

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Board of Councilors
January 11, 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
Kevin Lawson
Kelly Jones
Alan Martinez

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: Donna Settles, Sharon Tyre (Veterans Assistance Center); **Michael Torres, Vanessa Gaston** (Clark County)

December 14, 2017, Meeting Minutes

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

Department of Community Services Update

Vanessa Gaston introduced the Clark County Strategic Plan, explaining that it provides focus for the department and for the County going forward. The County is moving to priority-based budgeting. Programs are emphasizing outcomes and data-based decision-making. Strategic partnerships are being developed to provide more coordinated and integrated service delivery. Services are being evaluated through an equity lens to ensure access for the entire community. The Strategic Plan identifies who we are and what we do. Developing the plan was a collaborative, staff-led project, and incorporated feedback from advisory boards and community groups. Four key areas were identified: Housing Stability; Well-Being; Economic Advancement; and Connected and Resilient Community. To fulfill the goals of the plan, a consultant has been hired to help collect data from all programs into a single useful location, all contracts are being reviewed for inclusion of outcomes, and attention is being given to equity, outreach and engagement, and priority-based budgeting.

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2018 Committee Assignments

Volunteers for the Appeals Committee include: Michael Gibson, Skip Benge, Kevin Lawson, Ron Brandon, and Shannon Roberts.

Volunteers for the Policies and Procedures Committee include: Dixie Hotaling, Alan Martinez, Kelly Jones, and Steve Slegers.

Committee Reports

Appeals: No appeals were received in December.

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

Discussion in January included:

- Section 3.11.4: storage, to provide a one-time use for up to three months;
- Section 3.7: transportation, regarding alternatives to the required 15 appointments. Also, clarification needs to be obtained on coordinating with C-Tran's use of the HOP card.
- Section 2.7: housing vouchers. A proposal regarding waiving the residency requirement for out-of-state veterans who have met all HUD VASH requirements was submitted. It will be emailed to members to share with their Posts for further consideration.

November Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund provided assistance to 68 veteran households at a cost of \$24,528. The Veterans Assistance Center received 589 Veteran visits, including 279 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic treated four patients at the clinic. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$474,635 at the end of November.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

- In December, 2,500 lbs. of food was donated through barrel collections located at various Walmart stores.
- The Black and White Gala will be held May 15, 2018, at the Heathman. Vancouver Mayor McEnerny-Ogle will be the keynote speaker.
- Several volunteer families adopted Veteran families for Christmas.

Old Business

Policy/Code Change Hearing, December 19: Recommendations involving code and policy changes were approved by the County Council.

Clark County, in conjunction with community partners, is looking at applying for a VA grant for housing Veterans. The grant is due by the end of February.

2018 LOI Reminder: Posts and members at large that have not yet submitted their Letters of Intent for Advisory Board representation are encouraged to do that immediately.

Letters for Members at Large have been received for 2018. The proposed members at large are Kelly Jones, Kevin Lawson and Alan Martinez. **Bruce Maas moved to accept the members at large. The motion was seconded by Steve Slegers, and carried.**

New Business

No discussion at this time.

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Open Forum

- Chair Boldt shared concern for housing Veterans who are homeless. Representatives from the Veterans Assistance Center are encouraged to attend the Coalition of Service Providers and Homeless Veteran by Name list meetings, which discusses homelessness in the community.
- Sporting Systems, in downtown Vancouver, supports Clark College veterans. Recently, they conducted a fundraiser for a Veteran who had a premature baby.

Adjourn

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