



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, July 24, 2014 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jerry 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 Chair
Edith Johnsen, Vets Families/Fundraising
James Bogan, UVC
Richard Garza, CCVFC
Jack Stewart, CAC
Wes Morrill, MCVAO
CSM Andrew Wynn, POM
Sid Williams, ***

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Eric Morgan, BLM
Terry Bare, VTC

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Edelen asked Robert Norris to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Edith Johnsen provided copies of a July 19th Monterey Herald guest commentary prepared by Steve Emerson requesting community support of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. Chair Edelen acknowledged that Eric Morgan from the Bureau of Land Management was in attendance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Terry Bare, Veterans Transition Center Executive Director, announced that the 2014 Veterans Stand Down event was scheduled for August 1st through 3rd. He noted that over 220 homeless veterans were registered to attend and an additional 50-100 walk-ins were expected. Over 350 volunteers had signed up, including doctors, dentists, veterinarians and legal experts, to provide services throughout the event. Mr. Bare thanked the Army for offering the location on Joe Lloyd Way.

Mr. Bare also announced that Senator Boxer's staff would be meeting at the VTC on August 7th for an orientation of VTC services.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. May 29, 2014 VIAC Minutes
- b. June 26, 2014 Meeting Notes

MOTION: Edith Johnsen moved, seconded by Jack Stewart, to approve the meeting minutes and notes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Groundbreaking Ceremony Planning

Senator Monning representative Nicole Charles reported that Senator Monning had convened a town hall meeting to answer questions about the CCCVC environmental study. She noted that approximately 90% of those in attendance were in support of the cemetery and that overall, it provided a great learning opportunity for the public.

FORA Principal Analyst Robert Norris announced that FORA is in the process of assembling the final cemetery escrow documents, including an Army requested letter from the Monterey Regional Water Resources Agency. The escrow closing schedule was provided to members, with an expectation that FORA would meet the August 14th deadline for delivery.

Regarding the groundbreaking ceremony, Jack Stewart noted that after a lot of research and several phone calls and emails, he had made contact with the family of the final founding cemetery group member. He was happy to announce that the entire family of the late Jack McDonough was eager to attend the ceremony. Chair Edelen asked that a VIP area be designated at the groundbreaking ceremony to formally acknowledge the efforts of the founding members: Jack McDonough, Charlie Hopper, Willie Williams, Mark Gibben and Jack Stewart. He noted that this would be an event of statewide and national significance. Mr. Stewart added that attendees would need a tentative ceremony date to begin making travel arrangements.

b. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

Mr. Norris noted that FORA has a standing request into the City of Marina for project schedule updates. Grading is underway with an expectation that steel construction would begin early August. Sid Williams added that conversations with the City of Marina regarding the clinic's use of the former parade ground flag pole might require FORA assistance. Committee members requested that flag pole updates be added to future agendas through resolution.

c. Identify Property for a former Fort Ord Museum

Mr. Stewart reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee had been involved in the effort to locate property on the former Fort Ord that would be suitable to house equipment and other historical items in a museum style setting. Work on this effort is ongoing and future updates will be provided.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Viet Nam War Commemoration

CSM Andrew Wynn announced a 50-year commemoration event of the soldier's return from the Viet Nam war. He reported that the post would be open to all veterans, but that a specific focus would be on the Viet Nam veterans since they were never officially welcomed home. He noted that events such as TAPS, flags at half mast, and a moment of silence to honor fallen soldiers would take place and added that there is an opportunity for organizations to partner in various ways. The event will take place during the second week of May 2015 to coincide with Language Day.

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Items were added to the calendar of events which appears on each VIAC agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.