

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

November 9, 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

**Bob Brennan**  
**Gene Couture**  
Darren Wertz - excused  
**Bob Nichols**  
**Thomas Phillips**  
John Lovejoy  
Wes Forgey  
**Bruce Maas**  
Earl Edwards  
**Steve Slegers**  
**Shannon Roberts**  
**Michael Harding**  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Kelly Jones**  
Bryan McGillis - excused  
**Tonya Wark**  
**Tamara Elam**  
**Megan Anderson**  
Eli Gonzalez

### ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers  
**Charles Ingalls**  
Michael Gibson  
Vanise Pratt  
Shawn O'Neil  
Tom Cousino - excused  
Dixie Hotaling  
John Stofiel  
Dana Difford - excused  
Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy

Guests: CVTV23, Janet Snook, Alissa Page, Michael Torres (Clark County); Laurie Pugh, Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Dale Smith (Do Good Multnomah); Sonja Wood;

## Approval of October 12, 2023, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Shannon Roberts that was seconded by [inaudible].

## Contract budget approvals

The 2024 Free Clinic budget to be renewed at \$24,900. WDVA budget to be renewed at \$138,000. The Veterans Assistance Center budget to be renewed at \$800,000. Budgets can be increased if revenues come in higher and there is need. **Budgets were approved on motion by Bob Brennan that was seconded by Tonya Wark.**

## Committee Reports

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** No discussion.

**Nominations:** New officers are elected at the December meeting. Michael Harding is nominated for chair; Tom Philips is nominated for vice chair; Bruce Maas is nominated as secretary.

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### **September 2023, Contractor & Fund reports**

The fund assisted 63 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 514 veteran visits. The Free Clinic billed \$694 for 5 veterans. The Fund balance at the end of July was \$606,723. WDVA filed 882 claims with 90 percent success.

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

- Creating lists for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and Christmas toys.
- Tony Hier challenge to raise funds by December 31, will be doubled up to \$25,000.
- HVRP grant now managed by WDVA, to include services to Clark County veterans for employment opportunities. Contact John Stevens.

### **Old Business**

- Letters of Intent for members at large are due by year-end.
- VA transportation to Portland has not increased shuttle frequency due to lack of volunteer drivers.

### **New Business**

- Members at large non-attendance policy: Referred to policies and procedures committee. It is suggested to extend the same requirement to members at large as is set for VSO members.
- Suggestions for speakers in 2024:
  - Dr. Allan Martnez, VA outreach coordinator
  - Individuals addressing veteran housing, plus GDP
  - Food providers, such as Share
  - VSOs
  - David Puente, WDVA
  - Congresswoman Gluesenkamp-Perez
  - Coverage of veteran benefits

### **Open Forum**

- Veteran's Day parade at 11:00 am, Saturday, starting at Vancouver Barracks.
- Many retailers offer discounts for veterans.
- VSO fundraisers over Veterans Day weekend and preparing for assisting veterans over the holidays.
- Do Good Multnomah tiny homes construction (Vancouver Safe Stay 4) behind Kiggins Bowl opens December 15, with at least 6 beds reserved for Veterans. No children.
- Marine Corps' 240<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow.
- Suicide prevention hotline, 9-8-8.
- Veterans who received denials at the VAC are contacted for three months to provide assistance when possible.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting December 14, 2023