



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, May 29, 2014 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following were present, as indicated by signatures on the roll sheet:

VIAC Members:

Sid Williams, Mo. Co. Military/Vets
Edith Johnsen, Vets Families/Fundraising
Jack Stewart, Cemetery Advisory Comm.
CSM Wynn, POM
James Bogan, UVC
George Dixon, MVAO
Richard Garza, CCVFC

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Candace Ingram, CCVCF
Eric Morgan, BLM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Johnsen asked Sid Williams to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Acting Chair Johnsen acknowledged Eric Morgan, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representative, and Candace Ingram, Community Foundation representative, were in attendance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BLM rep Morgan provided handouts illustrating the restoration of an armored military personnel carrier and requested help in facilitating a partnership with the Fort Ord Alumni Association and the VIAC to restore additional equipment for public awareness and enjoyment at the National Monument. FORA Principal Analyst Robert Norris provided a copy of an assignment prepared by Monterey Peninsula College students focusing on their tour of former Fort Ord barracks. Acting Chair Johnsen requested that the MPC report be **attached** to the minutes from this meeting.

5. APPROVE VIAC MEETING MINUTES: April 3, 2014

MOTION: Sid Williams moved, seconded by Jack Stewart, to accept the April 3, 2014 minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Norris described an out-of-the-box coordination meeting with the State and their lead consultants which led to their participation in a FORA training video and cemetery site access. A revised Department of General Services (DGS) schedule was distributed. Cemetery water approval is now awaiting signature by the Deputy Secretary, which is expected in the next several days. Senator Monning's representative Nicole Charles reported that Senator Monning was uplifted by

recent meetings with CalVet and encouraged by the conceptual designs. She added that CalVet and DGS have prioritized cemetery planning and that environmental work is underway.

b. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

Although there is activity at the site, requests for a construction schedule from the City of Marina have not been answered. Staff anticipates including a schedule in the next meeting packet.

7. NEW BUSINESS - none

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Williams noted that he had requested FORA assistance to identify property for a museum. Mr. Norris agreed to meet separately and bring the request to a future VIAC meeting. Acting Chair Johnsen added that she had recently submitted six tapes of Fort Ord ceremonies toward that effort and encouraged others to do the same as they come across Fort Ord items that would have public benefit. Ms. Ingram added that Defense Language Institute Historian Steven Payne had prepared a presentation on the history of Fort Ord and the DLI. That presentation is being scheduled for FORA staff in the near future.

Mr. Williams noted that the Marina Foundation wants to increase awareness of the local veteran population and added that they had raised funds to install a flag pole at Martinez Hall. Mr. Williams asked that Steve Emerson be invited to the next meeting to provide an update. James Bogan announced a retirement appreciation ceremony on June 14th at Stilwell Hall; cemetery updates will be provided at a County-sponsored booth. George Dixon announced a booth at the Fort Ord PX on May 30th which would provide information regarding veterans' services. Sgt. Major Wynn invited members to the Army Soldier show on September 4th at the Presidio of Monterey. Acting Chair Johnsen announced the Heroes' Open golf tournament on November 8th and requested that upcoming events be added to the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.