

Veterans Advisory Board of Skagit County

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 1300
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA, 98273-5625

Attendance – Total Attendees

1. Pete Sill – VAB Board Chair / CVMA
2. April Patterson – American Legion Post 91/VAB Second Vice Chair
3. Chris Diaz - Skagit County Veteran Service Specialist
4. Carmina Villalobos - Community Action of Skagit County
5. Jamie Thornberry - American Legion Post 147
6. Bob Stratton - VFW 5056
7. Bob Garrison - American Legion Post 91
8. Randi Bowman - WorkSource

Call to Order

- Pete Sill called to order the regular meeting of the Skagit County Veterans Advisory Board at 1306 on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.
- We have a quorum and can continue with business

Meeting Minutes Approval

- November 2022 minutes were available for review
 - Printed copies available - all members should have received an email with these minutes for review before the meeting
- The following corrections were needed
 - Conway Post is #147
 - Senior stipend approval is still in process
 - Kelly Blau's name was misspelled in the VASH Report section
- ***Jamie T. motioned that we accept the VAB general meeting minutes as amended***
 - ***Bob S. seconded the motion***
 - ***Motion passed unanimously***

Reports

- Pete Sill - Board Chair Report
 - The Commissioners rejected the \$22,000 request for Community Action of Skagit salaries that was recently submitted
- Carmina Villalobos – Financial / Vets Connect Report
 - Financial Report is attached as well as included in the earlier email
 - There were 20 holiday vouchers handed out
 - Most chose the household voucher over the food voucher

- There was a \$75 gas voucher that was placed in the wrong column
- **Bob S. motioned to accept the budget report with the change**
 - **Bob G. seconded the motion**
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- Raymond Irvin is no longer with Community Action of Skagit
- There were reimbursement checks written to American Legion Post 91 and VFW 5056 for the cost of a motel for a veteran
- Vets Connect will be closed Friday, December 23, 2022, through Monday, December 26, 2022, for the holiday.
- Chris Diaz (Skagit County Veteran Service Specialist)
 - Contracts with Vets Connect for Cascade Landing are getting their final look over
 - Construction was delayed - no current updates
 - Applications still not available
 - Chris has helped approximately 142 veterans
 - That includes veterans still currently receiving assistance
- Kelly Blau - VASH
 - Kelly was absent, but Carmina gave a an update
 - At least 8 vouchers coming up in the new affordable housing unit the Housing Authority just completed
 - There will be a lot of money coming out in the next month for move in costs for these 8 vouchers
 - This is just a heads up. These vouchers are usually spread throughout the year as VASH units come available. Being that 8 of them are coming available at the same time, it will be a lot of money all at once

Old Business

- The veteran we helped get into a motel for a few days while he was waiting on the VASH unit was very thankful. Bob Stratton spent some time with him. American Legion Post 91, VFW 5056 and their respective auxiliaries were able to help with some housewares and furniture. He is still looking for some furniture. He did get a bed on Saturday. Kelly was able to get him a TV. Thank you for everyone for coming together to help this veteran feel supported.

New Business

- Ribbon Cutting for the Skagit County Housing Authority will be Thursday, December 15, 2022, from 11:00am - 12:30pm, at the new affordable housing complex on College Way
 - It would be nice to see board members there to show support
 - These are where the 8 new VASH units are located!
 - We are so thankful for these units

Good of the Order

- Happy Holidays! Enjoy your week.
- TJ Molendyk lost his mother this past week. Please keep him in your thoughts
- Toys for Tots was mentioned - There is not a big presence in Skagit
 - Operation Homefront is an organization fairly prevalent in Skagit (VFW 5056 works with them)

Adjournment

- *April P. motioned for the meeting to adjourn*
 - *Pete S. seconded the motion*
 - *Motion passed unanimously*
- Meeting adjourned at 1445

Minutes submitted by: April Patterson, Second Vice