federal declaration of emergency, limitations on rental assistance due to accommodations made by governmental bodies to restrict evictions will not interfere with providing rental assistance to those Veterans who otherwise are eligible. Veterans can be assisted with up to six months of rental arrears during an emergency declaration.

May 2020 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 22 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 185 Veteran visits for essentials and food. The Free Clinic was not operating in May but was referring Veterans to needed dental care. The Fund balance at the end of May was \$788,897.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- The Center is open daily 9am-1pm, operating with three staff and one volunteer. Clients are not allowed in the building.
- Five Veterans received burial assistance in the past week.
- Rental assistance currently requires an eviction letter from Veteran's landlord.
- Stand Down date and location are to be determined. Supplies are being collected

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Open Forum

- On March 6, the VA took ownership of the Fourth Plain cemetery, which has been renamed The Fort Vancouver National Historic Cemetery.
- The recruiting center is now on the upper level of the mall

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Thursday, August 13, 2020.