



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. February 23, 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
Col. Lawrence Brown, Presidio of Monterey
CSM Roberto Marshall, Presidio of Monterey
Mayor Jerry Edelen, City of Del Rey Oaks (Chair)
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Citizens Advisory Committee
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC)
Ian Oglesby, US Army Veteran
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Jack Stewart

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Edelen acknowledged former Seaside Mayor Pro-Tem, Ian Oglesby, who is also a US Army veteran, has recently joined this committee.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no verbal comments from the public

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. January 26, 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 January 23, 2017 meeting minutes.

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

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

- i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report Robert Norris noted Daria Maher was expected to be in attendance, but had a scheduling conflict and reported that by

way of informal notice, Dan Fahey is no longer with CDVA and any communications should be directed to Angela Yamamoto.

ii. **Veterans Cemetery Land Use Status**

Update provided by Principal Analyst, Robert Norris

- Mr. Norris reported on Senator Monning's CCCVC Focus Group meeting as positive and the significant take-away was that the department is committed to submitting the expansion application by June 30, 2017 and have been permitted to use the master plan as the working document. There will be some revisions, such as reduction of number of columbarium, requesting the number to be about 2,500 in-ground crypts. Expectation is that the Department of Finance sign-off to be October, but unsure if it's 2017 or 2018. Jack Stewart suggested 2017 makes more sense for the process timeline. Mr. Norris continued his report by stating the state/local share to be about \$2-\$3M, which covers the EIR. Mr. Stewart added that role of Monning's focus group is to review memorial and monument suggestions, but the real effort should be placed on Phase II.
- Mr. Norris reported that the cemetery endowment parcel MOU would have been discussed at a Tuesday meeting, but that meeting was cancelled. There will be a working group of Monterey County staff, FORA staff and Foundation staff to go over the MOU document after receiving County comments. He added that the endowment parcel does not need to be settled to proceed with the cemetery planning application. Sid Williams reported he had a productive meeting with Supervisor Mary Adams on cemetery and VTC issue, adding that she was very receptive. Discussion followed and was agreed by all to invite Supervisor Adams and Supervisor Alejo to attend the next VIAC meeting.
- Mr. Norris commented on environmental mitigations by saying there are a few parcels identified, but there are no specific parcels selected yet and will eventually be required to "anchor" the EIR.

b. Fundraising Status

i. **CCVCF Status Report**

Candy Ingram – Reported: contributions are not at a high level at this time, usually about \$1000 per month; meeting with Community Foundation will be made within the next two weeks to request help with reaching out to other community foundations in other counties; invitation was made to attend the Scottish American Military Society's annual meeting in Sacramento. Ms. Ingram and Supervisor Parker will be attending; the American Legion Riders planned cross-country ride has garnered a lot of public attention already while a national ad will be going out shortly and asked if PayPal could be set up for this. Mr. J. Fagan reported they are finalizing the donor page and noted that this campaign has been the most polished strategy he's ever seen and is glad the foundation is partnering on this. Ms. Ingram added that information on this will be sent out to all. In terms of grant writing, Ms. Ingram reported it is not very encouraging and said the foundation is in need of an intern to help with grant research/writing. Mr. J. Fagan suggested contacting CSUMB for intern assistance.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

- i. **Historic Flag Pole Variance Update**
Sid Williams reported an engineer's survey of the flag pole was made, with the estimated cost of repair and reducing the height to 80 feet is about \$4,000.
- ii. **Operational Schedule**
Mr. Norris reported the clinic's estimated opening will be summer of 2017.

d. Veterans Transition Center (VTC) Housing Construction

Mr. Jack Murphy reported a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held March 31. He added a correction needs to be made on the previous meeting minutes that an application to Home Depot for \$500,000 donation was made, not funds received.

Kurt Schake has been selected as the new Executive Director.

e. Historical Preservation Project

The project is still in search of grants for funding. Suggestion was made to seek out education related grant possibilities.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Sgt. Major Roberto Marshall announced there will be a Bronze Star presentation made to two surviving service members who were at the Battle of the Bulge and asked that any known service members serving after World War II submit their names for Bronze Star consideration to the HRC. Sgt. Marshall added that there will be a Vietnam Memorial pin presented to service members on May 12 and that any known person who served in Vietnam submit their name to HRC as well.

Col. Larry Brown asked committee members if there is any interest in moving the drill sergeant statute to the cemetery. Discussion followed on the history of this idea and the possibility of it being place at the "triangle" parcel in front of the cemetery entrance at the very least.

Mr. Michael Houlemard brought up the issue of wayfinding for members of the public who are given incorrect directional information. Discussion followed on the importance of permanent and visible directional/location signs, in addition to providing correct Google Maps information. Mr. Fagan offered to work with Daria Maher on correcting the Google Maps issue.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 3:55 P.M.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: March 23, 2017