

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

October 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 Benge

Greg Whitson

Kelly Jones

Kevin Lawson

James Mead

David Daly

Michael Harding

Bryan McGillis

Michael Langsdorf

ALTERNATE

Patrick Locke

Jonathan Frederick

Frank Hyatt

Jason Atkins

Steve Slegers

Sarah Aktepy

Tonja Wark

Tom Mielke

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Veterans Assistance Center); **Ryan Treglown** (Clark County); **Debbie Crawford** (Lewis and Clark Young Marines)

September 13, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved on a motion by **Steve Slegers** that was seconded by **Dixie Hotaling**.

Veterans Assistance Fund Overview and Outlook

The Fund anticipates receiving an estimated \$650,000 from property tax and timber revenue in 2018, and \$118,468 allocated from the county general fund. The Fund also has a healthy reserves balance of \$417,000. No changes are recommended for 2019.

Lewis and Clark Young Marines

The Young Marines are seeking sponsors for 2,000 wreaths to be placed on Veteran gravesites at Evergreen Memorial Gardens on December 15. Wreaths are \$15, of which \$5 supports the Young Marines. Orders may be placed online at WreathsAcrossAmerica.org or by mailing a check to the Young Marines. The Young Marines, ages 8-18, provide color guards, flag ceremonies, tree planting, and assistance at the Stand Down, among other activities.

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2019 Contract Discussion and Approval

A motion was made by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by James Mead to approve contractual obligations at the same rate as 2018. Motion carried. This includes \$628,197 for the Veterans Assistance Center, \$22,825 for the Free Clinic dental program, \$70,000 for Council for the Homeless, and no additional funds for the WDVA contract, which has yet to start.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Four appeals were approved.

Policies and Procedures:

Discussion included:

- Add “documentation must be provided as requested” to Section 3.11.4. Communication.
- Allow housing assistance every 12 months in Section 3.4. **This discussion was tabled for 90 days to obtain additional data following a motion by David Daly that was seconded by Ron Brandon and passed.**

The next meeting is November 8, at 12:30.

August 2018 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 66 Veteran households at a cost of \$27,615. The Veterans Assistance Center received 571 Veteran visits, including 230 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic treated six patients. The Veterans Assistance Fund balance was \$560,040 at the end of the month.

August 2018 CCVAC Monitoring Report

No problems were found in the monitoring of the Veterans Assistance Center. Communication between VSOs was highly commendable, and all interviewed Veterans rated the Center very positively. Suggestions included more outreach and marketing to raise awareness of services, and more affordable housing in Clark County. The Columbian followed the monitoring with a story.

Letters of Interest for 2019 Membership

All organizations are reminded to submit their Letters of Interest.

Veterans Assistance Center Update

- Members are encouraged to attend a meeting with a VSO assisting clients to gain a better understanding of how they serve.
- The Center’s landlord has agreed to not increase the lease amount in 2019.
- Sunshine Division is providing 30 food boxes for both Thanksgiving and Christmas to be distributed to Veterans in need.
- Home Instead Senior Care is gathering names of elderly Veterans to receive gifts from the Be-A-Santa program.
- The Columbian will provide free advertisement for the Center between September 1 and December 21 when they have space available.
- Between October 15 and November 30, Legacy 6 Construction will advertise the Center on KPAM.
- The Stand Down served 194 male, 26 female, and 1 transgender Veteran, of which 93 were homeless. Over 1.5 million pounds of clothing and supplies were given, and 467 meals were served.
- The Center received \$8,450 from the Give More 24 campaign.
- Sponsors are needed for the July 13, 2019, Paddle for Life at Vancouver Lake.
- The Storm City Roller Girls fundraiser is November 10, at the Clark County Event Center.

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Old Business

No discussion at this time.

New Business

- Contributions were accepted from members for the Young Marines.
- Nominations of new officers will begin at the November meeting.

Open Forum

- Volunteer Veterans Solutions Action Committee assisted in locating potential additional parking for the Vancouver VA campus. It is waiting on action by the VA.
- The Veterans Day parade is November 10, starting at Providence Academy.
- Fort Vancouver High School is hosting a Veterans Day event at 9 a.m., November 8.
- The 40et8 Holiday Spooktacular is October 27, in the boxcar room.
- A Veterans hiring event is November 14, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.
- Columbia Credit Union will donate \$100 to Veteran organizations for every new auto loan in November.
- Veterans are able to acquire free pets from the Humane Society in November in honor of Veterans Day.
- The Leaders Prayer Breakfast is at the Hilton on November 8, at 7 a.m.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Center for assisting a Veteran get on his feet. He was also housed by Kleen Street and initiated a contract with the Lord's Gym to pursue his goals.
- A new edition of "A Smoldering Wick," a book about PTSD written by member Ron Brandon, is now available.

Adjourn

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