



CLACKAMAS COUNTY
 VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
 February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 2:30pm – 3:30pm via Zoom

FACILITATOR	RB Green
NOTETAKER	R.E. Szego

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL							
P	RB Green	A	John Budiao	P	Janet Braman		
A	Paul Edgar	P	Betty Fish-Ferguson	P	Tawnya Lege		
P	Laurie Kimmell	A	Don Hedlind				
E	Tracy Bogard	P	Thomas McAlarney				
P	Carol Bernhard	A	Gregory Freetage				
S	Brenda Durbin	S	R.E. ("Ari") Szego	S	Joey Johns	S	Aubrie Balkwill
S	Ken Bietschek		Aaron Henry		Gus Bedwell	P	Commissioner Paul Savas
	Allen Anderson		Mike Manske	O	Dan Miner		

P-Present, A -Absent, E-Excused, O-Other Attendee

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
Meeting Called to Order and Introductions	RB called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm A quorum was established	
Adoption of Minutes	Tawnya motioned for approval of Minutes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2024 • October 2023 	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2023 Betty seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Minutes were approved	
Work Plan	<p>RB reviewed the main components of the Work Plan. Brenda noted that if we decide to move this work over to committees, we will expand on the Metrics. Updates were made to the Work Plan during the discussion.</p> <p>Laurie suggested that we host a family night for families whose loved ones are deployed. Joey added that maybe this could be a movie night for families, maybe in partnership with a movie theater. Laurie suggested a bowling night. She went to something that was like one-stop shopping with veterans and veterans’ family support organizations present.</p> <p>Laurie moved to adopt the Work Plan as revised. Janet seconded; All in favor, approved.</p>	
Introductions	<p>Participants introduced themselves. Dan Miner, a nominee for the Council, was present. We did not have a quorum at this point in the meeting (after 3pm) and could not vote on his Membership.</p>	
Veterans Expo Monday, Nov 18, 2024 Gregory Forum, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City Campus	<p>RB introduced a proposed tagline: “Connecting those who served to those who serve.” Participants like it!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run time. There have been a few ideas put forth in prior conversation, such as during the regular work day or starting and ending later. Janet and Tawnya like the idea of going later. 	<p>R.E.: Contact PGA about creating a webpage and a flier</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form an Expo Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clackamas Community College (CCC) Project Management Team. Allen Gumm, a veteran who works at CCC Veterans Center, asked about a real-world project for a Project Management capstone. They would really love to work with us as part of the planning committee. We could use them as a Project Management and task them with things like: outreach, reporting, logistical stuff. The capstone would end in mid-June. The course Instructor and Department Chair are on board. ○ Committee Members: RB, Betty, and Tawnya volunteered to work on this committee with the CCC Project Management team. Gus will likely be added. This subcommittee would meet once or twice a month. ○ Betty spoke with Gus briefly in the past about something to make us more visible in the public when we do fairs: an 8 foot banner. This could be made with the new tagline. Betty will look into it. ○ Janet asked about tasks that the rest of the group who are not on the Subcommittee will be assigned. RB believes this will come out of the meeting with the Project Management Team. There will be requests of Gus (and other County staff). The Council will spearhead the effort and the County will be in a support role. 	<p>RB: Schedule Expo Committee meetings</p> <p>Betty: Look into options for a banner.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R.E. asked if it is ok to start sharing save the date information in meetings with other groups. RB says “Yes!” and will put the Expo on event calendar at college. • Tanya asked when there will be a flier available. RB responded that the timeline will be driven by the Public and Government Affairs Department (PGA) in the County. Janet asked if we could create a Save the Date PDF. Brenda noted that we’ll need to contact PGA. Designing the fliers and creating the website. 	
Membership	Dan is an outstanding candidate.	
2024 VAC Meeting Day / Time	<p>RB shared that it has been really hard to determine the best day and time to meet. There are so many conflicting schedules. Almost every time has a conflict.</p> <p>We are looking at morning or afternoon Monday through Thursday, the 4th week of the month. The most popular times were Tuesday at 10:30 or Wednesday in the afternoon. The time we’re meeting now among top 4-5 options. We will add this item again to the March Agenda.</p> <p>RB proposed meeting on campus to see the Gregory Forum site. There will be a hosted lunch with free food. The group agreed to plan this for April.</p>	<p>ALL: Complete the Doodle Poll with your availability for possible meeting dates and times. Please broaden your choices if you are able.</p>

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Announcements and Upcoming Events	<p>Tawnya: The Milwaukie American Legion is having a potato bar event on March 2 to support delegates for national convention.</p> <p>Ken: Employment training stuff has lots happening. There have been some great successes with folks getting jobs. Drug and alcohol has been our biggest issue in the last year and this continues to be a big struggle. The Veterans Village is doing very well.</p> <p>Betty asked if we have numbers in Clackamas County on veteran suicide? Ken stated that he doesn't have any numbers on that but it is constantly something we deal with. Suicide prevention folks have been working diligently. We don't get to measure how many we have avoided.</p>	
Adjourn	<p>Betty made a motion to adjourn. Janet seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.</p>	
Next Meeting	Veterans Advisory Council Thursday, March 28, 2:30-3:30pm via Zoom	