

Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board
17 April 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Bill Powell, Matt Hout, Ken Borque, and Brandon Frawley.

Others present: Mark Moffett, Laniece Milam, Shalene Baggs, Jen Freiheit, and Bob Jones.

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm.

Bill welcomed all to the forum, including guests.

Shalene Baggs (Shay) introduces herself.

Bob Jones introduces himself.

Jen Freiheit introduces herself.

Recruitment

- Bill encourages all board members to seek out new board members.
- Laniece has received two applications and is in the process of reviewing them.
- Laniece thanks Ken and the Hub members who are recruiting board members.

Revisit Bento

- Bill would like to revisit Bento, but there need to be more board members attending to make a vote.
- Bill expresses the problems with food vouchers and feels Bento may be a positive supplement.
- Mark feels Bento is an excellent way to spend down the fund alongside addressing food insecurities in our veteran community.
- Brandon inquired about the administrative cost of Bento, \$60k.
- Mark says the other 240k is for food; if unused, it is rolled over.
- Mark adds that the program can be fully tailored to how the board would want it run.
- Matt questions the significant overhead with Bento.
- Matt is opposed to moving forward with Bento until more board members attend.

Planning Stand Down

- Bill is going to get with the American Red Cross regarding a standdown.
- Doing one stand down a quarter.
- Mark suggests talking with Jon Musiak, "Moose," about supplying a stand down.
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Planning Memorial Day

- Bill suggests talking with Gary at the Hub.

Budget

- Mark states that the fund balance is roughly 1.1 to 1.2 million dollars.
- Mark expresses the need to spend down the fund balance.
- Mark goes into detail with the fund budget spreadsheet.
- Mark says the need for more innovative ways to spend down the fund.

Monthly Meetings

- Bill asks the board if they would be interested in monthly meetings.
- Brandon feels this will give board members an additional opportunity to attend.
- Matt agrees.
- Mark says Kitsap County does monthly meetings.
- Laniece is open to suggestions.
- Ken is on board for more interaction.
- Brandon says he will schedule a hybrid meeting in May.
- Mark encourages in-person meetings.

Around the Room and Adjourn

- Bob Jones says food insecurity is a big problem.

Lastly

There being no further business, Bill Powell adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm. Brandon Frawley recorded the meeting minutes.