

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Council

September 9, 2021
Meeting held remotely.

Chair: Kelly Jones

Vice Chair: Michael Harding

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
Gene Couture
Darren Wertz
Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Bruce Maas
Steve Slegers
Shannon Roberts
Michael Harding
David Daly
Greg Whitson
Jim Jensen
Kelly Jones
Michael Langsdorf
Kevin Lawson
Bryan McGillis
Tonya Wark

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers

John Rose

Les Schreiber
Vannis Pratt
Tom Cousino

John Stofiel
Dana Difford
Bruce Maas

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Mallory Huerta (WorkSource Vancouver); Mike Burton (CMAC); Jamie Spinelli (City of Vancouver); Andy Lexow (Lifeline Connection); Teri Graves (Cowlitz TVR); Tom Breitenbauch, Janet Snook (Clark County)

Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call

Approval of August 12, 2021, Meeting Minutes

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

Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC) 9/11 Remembrance (Mike Burton)

The 9/11 Remembrance begins with a flyover of F15s at 9:00am. It includes a rifle salute, taps, release of doves, and music by the 204th Army band. Ceremony is at Vancouver Waterfront Park. C-Tran is providing a shuttle.

Veteran Homelessness (Jamie Spinelli)

City of Vancouver is addressing homelessness by setting up sanctioned homesites. Location at 138th and 18th has been successful. Columbia River Mental Health will begin providing street medicine outreach. Share's Talking Trash program provides employment for individuals who are homeless. They average cleanup of 20 tons/month. Additional training will be provided for crews to engage with other homeless

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encampments. Currently there are 7 sanitation sites available. Discussion is resuming on creating community court for engaging individuals who are homeless. First reading of changes to the camping ordinance goes before Council on 9/13. Changes include adding buffers around some areas and a nighttime worker exemption for day sleeping. Veterans in need of assistance should call Council for the Homeless or Outsiders Inn coordinated outreach hotline (360.839.9964). Outreach is extending to weekends and evenings.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None.

Policies and Procedures: No updates.

July 2021 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 36 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 224 Veteran visits. The Free Clinic did not have any referrals in July. The Fund balance at the end of July was \$902,700.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- Volunteers are filling bags for Stand Down on 9/12
- The Fall 2021 Auction ends 9/14. Website: charityauction.bid/ccvacfall2021onlineauction.
- Thanks to all Veterans organizations for contributing towards \$2,000 needed for Stand Down match. Vancouver's Stand Down event is October 1st and 2nd, 9am-1pm at the River City Church, 2400 E Fourth Plain Blvd. This event is a drive-thru/walk-thru event.
- Helped over 60 families with school supplies.

Old Business

The Portland Stand Down is September 10, 9am-2pm outside at the Pagoda at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. They have scaled back the number of providers but will still have clothing, meals and resources.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

- Thrive to Survive at River City Church is this Sunday, providing housing services and resources.
- Samantha has accepted a position with the City of Vancouver, effective November 1.
- Nominations for VAB officers begin in October.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held October 14, 2021, at 2:00 pm.