



# FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

## VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 25, 2015 | FORA Conference Room  
920 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Mike Mitchell, VTC  
Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning  
Bob Shaffer  
Candy Ingram

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Edelen asked James Bogan to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The committee heard from Bob Shaffer, who announced Dunes on Monterey Bay workforce housing financing options for those making up to \$111K annually.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. April 23, 2015 VIAC Minutes

MOTION: Sid Williams moved, seconded by Jack Stewart, to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

### 6. OLD BUSINESS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Discussion of CDVA Proposed Regulations

FORA is hosting monthly/bi-monthly CCCVC construction meetings. The project manager, Susan Rice, has offered to provide site tours to interested veteran groups. The CCCVC Foundation will design/build the memorial wall.

The committee received proposed CDVA regulations regarding non-monetary CCCVC donations (monuments, statues, headstones, etc.) to ensure consistency with USDVA cemeteries and federal grant requirements.

b. Ongoing Local Military Issue Media Coverage

FORA recently hired current FORA employee Josh Metz to fill the Economic Development Coordinator position. One of his tasks is to implement a 100-day plan that includes the integration of

military and veteran issues into Fort Ord economic development. Members requested that Mr. Metz attend the next VIAC meeting to review the plan.

- c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report
  - i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update
  - ii. Construction Schedule

Sid Williams reported that the CDVA has agreed to flag pole installation, but the VA must submit installation designs for review and approval. Restoration funds and a retrofit contractor are in place. The pole will be retrofitted and stored at the VTC prior to installation at the clinic.

Construction is progressing per the schedule provided to FORA in March 2014. Robert Norris has requested an updated construction schedule from the City of Marina.

- d. FORA Sacramento Mission Status Report

Acting Chair Edelen provided the status report, noting that CDVA representatives were supportive of local efforts to install the donor wall. The CDVA cannot issue a change order for wall installation in the current construction contract, but it's possible that a separate design/build contract can be awarded concurrently to provide wall installation prior to the completion of the first phase of cemetery construction. Acting Chair Edelen additionally noted that the successful groundbreaking ceremonies had a positive state and federal impact.

## **7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Rich Garza announced that the annual Run for the Fallen event was scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the Remember the Fallen photo tribute is looking for a venue to host the traveling exhibit that recognizes more than 700 California service members lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members provided venue suggestions.

Mr. Williams reported that the annual Stand Down event had been included in the Monterey County budget and funds will be in place prior to the next event.

Members requested a fundraising item be added to future agendas.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Acting Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.