



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, February 27, 2014 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Edelen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following were present, as indicated by signatures on the roll sheet:

VIAC Members:

Jerry Edelen, FORA Board
Sid Williams, Mo. Co. Military/Vets
Edith Johnsen, Vets Families/Fundraising
Jack Stewart, Cemetery Advisory Comm.
CSM Wynn, US Army POM
Wes Morrill, Mo. Co. Vets. Services

FORA Staff:

Michael Houlemard
Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Erica Parker, ASM Stone
Richard Garza, CCVCF

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Edelen asked Sid Williams to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Officer Houlemard noted that the Packard loan repayment was made and the debt is now retired. A meeting between FORA, the Veterans Cemetery Foundation (VCF) and the Community Foundation for Monterey County will be scheduled to discuss VCF capacity building to increase their fundraising structure.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVE VIAC MEETING MINUTES: October 31, 2013

MOTION: Jack Stewart moved, seconded by Edith Johnsen, to accept the October 31, 2013 minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Receive Revised Committee Charge

The committee received the revised charge which was previously sent to the FORA Board under their February Executive Officer's report.

b. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

A California Department of General Services/Veterans Affairs site visit occurred January 8th. The National Veterans Administration is satisfied with the 35% plan submittal. Finalizing the terms of the water rights transfer agreement was a main goal of the FORA legislative mission. Agreement amendments may need to be made to carry on those rights beyond FORA's life.

Chair Edelen noted that the cemetery groundbreaking would likely be scheduled for fall 2014. He asked the Committee, and Mr. Stewart especially, for help gathering names of the original Fort Ord cemetery group so their families could be invited and that those members' ashes could be the first interred. Mr. Stewart agreed to gather that information and report back to the Committee.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

The City of Marina reported to FORA that they expect to complete plan check this June. Once received from the City, FORA will distribute the deliverables schedule at an upcoming committee meeting. The clinic's water needs will be provided from the Dunes on Monterey Bay allocation. The existing clinic will be declared surplus to Federal needs when the new facility is operational. It is currently unknown whether that property would come to FORA or the University.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Monterey County Veterans Drop-In Clinic

The Monterey County site visit to FORA building 2900 proved that rehabilitation would not be feasible; they are currently looking for alternatives. The Committee will continue to receive updates on this item as they become available.

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Stewart announced an awards dinner to celebrate cemetery accomplishments over the last 3-4 years was attended by approximately 80 people and was well received by the veterans, their spouses, the business community and other patriots. The United Veterans Council hopes to make it an annual event. Chair Edelen added that the certificate citations were incredibly detailed and showed an unprecedented level of professionalism and attention to detail. He thanked Mr. Williams for his hard work crafting the certificates.

Ms. Johnsen announced the 5th annual Heroes' Open meeting scheduled for March 20th. The event is scheduled for November.

Command Sgt. Major Wynn noted that a memorial service for Chief Warrant Officer Edward Baldi would be held March 8th. Mr. Morrill added that letters, flowers, and resolutions by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors had been forwarded to the family.

Mr. Morrill additionally noted that the Assembly Chairman is trying to obtain pictures of each of the 58,000 names that are memorialized on the Moving Wall in Sacramento.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Crissy Maras, Grants and Contracts Coordinator

Approved by: _____
Michael A. Houlemard, Jr.