

Veteran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2018

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in attendance: Ken Slininger, Gary Bracht, Fil Rivera, Rex Davis, Carrie McCormick, Jim Brakebill, and Eileen Boylston

Absent: Mark Owens

VSO: Jerry Gingrich

Guests: Gary Krause
Tom Taylor
Linda Stadd
John Coleman

2. Reading and approval of the old minutes.

Old Business:

- Reviewed Grant County Veteran Assistance Fund.
- Discussed briefly VAB Vacancy, announcement for opening will be posted shortly, must be honorably discharged veteran, at large opening.
- Veterans Court. Gary talked about the Veteran Court in Spokane, is planning to make a trip in the future to see how they run their veteran court. There is a question of how many veterans we actually have that might utilize a veteran court, and Gary noted that some new software may make finding that out possible in the future. Rex also noted that Thurston County is supposed to have one of the best programs in the state. Fil just noted on the side that incarcerated veterans need to inform VA of their incarceration or can potentially incur large overpayments.
- Discussed the surveys from the Stand Down and the event in general. It went very well and we had the best turnout yet. Set a tentative date of Sept 28, 2019 for next year, and looking at both the 4H Building and the Commercial Building. Spoke briefly about inviting the Mobil Dental Clinic next year, and having the AMR available as well (American Medical Response). To also invite those who do the Honor Guard at Fairchild. Discussed possibly having someone from the Fairchild JAG Office also participate next year ref wills.
- Jerry will lock in the Fairgrounds for our next Stand Down.

3. New Business:

- Presented Ziggy's a plaque and a letter from the Commissioners thanking them for their various years supporting our annual stand down by providing assistance storing goods, and using their forklift to move pallets.
- Jerry noted that he will be setting up some voucher training in November.
- Voted for VAB positions, voted in were Ken for Chair, Fil for Co-Chair, and Eileen for Secretary; Cary offered to help with Secretary position when needed.
- Discussed the Warming Center, and how we can get the numbers of how many veterans use it.

- Linda Stadd talked briefly about her project to get a block of land for homeless veterans near Grand Coulee, she noted that she knows it is a long term goal and she is early in the process, but that is it greatly needed in our area. She has a specific piece of land in mind, it was recommended that she start with talking to the County Commissioners.

4. Next meeting:

- Quarterly Meeting. Wednesday, January 9th, 4pm, Grant County Courthouse, Ephrata.