

Veterans Advisory Board of Skagit County

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, August 08, 2023, at 1300
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA, 98273-5625

Attendance – Total Attendees

1. Pete Sill – VAB Board Chair / CVMA
2. April Patterson – VAB Second Vice Chair / American Legion Post 91
3. Chris Diaz - Skagit County Veteran Service Specialist
4. Carmina Villalobos - Community Action of Skagit County
5. Jamie Thornberry - American Legion Conway
6. Bob Stratton - VFW
7. Rebecca Skrinde - Helping Hands
8. See Sign in sheet for full attendance

Call to Order

- Pete Sill called to order the regular meeting of the Skagit County Veterans Advisory Board at 1302 on Tuesday, August 08, 2023.
- We have a quorum and can continue with business

Meeting Minutes Approval

- July 2023 minutes were available for review
 - Printed copies available - all members should have received an email with these minutes for review before the meeting
- ***Rebecca S. motioned that we accept the VAB general meeting minutes as presented***
 - ***Bob S. seconded the motion***
 - ***Motion passed unanimously***

Reports

- Pete Sill - Board Chair Report
 - We will be reviewing the policies and procedures at the end of this meeting. Everyone is welcome but not required to stay.
- Carmina Villalobos – Financial / Vets Connect Report
 - Financial Report is attached as well as included in the earlier email
 - We have three veterans on the senior stipend right now
 - We are providing subsidies for two units in Cascade Landing
 - We have two transitional units in Cascade Landing, one of which has not been filled.
 - The background checks for Cascade Landing have been a factor in not being able to fill this unit.

- TJ disagrees with the background checks. He feels everyone deserves to have the opportunity to live there.
 - The board is being asked to move the money for that unfilled unit to the direct services account
 - The board will need to vote once we see a formal request.
 - We will be voting by email in the interest of time
 - Any request for funds can be presented to the board for consideration
 - Requests for reserve funds are done annually
 - ***TJ Molendyk motioned to accept the August financial reports as presented***
 - ***Rebecca S. seconded the motion***
 - ***Motion passes unanimously***
 - There will be an all staff retreat next month which will result in VetsConnect being closed.
- Chris Diaz (Skagit County Veteran Service Specialist)
 - Chris invited Richard LaFrazier, the new regional coordinator for the peer support and suicide prevention program to this meeting.
- VASH Report
 - We have 8 units in Mount Vernon filled
 - Two units still available at Martha's Place

Old Business

- We will be reviewing the December policies and procedures at the end of this meeting. Everyone is welcome but not required to stay.

New Business

- Kelly has an older veteran that needs help with cleaning out a home. Will need to consider safety and health precautions for this project.
 - Rebecca has a connection with ServPro. She will reach out and help with this
- A new position will be opening up soon for a HUD/VASH specialist!
- Jeremy Albert has been invited to join our board
 - ***TJ Molendyk motions to accept Jeremy Albert as a board member***
 - ***Rebecca seconds the motion***
 - ***Motion passes unanimously***

Good of the Order

- Sue Gregg - The Elks is participating in the back to school fair on August 19, 2023, from 10:00am - 1:00pm at Maiben Park
 - We can always use more volunteers - see Sue for more information or to help
- Shannon from the library wants to offer veterans a way to schedule time with her for tech support and assistance

- Randi is dealing with health issues, but she is back to work. Keep her in your thoughts!
- Rebecca helped seven vets - they have more funding to help seniors (55+ years old)
- The American Legion in Burlington will be having a first responders breakfast on September 10, 2023, from 0800-1100.
 - Will be at the Burlington Senior Center on Greenleaf
 - We hope to have some fire trucks and other emergency vehicles for the kids to check out!
 - See April or TJ for more information or to help!
- Jamie - Questions
 - She has concerns about the policies and procedures that were changed without going through the proper process to do so.
 - She has concerns about us reviewing the December policies and procedures instead of the June ones.
 - There were changes made from June to December. We still need to review the June changes that were made without authorization.
 - She has questions about the money being moved from the transitional unit funding to the direct services account
 - Jamie has asked questions in the last several meetings without a satisfactory response. She is now asking if she should meet with the commissioners to discuss her concerns.
- Pete Sill is frustrated and has decided to resign from the board, effective immediately.
 - Pete will send a formal resignation to the commissioners after the meeting
 - This caused First Vice, Bob Garrison, to be designated as the board chair
 - This also resulted in the Second Vice, April Patterson, being moved to the First Vice position.
 - Bob Garrison was not present.
 - April Patterson took over as acting board chair to continue the meeting
- We no longer have a quorum and cannot continue with business
 - All discussions regarding policies and procedures will be tabled until next meeting
 - April will meet with Bob Garrison to discuss the boards next steps

Adjournment

- ***Jamie Thornberry motioned for the meeting to adjourn***
 - ***Rebecca S. seconded the motion***
 - ***Motion passed unanimously***
- Meeting adjourned at 1340

Minutes submitted by: April Patterson, First Vice