



APPROVED

**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. June 27, 2019 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Acting Chair, Edith Johnsen, called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families/Fundraising
Jack Stewart, Monterey County California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs
James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans
COL. Greg Ford, U.S. Army
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council
Jason Cameron, Monterey County Office of Military & Veteran Affairs
Richard Garza, CCVC Foundation

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Mary Estrada.

3. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Principal Analyst Robert Norris invited the members to his 6/27/19 retirement dinner this evening at Bayonet/Blackhorse.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. May 23, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On motion by Committee member James Bogan and seconded by Committee member Sid Williams, the VIAC approved the May 23, 2019 meeting minutes, subject to corrections.

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. **Affordable Housing**

- i. *Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction*

Mr. Norris handed out an email he received regarding the Lightfighter Village project.

Mr. Jack Murphy, of the Veterans Transition Center ("VTC") in Marina, provided a brief history and update on the supportive housing programs offered by the VTC. Mr. Murphy reported that in over two years the VTC housing program has gone from a 58-unit program to a 90-unit total occupied program. The occupied units are made up of a combination of permanent supportive housing and a 10-bed emergency residential shelter. Mr. Murphy informed the Committee that he recently received an occupancy permit from the City of Marina for the use of two currently unoccupied duplexes for the permanent supportive housing program. Funds for the refurbishment of the units are being allocated from a Community Development Block Grant from the Cities of Seaside and Monterey, the County of Monterey, and from a grant from the Home Depot Foundation. He also updated the group on the 71 bed Lightfighter Village project that is specifically for low income veterans. Project-based vouchers are necessary in order to move forward with grant applications, however, none are available from the Housing Authority this year or next. This may delay the project again. Mr. Jason Cameron informed the group that CalVet offers home loans for working veterans who have a

hard time saving for the down payment on a home. For veterans residing in Monterey County, the max loan amount is over \$800,000 with no down payment.

b. Post-FORA VIAC Committee – Attachment A

Mr. Norris supplied the group with a copy of the current VIAC Committee Charge. There was a discussion regarding the possibility that the VIAC Committee may not continue to be hosted by FORA after it sunsets June 30, 2020. The Committee held further discussion on several possible scenarios as to how VIAC will continue to operate and what the Committee Charge would be. It was recommended that the VIAC Chair, Ian Oglesby, pull the report from the consent agenda at the July 12th FORA Board meeting for discussion.

c. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report – Attachment B

Erica Chaney informed the group that the cemetery has a new Office Technician named Maribel Mendoza. She reported that for fiscal year 2018/19 there were 316 veterans interred, and 87 dependents interred. Including the two previous fiscal years, the total number interred is 1,301.

She announced that the Phase 2 EIR comment period ended June 3, 2019. She expects to know if the grant is approved in August or September. If all goes as planned, construction will begin in 2020, and in-ground interments will begin in Spring or Summer 2021.

Mr. Norris provided the group with a copy of the California Military and Veterans Code Section 1456 – Proposed Amendment. The group discussed AB 3035, which was the Bill that 1) established the Veteran's Cemetery; and 2) set up a safe endowment fund for monies from the stat to fund and pay for the cemetery. The Committee discussed the fact that the current language of AB 3035 does not specify that local funds are not required to fund the cemetery, and that it is, in fact, a state funded project. The Committee agreed that language should be drafted to submit to the Legislature specifying exactly where funds for the cemetery are obligated from. It was suggested that the Committee enlist the help of FORA Executive Officer, Michael Houlemard, Jr. in getting the issue of AB 3035's current language on local funding on the Legislative Agenda.

d. Ord Military Community

COL. Greg Ford announced the event, Salute the Nation, will be held at the Presidio on July 3, 2019 at 15:30. This event is open to the public.

e. Fundraising Status

i. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation Status Report

Mr. Garza informed that group that the Epic Ride ceremony will begin at 1:00pm on Sunday, July 3, 2019 at the cemetery. He also announced that Honor Our Fallen is on October 19, 2019. VTC is coordinating the logistics with the Defense Language Institute. Candy Ingram reported that sponsors are needed for future Honor Our Fallen runs.

f. VA-DOD Clinic

Mr. James Bogan reported that the Town Hall meeting was held 6/19/19 in Marina. The September Town Hall meeting will be at the Salinas American Legion. The December meeting will be in Prunedale.

g. Calendar of Events

Jason Cameron announced that tickets will be on sale soon for the Vet of the Year ceremony. The nomination period is coming to a close.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Colonel Ford presented Mr. Norris with a medal in appreciation of his service as a Marine.