

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
February 8, 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 Bengé
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** (Veterans Assistance Center); **Michael Torres**, (Clark County), **Linda O’Leary** (Windhaven Therapeutic Riding); **Johnny Fairchild**, **Michael Harding** (guests); **Patrick Vernier** (Lewis and Clark Young Marines); **Carolyn Noack** (Free Clinic of SW Washington)

January 11, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Greg Whitson that was seconded by Dixie Hotaling.

Free Clinic Veterans Dental Program Information

The Free Clinic provides urgent care, fillings, extractions, and occasionally dentures or partials to Veterans who are low-income and uninsured. Cleanings are often referred to Clark College. The Clinic also provides information for other referral and resources.

Members at Large

A motion was made by Greg Whitson, and seconded by Earl Edwards to accept James Mead, Navy Veteran and 40 et 8 member, and David Daley, Marine Veteran and member of many Veteran organizations, as new Members at Large. Motion carried.

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Committee Reports

Appeals: No appeals were received in January.

Policies and Procedures: The next policies and procedures meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018, at the Veterans Assistance Center. Proposals generated from the February meeting include:

- Sections 3.10 and 3.11: Remove twice in a lifetime limits, as records are only required to be kept for two years.
- Section 1.3: Add that VAB representation for members and alternates from Clark County Veterans Service Organization is valid for one year, and each organization is entitled to only one vote on the board.
- Section 1.4: Remove “every three years” from contracting through the procurement process.
- Section 2.7: Add that the residency requirement may be waived for any Veteran accepted into a HUD VASH program.
- Section 3.5: Allow utility assistance of up to \$2,000 in a 24 month period. Remove twice in a lifetime limits.
- Section 3.7: Change the requirement for obtaining a bus pass to four appointments in a month from 15 appointments.
- 3.11.2: Allow dental services to include restorative work.
- 3.11.3 Add new section for storage that permits up to \$750 to cover past due storage and rental fees in 24 months to prevent loss of personal items. Veteran must have a notice that items will be sold at auction.

The proposed changes will be distributed for further discussion at the next board meeting. The next policies meeting will also discuss additional ideas for services for Veterans who are homeless.

December 2017 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund provided assistance to 63 Veteran households at a cost of \$25,978. The Veterans Assistance Center received 652 Veteran visits, including 303 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic treated four patients at the clinic. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$417,133 at the end of December. Nine denials in December were not appealed. Revenue in 2017 totaled \$810,500; expenses totaled \$591,251.

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.
- There have been fewer visits in February, likely due to fair weather. Disability claims are rising.
- A raffle for a Golden Boy Henry 22 military edition rifle is ongoing. Drawing will occur in August.

Old Business

Three bills related to Veterans are still in committee at the legislature. Partners in Careers is writing a proposal for the VA GDP funding.

New Business

- Veterans are encouraged to volunteer to assist children at the Kline fishing event in April and to represent all VSOs.
- The next CMAC-sponsored Our Community Salutes is at Skyview High School, Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. This event recognizes students who are entering the military.
- Johnny Fairchild, a digital marketer, will be talking to the Veterans Assistance Center about increasing the social media image of Clark County Veterans’ services to outreach to younger

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Veterans. Recently, the Center added a social media chair and has a webmaster donating time. Additional resources are welcome. More information will be provided at the March meeting.

Open Forum

- Patrick Vernier of Lewis and Clark Young Marines is requesting Veterans attend a meeting at the Elk's Lodge on Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1:00-2:00 p.m., to speak to 40 new recruits about their experiences. The Young Marines provide color guard flag ceremonies, and volunteer activities in the community to serve Veterans.
- Clark County Council requests more focus on Veterans who are homeless. A physician will be speaking about PTSD at the March meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Thursday, March 8, 2018.