

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mimi Fields, Daniel Miller, Sean Smith, Thom Stoddert, Gary Walker, Casey Wegner

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Loyle

PUBLIC COMMENT- N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 20, 2015 were unanimously approved.

ELECTIONS

Gary Walker was nominated for chair and Casey Wegner and Sean Smith nominated for vice-chair. Gary Walker voted in as chair and Casey Wegner voted in as vice-chair for the two-year period beginning January 1, 2016.

BOARD BRIEFING

There will be a briefing with the Board of County Commissioners after the first of the year. The advisory board will work on the presentation at the January 25th board meeting.

GROUP MEETINGS

There was another conference follow-up meeting held last Friday, Dec. 11th regarding centralized services for veterans in Thurston County. A small work group of six people headed by Bob Jones will meet and try to figure out how this might work. The small group will look at next steps if the Lacey site does not go through. The larger group will re-convene in late February. At the December 11th meeting it was discussed that Drexel House could provide services to veterans after hours since they are manned 24 hours a day; the Providence one-stop provides mental health services; and DAV is willing to provide service officers at a one-stop and perhaps serve as navigators. Gary Walker and the Commander of DAV Tumwater, Chapter 41 will talk to other service providers.

NON-PROFIT FUND

At the briefing with the Board of County Commissioners the advisory board will discuss the non-profit fund including plans to develop a RFP for local veteran organizations with non-profit status who are interested in partnering with the board to obtain additional funds for veterans. Thurston County would administer the RFP process. The Thurston County Veterans Council does not want to pursue being a coordinating body for a non-profit fund since their focus is four veteran events held during the year. After checking with the BoCC, the advisory board would then move forward with a non-profit plan.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

There was discussion regarding meeting notifications. It was suggested to announce advisory board meetings on the board's Facebook page; send e-mail notification to all the conference attendees; advertise in Little Nickel newspaper; send out a public service announcement to the media a couple of times a year; develop a veteran's page in The Olympian; and Gary and others talk to groups to continue to get the word out about the advisory board meetings.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by, Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager