



APPROVED

**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. July 25, 2019 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair, Ian Oglesby, called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families/Fundraising
Ian Oglesby, Mayor of Seaside
James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans
Jason Cameron, Monterey County Office of Military & Veteran Affairs
Richard Garza, CCVC Foundation

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by James Bogan.

3. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Executive Officer Michael Houlemard informed the Committee that he recently spoke with recently retired FORA Principle Analyst Robert Norris, who wanted to share his appreciation to those who attended his retirement dinner.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. June 27, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On motion by Committee member Edith Johnsen and seconded by Committee member James Bogan the VIAC approved the June 27, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

INFORMATION/ACTION

- a. **Affordable Housing**

- i. Veterans Transition Center Housing Development*

Mr. Jack Murphy, of the Veterans Transition Center ("VTC") in Marina, provided an update on the supportive housing programs offered by the VTC. Mr. Murphy reported that they are moving people into the duplex that was finished last month. He also informed the Committee that not much has changed regarding the Lightfighter Village project. The Housing Authority of Monterey County has not requested more project-based vouchers from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a backup, VTC is in the process of applying for a grant from the California Health Commission to compensate for the lack of vouchers. Mr. Murphy also announced that a Fresno developer will be working with VTC to submit a Request for Qualifications for VTC to partner with another development agency to turn the former Seaside Clinic into housing for veterans.

- b. **Post-FORA VIAC Committee**

Executive Officer Michael Houlemard, Jr. announced that this item is on the Transition Plan report to the FORA Board. He explained that the recommendation in the 2018 Transition Plan was for the County of Monterey to absorb these types of obligations. He also noted that he plans to meet with staff at the County to discuss their role in supporting the VIAC Committee post-FORA.

Mr. Jason Cameron informed the Committee that his office, the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, would likely be in favor of supporting a FORA VIAC. Due to lack of resources, he feels that the additional responsibility warrants a half-time position, and recommended tying funding to the transition.

The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of including the support of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission. The Committee can expect another report next month addressing VIAC's expectation that the County will take over, find the resources, and get the Commission involved in Veteran's affairs upon dissolution of FORA, currently set for June 30, 2020.

c. **California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

Mr. Houlemard reported that a bid opening for phase II of construction of the cemetery will take place at FORA next week. Mr. Richard Garza noted the deadline of September 30, 2019 to get everything to the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is expected that it will be at the top of the list, if deadlines are met.

d. **Ord Military Community**

Mr. Kai Yuan handed out a Monterey County Fair flyer. He announced that there will be a Resource Fair on August 29, 2019. He also informed the Committee that all military personnel and veterans will be admitted free to the fair on Friday, August 30, 2019.

e. **Fundraising Status**

i. *Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation Status Report*

Mr. Garza informed the group that the Epic Ride should currently be somewhere between New Jersey and Maine. He reported that they are still looking for sponsors for the Run for the Fallen event. Rather than being considered a fundraiser, it is viewed as community effort that needs to be preserved and expanded. Mr. Garza also announced that the Foundation is researching whether or not there is a State law requiring the local community to contribute to the operations and maintenance of the cemetery. He informed the group that fundraising efforts will be shifting from operations and maintenance to community projects, such as building a chapel, a donor wall, and an amphitheater.

f. **VA-DOD Clinic**

Mr. James Bogan reported that some of the entrances have changed. He also announced that every other Thursday they host a \$12 BBQ from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

g. **Calendar of Events**

Planning & Economic Development Manager, Josh Metz, announced the Monterey Bay Defense Alliance Breakfast at the Monterey Conference Center will be held August 21, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. Mr. Houlemard announced the Association of Defense Communities is having a conference in Monterey from September 30 to October 2, 2019. The California Defense Leadership Summit will be held August 13 and 14, 2019 in Sacramento.

Mr. Bogan offered to set up a whale watching tour for some attendees of the conference here in Monterey. He noted that the Monterey Bay Vets have the only dive boat in the world with an elevator for disabled and wheelchair-bound people.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:
Shawn Hall