

Veterans Assistance Fund of Skagit County

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 1300

Called to Order

- ❖ Robert Stratton called to order the regular (virtual) meeting of the Skagit County Veterans Assistance Fund at 1311 on Tuesday, April 12, 2022
- ❖ *We have a quorum and can continue with business*

Attendance – Total Attendees (9)

1. Robert Stratton - VAF Board Chair
 2. Carmina Villalobos – Community Action of Skagit County / Vets Connect
 3. Bob Garrison - VVA / American Legion Post 91 / Governor’s Advisory Board
 4. Sue Gregg - Mount Vernon Elks / VFW Auxiliary
 5. Riki - Community Action of Skagit County
 6. Vernon Hunter - Community Action of Skagit County / Vets Connect
 7. April Patterson – American Legion Post 91
 8. Randi Bowman - Worksource Skagit Disabled Veterans Case Manager
 9. Chris Diaz - Skagit Valley College / Skagit County VSO
 10. Susan Brisby - VASH Coordinator / VetsConnect
-

**Absent Members: Sarah Hinman*

Meeting Minutes Approval

- ❖ There were no minutes to review as there was no quorum last month

Reports

- ❖ Carmina Villalobos – Financial / Vets Connect Report
 - Financial report available upon request
 - \$6,000 - emergency shelter
 - \$450 - transportation / car repair
 - \$1,322 - miscellaneous VASH move-in (household, mattress, etc.)
 - \$600 - senior stipend (2)
 - April motioned that we accept this report as presented
 - Susan seconded the motion
 - Motion passes
- ❖ Vernon Hunter - Community Action / Vets Connect / VSO
 - Service Officer Update
 - Chris Diaz is our new Skagit County Veteran Service Officer
 - Any update on how the presentation for the 100 year old WW2 veteran went?
 - Bob Stratton said Perry and Elaine Taylor presented Earl Johnson with a

certificate and a card. Bob S. was not able to make it due to schedule conflicts. He has not received any feedback about that.

- ❖ Susan Brisby - VASH Update
 - We only have one voucher right now. There are several vouchers tied to MOUs (memorandums of understanding) with the new housing projects
 - There are current agreements with Martha's Place (Catholic Communities project) and two Skagit County Housing Authority projects
 - We are always looking for rentals or transitional housing. Contact Susan with info

Old Business

- ❖ Meeting preferences - Virtual or In-Person
 - April and Susan like the convenience of Zoom meetings.
 - Bob S. likes to see people in person, but is up for hybrid meetings
 - We need to get clarification as to who would be handling the hybrid portion of the meeting. Chris Diaz is interested in helping handle the technology part of the meeting (upon clarification of responsibility)
 - Chris Diaz will get clarification from Sarah about where that responsibility falls
 - For now, the board is in agreement to continue virtual meetings

New Business

- ❖ Riki's last day will be Friday, April 15, 2022.
 - Vernon said kind words about Riki's journey from work study to here
 - The board is sad to see her go but excited to see what she does next!
- ❖ The board needs to address the financial boundaries of the fund
 - We would like to set up a committee to present information to the county to challenge the current financial guidelines
 - These numbers were created several years ago and have not changed to keep up with cost of living changes here in Skagit County.
 - Susan Brisby, Robert Garrison, and April Patterson will be on this committee
 - They will get together and get a report ready to present to the board so we can bring it to the attention of the county and make changes!
 - TJ appreciates this as he is tired of programs being based on income. He wants to help any veteran that comes in for assistance. He feels we are doing more for migrant workers than we are doing for our veterans.
 - Susan reminded him that we are focused on veterans and not concerned with other groups (this fund only supports veterans)

Good Of the Order

- ❖ TJ feels like we should be doing more for our veterans
 - The board really appreciates veterans like TJ that are out there speaking up. Even if the ideas can't be implemented exactly like we want, we can still make change with voices like his. We Hear You, TJ!
- ❖ Susan Brisby is turning 30! Just kidding, she is turning 65 years old! She is inviting

everyone to the Revival Lounge on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, to celebrate with her. There will be live music, food and drinks! Happy Birthday, Susan!

Adjournment

- ❖ ***Bob S. motioned for the meeting to adjourn***
 - o TJ seconded the motion***
 - o Motion passed unanimously***
- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 1352

Minutes submitted by: April Patterson, Secretary

Minutes approved by: