



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. January 26, 2017 | 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 Edith Johnsen

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- The Four Chaplains memorial service on February 4, 2017 – annual event hosted by the American Legion. Fliers provided to the public & committee.
- Marina Foundation – upcoming event on February 20, 2017, 3rd annual Jack Stewart Golf Fundraising Tournament at the Pines Golf Course.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no verbal comments from the public

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. December 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On motion by Committee member Johnsen and second by Committee member Bogan and carried by the following vote, the VIAC moved to approve the December 14, 2016 meeting minutes.

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

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

- i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report
Daria Maher, Cemetery Administrator informed the Committee that the Cemetery had its 200th burial, an advisory committee has been formed and first meeting will be held on February 8, 2017 at 4 P.M. Also, the Army will soon install permanent signs.
- ii. Veterans Cemetery Land Use Status
Update provided by Principal Analyst, Robert Norris
 - The Monument Village Specific Plan has been rescinded and the endowment parcel is back in the Seaside General Plan which is slated to be parks and open space. Any future development will require a developer to propose for a specific use and project. The value of the parcel would be based on its current zoning as open space.
 - Cemetery MOU – the funding from the endowment parcel would have to flow through an approved MOU document by the County – and the County will have to weigh in on the composition. County plans to appoint a representative to the Cemetery Advisory Committee which also leads into other land use considerations. It has also been noted that any funds would have to go through a government account for auditing and tracking purposes. The State would be in charge of preparing the “go-forward” plan for the cemetery and would be reviewed at the office of the State Architect.
 - Mitigation – Identified the specific size and location mitigation for the cemetery.

b. Fundraising Status

- i. CCVCF Status Report
Rich Garza – announcement of working with the American Legion Riders on the cross-country ride, and efforts are focused on getting national news media coverage. Recruitment for a grant writer is in progress so that contributions can be sought after now that the 501(c)(3) designation has been assigned.

J. Fagan also provided information regarding collaboration with organizations to gain funds. Candy Ingram provided information about the process and time it takes to construct a grant, status of the foundation website, and made a request to have the policies that apply to the Veteran's cemetery be collated into a binder and made available at the cemetery or FORA offices. Ms. Maher advised the policies were available on the CCCVC section of the website.

Mr. Norris reported that the Hero's Open Golf Tournament fundraiser has taken place for 7 years, and that \$25,000 was contributed last year.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

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

Mr. Norris provided the Committee and the public with a printed article from the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs website that indicated the clinic construction would be delayed until spring 2017, and the opening is now slated for the summer of 2017. It was also reported that an engineer visited the historic flag pole site to obtain measurements and gather data for an assessment.

d. Veterans Transition Center (VTC) Housing Construction

Mr. Fagan reported that the City of Monterey is funding the "Monterey Quad" and that construction is ahead of schedule. The Monterey Planning Commission met on January 24, 2017 and the project was moved ahead without objection, including a request for additional funds to improve those units. Also, a \$500,000 donation application was made to Home Depot foundation for 2-3 additional duplexes. Permission was also granted for the remaining homes on Hayes Circle to be remodeled in the same form as those in the "Monterey Quad" project.

Selection of the Executive Director for the VTC is expected to be announced soon.

e. Historical Preservation Project

The project is still in search of grants for funding.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Hero's Open is planned for October 29, 2017; the Golf Tournament Committee will be meeting in March, one hour prior to the next scheduled VIAC meeting.

Mr. Bogan suggested a thank you letter be sent to the cities and County for what has been accomplished in 2016, with a friendly reminder of what still needs to be completed in 2017 and beyond.

VTC has offered Martinez Hall as the site for a VIAC meeting to be held, to serve as an opportunity for the community to see the improvements made.

It was also reported that a \$30,000 award was provided, and a 2017 Ford transit van was ordered that will provide transportation to the VA hospital in Palo Alto for veterans.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 3:53 P.M.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: February 23, 2017