



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2015 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting 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, Acting Chair
Rich Garza, CCCVFC
Jack Stewart, CAC
James Bogan, UVC
Sid Williams, Mo. Co. Military/Vets
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Peter Le, MCWD

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Preston Young, US Army POM
Terry Bare, VTC
Via phone:
Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Sonja Arndt, Rep. Farr

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Veterans Transition Center representative Terry Bare announced a job fair on April 29th and a car, truck and bike show on May 23rd, both at Martinez Hall. Sid Williams announced that the City of Marina City Council dedicated the Veterans Memorial Bike Trail along Imjin Parkway and that a committee would be formed to coordinate with stakeholders. Also, the annual retirement appreciation luncheon is scheduled for June 6th at the Stilwell Community Center.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. March 26, 2015 VIAC Minutes

Sid Williams noted a correction to Item 7: James Bogan *did not* accompany Mr. Williams to a meeting with Supervisor Parker. The reference to Mr. Bogan's attendance will be removed. There were no other corrections required.

MOTION: Edith Johnsen moved, seconded by Sid Williams, to approve the minutes as revised.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

Mr. Norris reported that CalVet is required to submit a revised construction schedule and cemetery master plan to the USDVA. Nicole Charles added that CalVet is creating a burial application module in the VSO database which should be online within the next few weeks. Rich Garza noted the continuing CCCVC Foundation and CalVet effort to agree on donor wall details. Mr. Bare

announced that Veterans Affairs established a job training program for employment at VA cemeteries and that CCCVC hiring would occur through USA Jobs.

b. Ongoing Local Military Issue Media Coverage

Acting Chair Edelen reported that he met with Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter to discuss the veterans services officer's role in coordinating media coverage for local military issues. Supervisor Potter agreed to monitor that coordination.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Mr. Williams reported that a mobile metal refurbishment contractor estimated the pole restoration at approximately \$2K. The VTC offered to store the pole after restoration until it can be installed at the clinic site. Sonja Arndt reported that the Palo Alto VA would incorporate pole installation into construction plans but restoration costs must be funded separately. Mr. Williams requested that Ms. Arndt secure the VA's position in writing.

d. FORA Federal Mission Status Report

Acting Chair Edelen provided the status report, noting that the Economic Development Administration had favorably received FORA's proposed building removal business plan grant. Also, corrections to the Preston Park parcel map should facilitate the deed amendment required for the City of Marina to finalize their loan application. Mr. Norris reported that the federal mission allowed FORA to confirm relationships with many of the major agencies that play vital roles in Fort Ord redevelopment, including the USDVA. He noted that an important next step is for CalVet to submit a master plan and application for expansion by June/July to secure additional federal funding. Ms. Arndt confirmed that CalVet was actively working to meet that deadline.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Ms. Arndt reported that clinic construction was ahead of schedule and that USDVA established a live feed of ongoing activity via two webcams at http://www.paloalto.va.gov/construction_monterey.asp. Mr. Bare noted that the VA secretary was invited to visit the VTC and attend the annual fundraising dinner on May 23rd at the Marina American Legion. He added that a 38' flag pole was installed at Martinez Hall through the coordinated effort of the Marina Foundation and Monterey Peninsula Engineering. Mr. Williams reminded the committee that the 50 year Vietnam War Commemoration Event will take place on May 8th at the Defense Language Institute and that participation in the event is limited to Vietnam service veterans.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.