



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 26, 2014 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

With no quorum present, Acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting of the whole to order at 3:05 p.m. The following were present, as indicated by signatures on the roll sheet:

VIAC Members:

Edith Johnsen, Vets Families/Fundraising
James Bogan, UVC
George Dixon, MVAO
Richard Garza, CCVFC
Jack Stewart, CAC
Wes Morrill, MCVAO

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Sonya Sokolow
Steve Emerson, Marina Found.
Joan Gay, MOPH

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Johnsen asked Rich Garza to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Robert Norris announced that the cemetery property transfer agreement had been signed and notarized and would be sent overnight to the Department of General Services (DGS). Escrow is scheduled to close on June 30th. The signed water agreement from the Army is expected soon. Crissy Maras announced that FORA had located the former parade field flag pole and asked if it would be installed at the cemetery or the new clinic. James Bogan responded that he would follow up on an agreement with the clinic regarding their use of the flag pole.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

5. APPROVE VIAC MEETING MINUTES: May 29, 2014

With no quorum present, the minutes will be rescheduled for consideration at the next meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

i. **Groundbreaking Ceremony Planning**

Senator Monning representative Nicole Charles reported that Senator Monning has been actively meeting with the public to address concerns related to the environmental assessment. She added that there appears to be a lot of misinformation about the environmental work and requested that any questions be directed to her or Senator Monning.

Regarding the groundbreaking ceremony, Jack Stewart noted that the people he had been able to contact wanted to know for what date the ceremony was planned. He added that he is still working to locate/contact others.

b. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

This dual sited clinic will be a model in health care transitioning from active duty to retired. The City of Marina is working on an updated project schedule and it will be provided to the Committee when it becomes available.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Identify Property for a former Fort Ord Museum

Mr. Stewart reported that the Cemetery Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing the property to house a museum representing all service branches and the Monterey County Veterans Affairs Office. It was noted that CSUMB is renovating the Chamberlain Library, in concert with the DLI historian's office, for the Fort Ord Alumni Association. This item will be rescheduled for further discussion.

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Steve Emerson described the Marina Foundation and their mission in Marina. A recent Foundation fundraiser provided the funds to install a flag pole at Martinez Hall. They are finalizing the purchase and Monterey Peninsula Engineering will provide installation, anticipated to be complete by Veterans Day. Mr. Emerson also reported that Marina was the first to install their Purple Heart City signs.

Sonya Sokolow outlined the program at her urban ranch where she offers equine therapy to veterans. She has over 400 YouTube videos demonstrating various equine related activities as a part of the Wounded Warriors program. She is seeking to develop a 501(c)3 organization, possibly in conjunction with the Monterey Horse Park, to continue safely teaching veterans horseback riding and horse care/grooming skills.

Wes Morrill announced that the Stand Down event, scheduled for August 1-3 on Joe Lloyd Way, was behind on pre-registration. He noted that they are seeking donations and volunteers for the event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting of the whole at 3:40 p.m.