



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY**  
**VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES**  
**3:00 P.M. August 24, 2017 | FORA Conference Room**  
920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A., Marina CA 93933

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Jerry Edelen called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

**Committee Members:**

Mayor Jerry Edelen, City of Del Rey Oaks (**Chair**)

Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families (VF)

Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veteran Affairs Commission (MCM/VAC)

Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)

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

Richard Garza, Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVCF)

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Jack Stewart.

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Riders Group provided an update on the "Epic Ride". The send-off ceremony will be held at the CCCVC on September 3, 2017 and Congressman Jimmy Panetta will be the keynote speaker.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no verbal comments from the public

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

a. July 27, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

***MOTION:** On motion by Committee member Edith Johnsen and second by Committee member Sid Williams and carried by the following vote, the VIAC moved to approve the July 27, 2017 meeting minutes with changes to items 6bi and to include discussion from Jack Stewart.*

**MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

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

*ii. Cemetery Administrator's Status*

Mr. Robert Norris, Project Analyst, provided an update on the CDVA attempts to fill vacant Cemetery Administrator position. Sid Williams also provided an update on the vacancies of other positions at the Cemetery.

*ii. Veterans Cemetery Land Use Status*

Mr. Norris provided information about the Community meeting in which the army changed the classification of the endowment parcel. Jack Stewart encouraged committee members to send a letter of support. Mr. Norris acknowledged that he needed to follow up on an earlier request to clarify CDVA's efforts to follow the Laird Bill and funding amounts given to other state cemetery projects. Mr. Houlemard advised the Committee members to send

the letter to Bill Collins at US Army. The Chair requested FORA staff to send the FORA Board members a form letter that they can provide to the Army in support of the decision regarding the endowment parcel.

iii. *Fort Ord Committee Verbal Report: Oak Woodlands Mitigation & Endowment MOU*  
Mr. Norris provided the answers gathered to questions from the Committee regarding the MOU. County representative Melanie Beretti is working on the draft is still in progress.

b. **Fundraising Status**

i. *CCVCF Status Report*

Public Service Announcement provided to KSBW for the Epic Ride event. Also, a shift of focus on fundraising to surrounding Counties to provide some relief to locals while the focus remains on the Epic Ride.

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

J. Alan Fagan, Veterans Transition Center (VTC), informed on the Veterans Transition Center housing construction and that it the group is seeking final approval on water. First residents at the VTC are moving in this week. Final preliminary budget completed to be submitted to Assemblymember Stone.

d. **VA-DOD Clinic**

Mr. Norris advised the Committee that Executive Officer, Michael Houlemard was interviewed by KSBW and Committee members provided feedback on the grand opening events. Sid Williams provided information about MST and its routes to the clinic with a Veterans ride. Jack Stewart noted the lack of signs for the clinic.

e. **Historical Preservation Project**

Cliff Guinn, Fort Ord Retiree Counsel, informed the Committee of the status of the historical preservation project and the dire need to raise money in order the buildings to be restored.

f. **Calendar of Events**

- September 3 – Rider's Group;
- September 8 – FORA Board Transportation Workshop
- October 21 – Run for the fallen – Col. Brown has spot on KION for PSA (Congressman Panetta guest speaker)
- October 28 – Hero's Open
- November 11 – another opportunity to present pins to Vietnam Veterans before the Veteran Day parade.

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Jack Stewart thanked the Army representatives for the honor given to Vietnam Veterans.

**8. ADJOURNMENT** at 3:37 P.M.