



## **VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES**

**3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, January 28, 2016**

920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933 (FORA Conference Room)

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.  
The following were present:

#### **Committee Members:**

Master Sgt. Alan Gerardo, U.S. Army POM Garrison  
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)  
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC)  
George Dixon, Monterey County Office of Military & Veterans Affairs  
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families/Fund Raising  
Richard Garza Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVC Foundation)  
Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Citizens Advisory Committee

#### **FORA Staff:**

Mary Israel  
Robert Norris

#### **Others:**

Terry Bare, Veterans Transition Center  
Candy Ingram, CCVC Foundation  
Erica Parker, Office of Assemblymember Stone  
Bob Schaffer, CCVC Foundation

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of allegiance led by Jack Stewart.

### **3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Terry Bare of Veterans Transition Center (VTC) announced the Pebble Beach Pro-Am will include many veterans volunteering and that there are opportunities to serve food and drinks; he shared a flyer. The dates for the Homeless Veterans Stand Down are set for August 19-21 2016, and he anticipates a larger legal process this year than last. The Stillwell Club bar is existing, albeit in pieces, in a Transportation Alliance of Monterey County (TAMC) building and is being offered to VTC for use.

Jack Stewart added that it could be on the Veterans Memorial Walk route.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

### a. October 22, 2015

MOTION: Richard Garza moved, seconded by Jack Stewart to approve the October 22, 2015 Veterans Issues Advisory Committee minutes, with corrections by Sid Williams and Erica Parker.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

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

#### i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Principle Analyst Robert Norris reported that rain may delay work for up to three months.

#### ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda

Robert Norris said that it was agreed in the last CAC meeting that the next meeting, to be held from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on February 11, 2016 at the VTC, would be a working meeting. The CAC will review justifications for submitting an application for expansion, by updating metrics such as a survey counting in-ground burial needs in the target veteran population. The pre-application goal is June. Food will be provided.

#### iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Sid Williams reported that the attached Memorandum of Understanding by and among County of Monterey, City of Seaside, CCVC Foundation, and FORA regarding CCCVC planning came up in the CAC meeting because it requires an update to the time period terms. Termination could be extended to 2025. If it is not extended, the agreement to pass on profits from land sale to California Department of Veterans Affairs could be deemed null-and-void. Extension is on the agenda for the County Supervisors meeting February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Williams encourages attendance. After the County, the CAC will bring it to the FORA Board of Directors.

### b. Fundraising Status

#### i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Richard Garza reported that the Foundation is working on expanding its catchment area, but Monterey County cannot supply \$3 Million that it will need to expand. Veteran service officers will be contacted to present to their groups.

Candy Ingram commented that UVC was very generous in donating a \$30,000 check for the tournament. Goals for a Board planning session in February include partnering with VTC on major fundraising. The website is improved, maintained free of charge by Mike O'Brien. Candy Ingram requested that everyone visit the website and give feedback.

### c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

#### i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Sid Williams reported that the pole is on sawhorses in a tent, and when it is drier out George Reid will sandblast it. After three emails in two weeks asking the VA to receive the historic flag pole, there have been no responses. There is no specific location settled for the flag pole at this time. Erica Parker offered to contact Aides to Congressman Farr directly to move things ahead.

#### ii. Clinic Construction Schedule

Robert Norris reported that clinic construction is extending three months, although the outside work is done.

**d. Historical Preservation Project**

Jack Stewart said that Cliff is not available today, but things are getting busy with 501(c) status. Terry Bare added that yesterday Cliff mentioned he has the status with the State, but he is still raising funds for IRS status.

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

**a. Female Veteran membership on VIAC**

Robert Norris said that James Dogen indicated an amendment may be needed to add women to the VIAC. But the UVC representative sub is now Mary Estrada, so no amendment is needed for additional members.

**b. Year of the Veteran**

Sid Williams said that 2016 will be proclaimed the Year of the Veteran by the County Board of Supervisors (County BOS) on February 9<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10:30 after re-opening from closed session. Mr. Williams intends to use the proclamation plaque from the County BOS as a stimulus for Marina to also do so. He encourages VIAC members living in Seaside and other jurisdictions to borrow the plaque for similar campaigning. Richard Garza asked that FORA join the County BOS proclamation and then spread the word via local television and newspapers.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Acting Chair Edith Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 3 p.m. February 25, 2016**