

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

May 11, 2023

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 #14

American Legion #44

American Legion #168

American Legion #176

American Veterans #6

Camas Post 27

DAV Chapter #4

Korean War Assoc. #321

Marine Corps League #826

VFW #4278

VFW #7824

Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

PRIMARY

Ron Fryer

Gene Couture

Darren Wertz

Bob Nichols

Thomas Phillips

John Lovejoy

Wes Forgey

Bruce Maas

Earl Edwards

Steve Slegers

Shannon Roberts

Michael Harding

Greg Whitson

Kelly Jones

Bryan McGillis

Tonya Wark

Tamara Elam

Megan Anderson

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers

Charles Ingalls

Michael Gibson

Vanise Pratt

Shawn O'Neil

Tom Cousino

Dixie Hotaling

John Stofiel

Dana Difford

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Emily Langston

Guests: Janet Snook (Clark County); Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre, Laurie Pugh; Joe Langdorf; Sonya Woods (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); CVTV23, Kara Siebert (Lifeline Connections); Scott Thacker (Council for the Homeless); Judith Johnson

Approval of April 13, 2023, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved with attendance corrections following a motion by Bob Nichols that was seconded by Tom Phillips.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None

Policies and Procedures: No discussion.

SWACH contract renewal discussion

The SWACH contract is set to expire in July. It has not been used in two years. **Bob Nichols made a motion to let the SWACH contract expire. Motion was seconded by Kelly Jones and carried.**

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Legislative update

- Bill that would have made changes to veteran's levy did not pass.
- David Puente Jr was confirmed as director of WDVA.
- Some bills that passed include:
 - HR4646 recognizes the aeronautics and military community's contribution to the state.
 - SHB1007 expands definition of veteran for purpose of benefits in state pension system.
 - 2SHB1009 established requirements related to professional licensing of military spouses.
 - SHB1355 expands qualification for veteran property tax relief.
 - ESSB5320 provides a pathway for veterans having 8,000 hours of experience in electrical construction towards becoming journey level.
 - SHB1346 establishes the Purple Star Award to recognize schools supporting students of military members.

More details available on the WDVA website.

March 2023, Contractor & Fund reports

The fund assisted 50 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 413 veteran visits. The WDVA filed 592 claims with 90 percent success. Waitlist is down to 94. The Fund balance at the end of March was \$573,516.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- Dee, new part-time CSO hire, started.
- CCVAC golf tournament June 6 at Tri Mountain golf course; \$150/person. Looking for players and sponsors.
- Stickers available for the 988-crisis line.
- Sonya Woods, CCVAC outreach officer, introduced.
- Stand Down will be September 29 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.
- Laurie Pugh, President, described what the VAC does and the need for more volunteers.

Old Business

- Central Park Place and Freedom's Path:
Direct service staff and property management for both complexes, and VA staff, will provide more information in the June meeting.
Council for the Homeless conducts housing assessments for civilian and military individuals/families and helps to find housing for them.
- Veterans levy: Representatives from the County Assessor's office will speak at the June meeting.
- The board does not meet in July.

New Business

WDVA will speak to the board and provide a local Town Hall in the future.

Open Forum

- Windhaven fundraiser at ilani, August 27
- County survey of high-speed internet requested to be completed
- 40et8 willing to help veterans, when requested
- May 13, fundraiser for NW Battle Buddies at ilani
- May 20, Hazel Dell parade
- May 24, Community Salutes
- May 29, Memorial Day service at Officers Row
- HEROES night at Pierson Airfield
- Still looking for volunteers for Wheelchair Games

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Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 8, 2023