

APPROVED



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. February 28, 2019 | FORA Conference
Room**

920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Jack Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Ian Oglesby, Mayor of Seaside

Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)

Jack Stewart, Monterey County California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee

Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs

COL Greg Ford, US Army

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by COL Greg Ford.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Officer Michael A Houlemaire, Jr. announced the following:

- The Army BRAC office is having their Impact Area Guided Walking Tour Saturday, May 4, 2019, and Impact Area Bus Tour Saturday, July 13, 2019 and community members can register at www.fortordcleanup.com

Principal Analyst Robert Norris announced that at the February 8, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, the Chair appointed Board Member Ian Oglesby as the new Veterans Issues Advisory Committee ("VIAC") Chair.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- January 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On motion by Committee member Williams and seconded by Committee member Estrada the VIAC approved the January 24, 2019 meeting minutes as amended.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

- California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) Status Report**

- Cemetery Administrator's Status Report*

Principal Analyst Robert Norris updated the committee stating the County and CDVA are working toward a solution for the Phase 1 Mitigation, however they are not ready to report

results yet but have held a meeting concerning this issue. Mr. Norris provided a handout of a section of the draft FORA Legislative Committee Agenda. The draft language states a position advocating support for the Veterans Cemetery and is included in the draft legislative language to implement the FORA 2018 Transition Plan. The full draft will go before the FORA Board for approval prior to going before state legislature.

Committee Member Sid Williams noted that the MOU needs to be amended and the cemetery needs to be included in the State budget. Mr. Williams thanked Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) staff members who have assisted with preparing the draft language that will be put before the Legislature to be approved. He stated that the draft wording includes making changes to the MOU and including the cemetery in the state budget, as it is currently not. The stated has helped at times, but the majority of the funding has come from the Marina Foundation.

Jack Stewart requested a list of people in the past working group.

Mr. Houlemard states that when the Laird Bill was put into place, which allowed funding from the state to begin the construction of the cemetery. However, current legislature is not suitable for assisting the Central Coast Veteran's Cemetery. The needs of the cemetery have changed and current legislators are trying restructure the ways that those needs can be met.

- ii. *Veteran's Cemetery Land Use Status*
This item was reported earlier in the discussion under 6a.i.
- iii. *Fort Ord Committee Verbal Report: Oak Woodlands Mitigation & Endowment MOU*
This item was reported earlier in the discussion under 6a.i.

b. **Fundraising Status**

Candy Ingram updated the committee on three upcoming events: First, the Epic Riders Cross Country Fundraiser; the riders will be carrying the KIA flags for the Honor Our Fallen Run, Candy thanked the Army for its assistance with the guideline's aspect, and Support for the Heroes Open. She is hopeful that proceeds from the events will be able to help support funding for capital investments.

c. **Veterans Transition Center (VTC) Housing Construction**

Jack Murphy from the Veterans Transition Center ("VTC") informed the committee that there are currently 90 vets and family members in the program, bringing the total to 101. Families are transitioning successfully due to active partnerships between The Parks, Garrison, and the VTC. Mr. Murphy also reported there are currently five duplexes in line to be remodeled, four of which funding for the remodels has been fully funded. He reported on the recent Point in Time ("PIT") study, the numbers will not be out until June, however preliminary numbers show a significant drop in the number of homeless Veteran's in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

Jack Stewart asked if other steps to prepare veterans who are transitioning out of the program besides housing, such as working with the trade unions on employment. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the VTC does attempt to work with other organizations, such as the Unemployment Development Department ("EDD"), to address and assist with preparation of veteran's transitioning back into society.

Ron Chesshirre of the Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties Builders Construction Trade Council commented on several opportunities and programs that are available to Veteran's including pre-apprenticeships, classes on trade skills, and a program that hire veterans directly or bring them to the top of the list for interviews and job advancement.

d. **VA-DOD Clinic**

Sid Williams announced the next Town Hall Meeting March 20, 2019 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at Legion Post 591. Chairman Oglesby passed on concerns from the veterans that Palo Alto is sending Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) instead of Registered Nurses (RN). As a result, the LVNs, while qualified, are becoming overwhelmed. LVN's are not as qualified or have as much training as RN's do. It was requested from members of the Committee that have concerns be presented to Congressman Panetta's office. Committee member Ford concurred with discussion that the Army is in the same situation as the VA in terms of finding RNs, and other much needed medical personnel.

e. **Historical Preservation Project**

Nothing to report.

f. **Calendar of Events**

Jack Murphy informed the committee of a fundraising concert by the Camarada Singers to benefit the VTC. They will be St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salinas Friday, March 1st and at the First Presbyterian Church in Monterey March 2nd and 3rd.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

COL. Greg Ford reported that the Army is hosting a ceremony honoring Vietnam Veterans for National Vietnam Veterans Day, at 10:00 a.m. March 29, 2019 at the Commissary.

Chair Oglesby initiated discussion on joint housing programs between the City of Seaside, Habitat for Humanity, and the VTC.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes Prepared
by: Shawn Hall

