



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. Thursday, December 14, 2016 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A., Marina, CA 93933**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mayor Jerry Edelen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

James Bogan, Disabled American Vets

Colonel Lawrence Brown, Presidio of Monterey

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

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)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Robert Norris.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Roberto O. Marshall, Garrison (CSM), was introduced as a new member of the VIAC and was acknowledged for attendance to his first meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments received from the public.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. September 22, 2016

b. October 27, 2016

***MOTION:** On motion by Committee member Stewart and second by Committee member Bogan and carried by the following vote, the VIAC moved to approve the September 22, 2016 and October 27, 2016 meeting minutes.*

Abstain: Daria Maher

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) Status Report

- i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report
- ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda
- iii. Endowment Parcel MOU
- iv. Opening Ceremony
- v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report

Daria Maher, CCCVC Administrator, informed the Committee that 1,293 applications were approved and 123 cremains have been interred and; 20 engraved niche covers are now displayed. The report regarding phase 2 has been delayed as CCCVC is still awaiting information on the pre-application from the Veteran's Affairs office. Ms. Maher also announced a wreath laying ceremony that will be held on Friday, December 16, 2016 at 9am.

The Committee also discussed the need for signs to clearly identify the route to the Cemetery location. Ms. Maher confirmed that the CCCVC is working with Google to have the location identified for visitors using navigation systems. The CalVet website has maps and the CCCVC is working on obtaining their own website.

b. Fundraising Status

- i. CCVCF Status Report

Richard Garza informed the Committee that the current focus is on a pledge motorcycle trip by the American Legion Riders that will be held in late summer, in which the riders will travel from the CCCVC to Maine and back.

Jack Stewart requested to revisit item 6aiii – CCCVC Status Report; Endowment Parcel MOU. Mr. Norris provided information regarding how FORA staff is engaged with staff Melanie Beretti at Monterey County to set up the paperwork to clarify the MOU and address the perceptions surrounding the endowment parcel MOU. Mr. Stewart expressed concerns about the sale of the endowment parcel; Mr. Norris provided further information about the work the CAC would be doing to address any conflicts and their efforts to collaborate with the State of California and other agencies.

Mr. Stewart also announced that the United Veteran's Council donated \$25,000 to the foundation for the Veteran's Cemetery.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

- i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update
- ii. Operational Schedule

James Bogan advised the Committee of the positive progression for the VA/DoD Clinic status. Col. Lawrence Brown provided details about how the two federal agencies are working together and resolving the challenges that arise.

d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction

The Committee discussed the status of the housing construction in Mr. Fagan's absence,

and the possibility the Assistant Director position had been filled. Mr. Norris also informed the Committee, the City is withholding its approval until a signed letter for the water commitment has been provided and that the Health and Human Services Department had waived their requirements but still pending formal transmission.

e. Historical Preservation Project

Mr. Norris reported on direction received at the previous VIAC meeting about drafting a letter and submitting to the Community Foundation. The goal is to gain support to assist in establishing a Board of Directors for the Historical Preservation group in order to organize fundraising efforts.

Mr. Stewart confirmed that the 501c(3) status has been granted.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Chair Edelen wished the Committee, staff & the public a Merry Christmas!

8. ADJOURNMENT at 3:21 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: January 26, 2017