

Veteran Advisory Board Minutes, January 25th, 2017

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in Attendance: Rod Davis, Ken Slininger, Gary Bracht, Eileen Boylston, Mark Owens, Fil Rivera and Eileen Bornheimer. David Ristrom (absent).

Guests: Tom Taylor (new Commissioner), Rex Rogers, Anthony Chesser, and Luis Torres

2. Everyone introduced themselves.

3. Old Business:

- a. Discussed the need for someone to track and provide information to the board regarding use of the County Veteran Fund like Karen Hand provided us. Provided information on how it was done in the past, Requested assistance from Tom Taylor on this issue. Tom Taylor said he would look into it.
- b. Discussed hiring a County Service Officer. Rod said he had talked to Barb (at county), she told him that the HR had been ill. Tom Taylor said he would follow-up when he gets back.
- c. Board Vacancy. The board voted and approved Rex Rogers to be our new board member.
- d. New Business
 - a. Anthony Chesser, Yakima Veteran Center, discussed that they would like to put on the “50th Year Commemoration of the Vietnam War Ceremony during our Veteran Stand Down on September 16th. He said the Ceremony could take up to 1 ½ hours. It was discussed that it would be best to start with this event. That the Ceremony could take place 9-10:30. Discussed having the Ceremony in the Commercial Building, we would also need chairs rented for that; the board voted and approved doing this – Eileen Boylston will check with the Fairgrounds to see if the Commercial Building is available as well as chairs on September 16th. Tom Taylor asked why we have to pay for the Fairgrounds when we are part of the county, he said he would look into this. The Yakima Veteran Center will take care of all aspects of the Ceremony except for the space, sound system, and chairs. The Veteran Job & Resource Fair, Stand Down, would follow the Ceremony and begin at 10:30 and last until 2pm.
 - b. Three current board members are coming due to renew their appointments, Ken Slininger & David Ristrom expire in March; Rod Davis expires in April. Ken & Rod agreed to renew. David Ristrom absent this meeting. Rod will submit the re-appointment letters to the Commissioners; as well as the appointment letter for Rex Rogers.
 - c. The County Commissioner, Tom Taylor, talked about Grant money that might be utilized providing housing for homeless veterans, the veteran board is totally behind this idea. Fil talked about some things that are being done now; and Luis talked briefly about partnering with HopeSource.
 - d. Fil brought up that on some vouchers all the signatures are his and recommended that items like the Storage area, Fairgrounds and such go to Rod as well. Rod agreed. On all these items, the board had voted and approved them prior to execution.

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 4pm, at the Grant County Courthouse in the Commissioners Conference Room.