

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

May 12, 2022

**Chair: Michael Harding**

**Vice Chair: Shannon Roberts**

**Secretary: Bruce Maas**

**Meeting called to order.**

**Roll Call:** [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

**POST**

40 et 8

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

Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

Morris Geisler

Darren Wertz

**Bob Nichols**

**Thomas Phillips**

**John Lovejoy**

**Bruce Maas**

Earl Edwards

**Steve Slegers**

Shannon Roberts

**Michael Harding**

Greg Whitson

**Kelly Jones**

Kevin Lawson

**Bryan McGillis**

**Tonya Wark**

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**

John Rose

Michael Gibson

Vanise Pratt

Tom Cousino

Dixie Hotaling

John Stofiel

Dana Difford

**Nick Herber**

**Clark County Representative: Emily Langston**

**Guests: Councilor Medvigy, Dr. Alan Melnick, Janet Snook** (Clark County); **Samantha Whitley** (City of Vancouver); **Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Jennifer Frost** (ESD); **Gene Couture**; CVTV23; **Joseph Fettig** (American Legion #122)

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of WWII veteran, Carl Langenfeldt.

**Approval of April 14, 2022, meeting minutes**

**The minutes were approved following a motion from Kelly Jones that was seconded by Nick Herber.**

**Recognition of Service to the Board** (Councilor Medvigy and Michael Harding)

Councilor Medvigy awarded plaques of appreciation to former County Board Coordinator, Samantha Whitley, and to former Board chair, Kelly Jones.

**Clark County Covid-19 status** (Dr. Alan Melnick)

Covid-19 case rates and hospitalizations are on the rise. Currently, one person infects, on average, 1.8 people. It is best this number be below 1. Although still considered in the low category, numbers have tripled in the past month. Case rates and hospitalizations are much higher in unvaccinated than vaccinated. Only 66 percent of Clark County residents have been vaccinated; only 57 percent of residents have received a booster. Wear a high-quality face mask if you're at increased risk of illness. When experiencing symptoms, stay home and get tested. Oral antivirals and monoclonal antibodies may be available from a healthcare provider within five days of onset.

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### **City of Vancouver Homeless Funding and CMAC Memorial Day event** (Samantha Whitley)

City of Vancouver approved nine programs to address homelessness through \$510,000 in CDBG funding. A survey to determine awarding of the HOME ARP funds has been conducted and decisions are being made.

CMAC is hosting the 2022 Memorial Day event at the Fort Vancouver Gazebo, Monday, May 30, 11 am. CMAC is also hosting a Heroes event, June 11, 11 am.

### **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None.

**Policies and Procedures:** The procedure for burial benefits will not be changed at this time. Further discussion to take place on coverage regardless of discharge status.

### **March 2022, Contractor & Fund Reports**

The fund assisted 44 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 173 veteran visits. The Free Clinic served 1 veteran. The WDVA filed 473 claims with 83 percent approval. The Fund balance at the end of February was \$654,979.

### **Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update**

- CMAC Hero Night will collect non-perishable foods for CCVAC
- In-person Stand Down scheduled for September 9, 9am-3pm, at River City Church. Donations are needed to cover increased costs. Department of Defense supplies are being received. May receive up to \$3,500 grant from DoD. Department of Labor may grant up to \$7,000. Match must be at least \$2,000 to receive this award
- 2022 Raffle in process. Tickets available at the office and at Heroes Night. Drawing at Paddle for Life
- Team *The Young and the Rest of Us* participating in Paddle for Life this year in Ridgefield

### **Old Business**

- Burial of veterans with other than honorable discharges, consistent with VA housing guidelines, requires a change to policies and procedures. A meeting will be scheduled
- C-Tran offers free four-year bus passes to veterans
- Food voucher increase is still awaiting County Manager approval or forwarding to the County Council

### **New Business**

No discussion

### **Open Forum**

- Reminder to stay vigilant against fraud and to be patient with the VSO
- Tonya Wark now at WorkSource

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 9, 2022