



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES**

3:00 P.M. Thursday, June 23, 2016

920 2nd Avenue, Ste A., Marina California | FORA Conference Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

Confirming quorum, Chair Jerry Edelen called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

Committee Members:

James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans

Mayor Jerry Edelen, City of Del Rey Oaks (Chair)

Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)

Richard Garza, Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVC Foundation)

Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families

Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Citizens Advisory Committee

Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC)

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris

Mary Israel

Others in Attendance:

Nicole Charles, Office of Senator Monning

J. Fagan, CCVC Foundation

G. 'Cliff' Guinn, Forthm

Candy Ingram, CCVC Foundation

Erica Parker, Office of CA Assemblymember Stone

Bob Schaffer, member of the public

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sid Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. May 26, 2016

MOTION: Jack Stewart moved, seconded by Edith Johnsen, to approve the May 26, 2016 Veterans Issues Advisory Committee minutes with two minor edits. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Principal Analyst Robert Norris said that Daria Maher is the new Cemetery Administrator and that 85% of Phase I construction is completed so the full completion is anticipated for mid-August.

ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda

Mr. Norris said the steering committee requests agenda items soon so they can be circulated and responses to items be prepared ahead of the meeting which is now set for July 14th at 10 a.m. Chair Edelen said that Senator Monning's attendance should help iron out issues and get the cemetery established.

iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Mr. Norris said that Monterey County, FORA and the Foundation met at staff-level to review the current MOU and suggest administrative changes to be presented to their respective leadership.

iv. Opening Ceremony

Mr. Norris said that the date is not set. James Bogan said Mr. Fahey mentioned mid to late September as the best time.

v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report

Mr. Norris said there are 618 qualifying applications of the 678 received and that Dan Fahey is addressing the issues of staff capacity to handle the applications.

b. Fundraising Status

i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Richard Garza said the Foundation is working on fundraising for Phase II, including local match funding. He said no events are planned as yet. Chair Edelen requested an estimate of the current total fundraised amount; Mr. Garza reported \$1.6-1.7 Million, mostly in a stewardship fund.

ii. Heroes Open Golf Tournament

Mr. Williams said the Heroes Open, set for Saturday, October 29th, raised \$30,000 last year, a benchmark the committee hope to exceed this year. The letters have been posted and 2 holes paid for but only 1 golfer is signed up so far. The committee is looking for items to be donated for prizes or player bags.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Mr. Williams said he has nothing to report as there have been no calls or emails returned by the VA.

ii. Clinic Construction Schedule

Mr. Norris said the construction is on track for the scheduled October 14th ribbon cutting ceremony.

d. Veterans Transition Center (VTC) Housing Construction

J. Fagan said that the VTC needs the help of the VIAC because City of Marina requires the "Will Serve" letter on water vouched for the housing development before they will process CEQA and NEPA, therefore he said the timing for housing vouchers distribution will not be met and VTC won't get property tax credits until next year. Chair Edelen said VTC should talk to Frank O'Connell about FORA water requirements. Mr. Norris said the Presidio of Monterey (POM) wrote to central offices and that FORA and the Army could take 60 days to settle on the water deed transfer, but not to wait for that because Marina Coast Water District just needs a letter from City of Marina stating that the water is set aside. After some discussion, the Chair recommended that VTC talk to Mayor Delgado about putting the subject on the next Marina City Council meeting agenda. Mr. Norris also suggested they get pre-committed housing vouchers; Mr. Fagan asked for help contacting Housing Authority of the County of Monterey.

e. Historical Preservation Project

Jack Stewart said the City of Marina is delaying discussions about the project by not granting appointments and they want the project to have money ready to invest in the project before discussion of location and co-sponsorship. Chair Edelen suggested they approach Board Chair O'Connell to add the subject to the agenda of the FORA Board meeting.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Jack Stewart complimented the minutes from May 26, 2016.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Edelen adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 3PM AUGUST 25, 2016