

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

June 8, 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: CVTV23, Janet Snook, Emily Zwetzig (Clark County); Judy Russel, Dee Shaw, Laurie Pugh (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Kara Siebert (Lifeline Connections); Peter Van Nortwick, Michael Fish, Jill Blair (County Assessor's office); John Nanney (American Legion Post 168); Melanie Smith (VA VASH), Kit Kuran, Victor Caesar (VHA); Tony**

**Approval of May 11, 2023, meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by **Bob Nichols** that was seconded by **Gene Couture**.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** No discussion.

**Veterans Levy**

Washington legislature determines highest lawful levy amount by district. Clark County's veteran assistance fund levy rate is \$0.0078. RCW 73.78 states minimum should be 1 1/8 cents per \$1,000 value, but has allowance for County to collect less. A change to the rate must be approved by County Council and the Budget Office. The WDVA has a list of each county's collection rate.

**April 2023, Contractor & Fund reports**

The fund assisted 37 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 424 veteran visits. The Free Clinic billed \$730 for March. The Fund balance at the end of April was \$811,091.

# **Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

## ***An advisory board to the Clark County Council***

June 8, 2023

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

- Dee, new part-time CSO hire, started.
- CCVAC golf tournament June 6 at Tri Mountain golf course was a success. More veteran participation sought for next year.
- VSOs filed 593 claims with 90 percent success rate; almost 600 claims filed already this month.

### **Old Business**

- Central Park Place (CPP) and Freedom's Path: Freedom's Path only houses veterans. CPP renovation has resulted in vacancies: 22 private pay and 18 vouchers. Renovation will be complete in July. Priority given to veterans. Outreach, veterans by name list, and interest list used to contact veterans. VHA has 99-year land lease to operate CPP. Direct additional questions to [vcaesar@vhausa.com](mailto:vcaesar@vhausa.com).
- Request to have meeting reminder and agenda distributed 7-14 days ahead of the meeting to be in compliance with public meeting regulations.

### **New Business**

No discussion.

### **Open Forum**

- Windhaven fundraiser ride at ilani, August 26, 7am. Entry fee of \$30 per vehicle and \$10 per passenger requested. Online registration available. Lifeline Connections provides equine services free for veterans through donations. Equine therapy has proven success rate for PTSD, anxiety, and other stressors. Services provided as group or individual.
- No meeting in July
- Still looking for volunteers for Wheelchair Games

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting August 10, 2023