



CLACKAMAS COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
February 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes
2:30pm – 4:30pm in Person

FACILITATOR	Betty Fish-Ferguson
NOTETAKER	Sean Wells

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL							
P	Betty Fish-Ferguson	P	John Budiao	P	Dan Miner	O	Steven Beals
P	Paul Edgar	P	Thomas McAlarney	P	Brian Gornick	O	Aubrie Balkwill
P	Laurie Kimmell	P	Don Hedlind			O	Don Kingsborough
P	Tracy Bogard	P	Tawnya Lege			O	James Manning
P	Carol Bernhard	P	Austin Hansen				
S	Tracy Garell	S	Joey Johns	S			
S	Ken Bietschek	S	Gus Bedwell				
S	Sean Wells	S	Paul Savas	S			

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

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
Meeting Called to Order and Introductions	Introductions: VAC members and prospective members introduced themselves. A quorum was established at 2:31 pm. Laurie motioned to accept the February agenda. Betty seconded. Agenda adopted.	

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Adoption of Minutes	Dan motioned to adopt the August and October 2024 minutes. Betty seconded. August and October 2024 adopted.	
Subcommittee Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laurie gave an update on various bills regarding veterans that are working their way through the legislature. This includes bills on the honorable discharge status of veterans and a bill on remains coordination. Laurie recommended that everyone subscribe to get updates on what is happening in the legislature. • Expo Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Expo subcommittee had flagged over the past year. Betty gave some background information about the planned event and asked for volunteers. Tom volunteered as a co-chair to assist Tracy. Future meetings will be hybrid and Sean will set up a recurring meeting to get things back on track. • Outreach Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Betty told the committee about an upcoming outreach opportunity at Pioneer Community Center. She will attend and Gus will provide VSO materials. Betty will reach out to the Community Center and anyone interested in attending should reach out to the VAC mailbox. 	
New/Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exec Committee Officer: secretary needed. Betty explained that the VAC Exec committee needs a secretary. She gave a brief overview of the exec committee, duties and when they meet. Dan volunteered for the position and the committee voted to appoint him. 	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members: The exec committee hasn't had a chance to meet to discuss the applications. They will be discussed at the next exec meeting, March 5th at 9:30 at the County Offices. • A new subcommittee was proposed regarding freeway memorials in Clackamas County by Brian Gornick. He explained the process of memorial highways. He provided his background with highway memorials and a Monuments Subcommittee was proposed with Brian as the chair with two other members.) A motion was made by Laurie Kimmell to form a monument subcommittee. Dan seconded, discussion (none), motion passes. Subcommittee was approved. Brian, Dan, and Laurie volunteered as members. • Dan said that he was involved with Canine Cavalry. He talked about HB 2830 and working to pass a bill to recognize psychological disability and not just physical to qualify for a service dog. He requested that the VAC voice its support of it. • Dan brought up the book Wounding Warriors, a book about policy failing veterans. He suggested the County buy the book for VAC members. • Betty announced she would be resigning as chair. She'll remain on the VAC at large and the Expo subcommittee. 	
Member Updates, Announcements and Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates brought up as new business. 	
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm followed by a tour of Camp Withycombe.	
Next Meeting	Veterans Advisory Council Thursday, April 24, 2:30-4:30pm – In Person	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	Location TBD	