

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
40 et 8 Chateau
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington
August 12, 2009

Chair: Peggy Sheehan
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: Mike Jajan

Meeting Called to order by Peggy Sheehan @ 14:02

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion 5th District
American Legion #14
American Legion #122
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #208
DAV Chapter #4
DSHS Veteran's Project
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512
American Legion #189
American Vets #6
VFW #1927
VFW #12011

PRIMARY

Daniel Tarbell
Thomas Dombeck
Peggy Sheehan
Richard Puttkamer
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Thomas Dombeck
Bruce Maas
Bill Allman
Lou Baste
Stephen Stetson
William Weglage
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson
INACTIVE
INACTIVE
INACTIVE
INACTIVE

SECONDARY

John Clapp

Charles Bailey
Jack Jones
William Romine
Philip Yasson
Jerry Keesee
Frank Samaya

Ron Brandon
Robert Hitchcock

Mark Woods
Jerry Keen

American Legion Service Officer **Mike Jajan**

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Munroe, Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Mayor Royce Pollard, Councilmember Larry Smith, Jerry Vincent – AL 14, Karla Bean, John Russell – MCL 826, Ron Sparley

Community Presentation: Mayor Royce Pollard spoke to the committee about the VASH vouchers the VHA will be receiving for homeless veterans. He is asking the committee to consider changing their policies to include paying for security deposits. This change would allow homeless veterans to be approved through the VHA process for the VASH voucher program, then receive the security deposit through the Veterans Service Fund (VSF) to get them into an apartment. The belief is that many homeless veterans do not have the capability to save \$500-1,000 for the security deposit. Mayor Pollard reiterated that all veterans going into the program will be certified through the VHA. He also asked for donations of household furnishings for these veterans.

Peggy handed out "Suggested Changes to Policy and Procedures" that include the change to the security deposit policy among other minor alterations. Greg Whitson expressed concern that the VSF get the refunded security deposit back when the veteran moves from the unit to be used to help future veterans.

After some discussion including verifying the fund can support this change, Mike Gibson motioned to accept the changes recommended; seconded by Greg Whitson. The motion was approved by roll call vote. (See attached)

Councilmember Larry Smith spoke briefly about the Celebrate Freedom Festival that will be held on September 19th. The event is a farewell ceremony for the 104th Training Division that is moving up to Fort Lewis due to base realignment. Festivities include a pancake breakfast, 104th Training Division historic display, farewell ceremony and community festival. Donations can be made at www.fortvan.org. See attached flyer for more information.

John Russell distributed a couple of flyers for the Stand Down scheduled on September 21st. He mentioned that the committee has received \$4,740 in donations so far, exceeding the \$2,000 expected and that several organizations have signed up to be represented at the event. John also discussed that they have not yet received word on the Dept of Labor grant the committee applied for. The County has received purchase orders to pay for the rental space and the food. Peggy asked if the veterans needed to show proof of residency as the VSF policies state the recipient of services must be a Washington State resident for at least one year. John said that they do not take that into consideration as it is too difficult to prove at an event like this. After some discussion, Pete said he would check with the County to verify if veterans' status or residency should be considered at the event.

Meeting Minutes: Ray Saranto motioned to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded by Lou Baste and passed.

Service Officer's Report: Mike Jajan presented the Service Officer's report for July with expenses of \$21,417.16. He explained that food and housing requests have increased while utility requests are down. Peggy asked for some clarification on the food assistance. She asked if the veterans receive the full \$250 in funds at one time and, if so, where do homeless vets keep the food? Mike replied that they do receive the full payment at one time and that he wasn't sure where they kept it. He did mention that several veterans will buy some groceries and get the rest of the amount on a gift card. There is some concern on this as gift cards can be used to purchase items that are not allowed in the policies such as tobacco, alcohol and lottery products. Mike mentioned that the policies do not specifically state that the veterans

cannot use the funds for gift cards. Pete mentioned that the County is working with the American Legion and Fred Meyer on a voucher system where the recipients of the voucher can only purchase specific items and cannot receive remaining funds in cash or gift cards. He mentioned that the County is waiting for the American Legion to complete the paperwork to get this program started.

Share Caseworker's Report: Pete Munroe reviewed Share's June report. There are five veterans remaining in the program with one graduating at the end of July. He mentioned that the contract will end at the end of the year.

Old Business: Pete briefly discussed the financial report for the VSF. As of June there is a balance of \$1,068,000.

Pete mentioned that the Letter of Intent has been changed to Letter of Appointment to be consistent with the By-Laws. The new version is now on the County website and next years' version will be sent out in October.

Mark Woods wanted some clarification regarding the funding for the Stand Down. The understanding that the Stand Down Committee has is that the funding from the VSF through the County is a grant to be used as needed for the Stand Down. He feels that any questions regarding restrictions of the funds should be answered by the County directly to the committee, not by the Stand Down committee to the VRC. John Russell provided an email from Commissioner Tom Mielke stating that the funds are supposed to be a grant. The Stand Down committee feels that the funds should be given directly to their treasurer to be used at their discretion. Greg Whitson mentioned that the VRC agreed to the grant to pay for anything that the Stand Down committee did not receive grants to cover and that the VSF would be reimbursed as donations and other grants were received. Pete clarified that Bill Barron approved of the grant knowing that it would be impossible for the event to specify residency, but that most participants would be from Washington.

Committee Reports: Peggy handed out the Priority Veterans Improvements and Organizational Actions for the committee to review and vote on. These recommendations come from the Strategic Planning sessions held earlier this year. After minimal discussion Greg Whitson motioned to approve the goals; seconded by Dan Tarbell. The motion was approved by roll call vote. (See attached)

Good of the Order: Steve Stetson introduced himself, he is a new member to the committee and the commander of VFW post 4278.

Meeting adjourned at 15:26.

Next meeting: September 9, 2009 at 14:00.