

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
April 12, 2018

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680
Vancouver, Washington

Chair: Morris Giesler

Vice Chair: Kelly Jones

Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #176
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Assoc. #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW # 12028
Vietnam Vets #512
Members at Large

PRIMARY

Steve Slegers
Dixie Hotaling
Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Morris Giesler
Earl Edwards
Ron Brandon
Shannon Roberts
Bruce Maas
Skip Benge
Greg Whitson
Kelly Jones
Kevin Lawson
Alan Martinez
James Mead
David Daley

ALTERNATE

Patrick Locke

Jonathan Frederick
Michael Langsdorf
Frank Hyatt
Jason Atkins
Steve Slegers
Sarah Aktepy
Tonja Wark

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: **Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre, Ron Abbey** (Veterans Assistance Center); **Rodger Morrison** (Windhaven Therapeutic Riding); **Jay Carstens, Lynn Mueller** (Clark County) **Michael Harding** (VFW #7824); **Tiffany Plous** (WorkSource)

March 8, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Dixie Hotaling that was seconded by James Mead.

Windhaven Therapeutic Riding Program update

Rodger Morrison presented an update to the Windhaven program. Veterans with PTSD and/or TBI are introduced to a program where the horse chooses the Veteran. The Veteran begins with groundwork and advances to trail riding in a series of therapies that develops relationships and trust, and promotes recovery. The program is by Veterans for Veterans.

Council for the Homeless new contract

Following a meeting of the Homeless ad hoc committee, a contract with Council for the Homeless (CFTH) was drafted to award \$70,000 of Veterans Assistance Funds toward housing Veterans who are currently homeless. To obtain assistance, Veterans must meet residency, income, and discharge criteria similar to other assistance. Information regarding those receiving assistance is entered into HMIS, which tracks any reentry into homelessness. Data from CFTH's monthly report will be shared at the VAB. The

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contract expires December 31, 2018. There was discussion regarding extending the vote until the next meeting. **A motion by James Mead to accept the contract was seconded by Ron Brandon. Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

Appeals: Two appeals were approved, and five were denied, as the applicants' income exceeded allowable limits.

Policies and Procedures:

Meetings are held 12:30-1:30 pm, preceding the Veteran's Advisory Board in room 680.

A recommendation to add 3.11.4, to provide up to \$200 in communication assistance over a 12-month period when circumstances require, was approved following a motion by Dixie Hotaling that was seconded by Nick Herber.

Dixie Hotaling made a motion to insert that appeals based on County Code would not be considered by the VAB, in section 5.1. Steve Slegers seconded the motion, and it passed.

Following next month's meeting, all proposed changes will be combined into a single document for VAB approval and County Council review.

February 2018 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund provided assistance to 31 Veteran households at a cost of \$13,720. The Veterans Assistance Center received 517 Veteran visits, including 319 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic treated seven patients. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$405,927 at the end of the month.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

- Tickets are available for the Sixth Annual Black and White Gala at the Heathman, May 18, 2018. Vancouver Mayor McEnery-Ogle will be the keynote speaker.
- A raffle for a Golden Boy Henry 22 military edition rifle is ongoing. Drawing will occur at the Warriors on Wheels car show, scheduled for August 25. Location is to be determined.
- The new website, CCVAC.net, is live.
- Judy asked that any members of the board who hear negative comments or rumors about the Center come and speak to her directly or take a tour of the Center to see the work that happens there daily.

Old Business

The Veterans Assistance Center needs more space. Samantha has contacted County General Services for possible available space, and is waiting for a response.

New Business

- County Council did not appropriate funding for CVTV to record the VAB. The Board may consider whether to include CVTV services out of the Veterans Assistance Fund.
- The Golden Corral buffet is now open in Vancouver. Expect specials for Veterans soon.

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Open Forum

- Vietnam Veterans Association fundraiser is June 9, at the Hazel Dell car wash on Hwy 99.
- Free dog and cat food and treats are given out at Post 176 on the first Thursday of every month between 12 and 2 PM.
- The USS Portland, a marine transport ship, is being commissioned on Saturday, April 21.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Thursday, May 10, 2018.