

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

May 9, 2024

Chair: Michael Harding

Vice Chair: Bob Nichols

Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting; *italics indicates excused*]

POST

40 et 8

American Legion #14

American Legion #44

American Legion #168

American Legion #176

American Veterans #6

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

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

Lloyd Bowman

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers

Charles Ingalls

Michael Gibson

Vanise Pratt

Tom Cousino

Dixie Hotaling

Ron Brandon

Dana Difford

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy

Guests: CVTV23, Dawn Lee (Clark County); Temple Lentz, Carol Ross, Katharine Nevit, Joshua Jones, Ana Betancourt-Macias, Sophie Wade (The Historic Trust); Lori Pugh (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Judy Russel (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center)

Approval of March 14, 2024, 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: Draft change to Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) Homeless Veterans Support Fund (HVSF) policies approved following a motion by Bob Nichols and seconded by Gene Couture.

Nominations: Michael Harding is resigning position of chair. Bob Nichols will move into chair position starting June meeting. Megan Anderson selected for Vice Chair position by majority vote.

The Historic Trust Presentation (Temple Lentz, Joshua Jones, Ana Betancourt-Macias, Sophie Wade)

The Historic Trust presents Marshall Leadership Awards in partnership with the City of Vancouver. This award honors General Marshall who served on site in Vancouver and went on to serve as Army Chief of Staff in WW2, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, President of Red Cross, received Nobel Peace Prize, etc. Awards celebrate and support

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local rising leaders who embody 9 leadership principles. Candidates need to be nominated by community members. This year, there were 17 nominees for adult awards and 55 nominations for youth awards. Most applications in recent years. Volunteers on selection committees selected finalists – one adult and youth recipient were selected for scholarships/honorariums. Joshua Jones (2023 adult recipient), Ana Betancourt-Macias (2024 adult recipient), and Sophie Wade (2024 youth recipient) shared their stories, experience, and passions. These individuals are leaders in our community, and many go on to lead important work around the country and world.

March 2024, Contractor & Fund reports

- CCVAC: 46 Veterans served in March, services totaling \$21,582. 40 male veterans, 5 female veterans, 1 widow served. 8 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 618 visits to the center for essentials and food, 799 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 33 food boxes provided. 708.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$17,493 in value.
- Free Clinic: 3 Veterans served in March. Services totaled \$1,846 in value; billed \$711.76.
- WDVA: First quarter: 960 claims, 91% “batting average”, \$1,513,114 VA payments
- VAC Fund: March revenue: \$56,460; expenditures: \$117,309; fund balance: \$494,878

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update

- Gala is on July 16th and Ilani Casino. Please come and show your support. Upcoming Stand Down is September 27th. WDVA Service Officers are doing incredible work (91% batting average).
- Steward Bower at VA is also doing amazing work with a similar equivalency of claims.
- Tickets to Gala are \$150 each and a table for 8 is \$1200.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- The Veterans Center of Excellence at Clark College has 10-year anniversary coming up. Celebration is on May 21st from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. Everyone is invited, please come to show your support.
- Request to Temple Lentz to have Veterans at front of parade on Veteran’s Day.
- Tonya contacted WDVA about HVRP grant for SW Washington. Asked for statistics and they are working on it – number of Veterans in our area they have served, how much money they spent, what actions they have done.
- Will prep for Assessor’s visit at June meeting.

Open Forum

- Looking for land to open Veteran’s cemetery in Clark County, with WDVA. There are 3 cemeteries in North County, but need to coordinate with districts. Bob is hoping to coordinate with a staff member next week.
- Upcoming events:
 - May 8th: Community Salutes Program – can view on CVTV
 - May 18th: Armed Forces Day
 - May 27th: Memorial Day services and celebrations
 - Do Good is sponsoring a “rucksack march” in Portland
 - June: Rose Festival
- Point Man International is changing name to Veterans Outreach COTR. Meet every week on Friday night.
- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, dial 988. If a Veteran, press 1.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 13th, 2024.