

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

December 14, 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
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
Eli Gonzalez
Michael Langsdorf

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: Abby Molloy

Guests: CVTV23, Janet Snook (Clark County); Lori Pugh, Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Tony Sprague (VA representative for Congresswoman Glusenkamp-Perez); Sonja Wood

Approval of November 9, 2023, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Bob Nichols that was seconded by Steve Slegers

Committee Reports

Appeals: None

Policies and Procedures: In discussion of bylaws section 4.3-Terms of Office, practice has been that members are allowed to serve three consecutive years in each position of chair and vice chair; and may be reelected after a year has elapsed not in office. The bylaws will be clarified with this language.

Nominations: Michael Harding is nominated for chair; Bob Nichols is nominated for vice chair; Bruce Maas is nominated as secretary.

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2024 Officer elections

Darren Wertz moved to approve the nominations. Motion carried.

Acceptance of 2024 Members at Large

Bob Nichols made a motion to approve the members at large. The motion was seconded by **Gene Couture** and passed.

October 2023, Contractor & Fund reports

The fund assisted 61 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 621 veteran visits. The Free Clinic billed \$722 for 5 veterans. The Fund balance at the end of July was \$609,789.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- Thanks to the board for continued support.
- Michael Harding to arrange tour with County Councilors of the Assistance Center.
- Council attempted to increase the VAF 1 percent, but were unable since they were increasing the general fund 1 percent. Law only allows a total of a 1 percent increase annually.

Old Business

- Members at large non-attendance policy: Terminology to include members at large to the same attendance policy as is established for VSO members will be added. Chair Harding will track and send letters to those in violation of the policy.
- Qualified veterans can get up to \$2,000 in burial assistance.

New Business

- Questions for Budget Office: Budget Office staff will speak at a meeting in 2024. Send questions to be addressed to Abby in advance.
- Community Forum: The Community Needs Assessment, to determine highest needs among low-income persons, is being drafted. Completion involves community feedback. Flyers are available.

Open Forum

- Safe Stay #4 open house 10-12pm, December 15. Governor and Mayor speaking at 11:15.
- 880 graves were covered by Wreaths Across America. Additional locations being done Saturday.
- Food baskets and toys are being provided by VSOs.
- A full-time mental health professional at the VAC would run about \$70,000 year. It is not in this year's budget.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting January 11, 2024