



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY  
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES  
3:00 P.M. April 25, 2019 | FORA Conference Room  
920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ian Oglesby called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

**Committee Members Present:**

Ian Oglesby, Mayor of Seaside

Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families/Fundraising

Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)

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

Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Affairs

Richard Garza, CCVC Foundation

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Edith Johnsen.

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Principal Analyst Robert Norris announced that the Heroes Open meeting just finished prior to this meeting. This past month was the Vietnam Veterans Recognition march.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

a. March 28, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On motion by Committee member Stewart and seconded by Committee member Williams, the VIAC approved the March 28, 2019 meeting minutes, subject to corrections.

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

a. **Affordable Housing**

i. *Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction*

Mr. Norris informed the committee that there was no status report on the projects mentioned at the last meeting.

b. **Employment**

i. *Ron Cheshire – Helmets to Hardhats*

Mr. Norris reported the Ron Cheshire again brought up the invitation with Helmets to Hardhats program.

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

i. *Cemetery Administrator's Status Report*

Principal Analyst Robert Norris announced that several key project milestones have been advanced. He noted that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is now open for public comment. Construction drawings are at 95% and design drawings are at 50%. Except for the response to the EIR, the packet will be acceptable to the National Cemetery Administration.

ii. *Veteran's Cemetery Land Use Status*

Mr. Norris reported that, according to the project consultants, while they're not completely ready to state that all remaining mitigation issues from the first phase have been done, they feel confident that by the time the EIR is processed they will have a proposal that addresses the remaining mitigation requirements from phase one and all future phases.

iii. *Fort Ord Committee Verbal Report: Oak Woodlands Mitigation & Endowment MOU*

Reported above.

iv. *Legislative Report*

Robert Norris commented that FORA has taken a position to support, but we don't have a specific Bill that has been offered to eliminate the LAIRD requirement.

d. **Ord Military Community**

Mr. Kai Yuan announced that on June 8, 2019 from 0800 to 1230 will be the annual Retiree Appreciation Day at the Stillwell Community Center.

e. **Fundraising Status**

i. *Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation Status Report*

Mr. Richard Garza reported that the Foundation will be participating in Retiree Appreciation Day. Their focus now is on the Epic Ride scheduled for July 9 to August 13, 2019. It's tied-in to the Presentation of Flags to Goldstar families. The May 27<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremony is at 8:00 A.M. at the cemetery. Jimmy Panetta is scheduled to speak at the event. Honor Our Fallen is on October 19, 2019.

Candy Ingram informed the Committee that we do not have a complete cemetery. We need an in-ground capacity. The Foundation has a couple of concerns. One is the LAIRD requirement. Another concern is that this is a cemetery owned and operated by the State. She informed the group that the Foundation is taking a very conservative approach to costs to make sure Phase two is taken care of.

The committee discussed the importance of the State assuming the responsibilities of the operations and maintenance of the cemetery, and making it a priority for the whole community to contact our legislators to adopt a Bill and move it forward.

**MOTION:** On motion by Committee member Stewart and seconded by Committee member Williams and carried by the following vote, the VIAC approved that we ask our State Legislators to move forward expeditiously to remove the LAIRD Bill and get a Bill passed for the Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery to be a budgeted item in the State budget.

**MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

f. **VA-DOD Clinic**

No new updates.

g. **Calendar of Events**

No new updates

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Mr. Cliff Guinn announced that the cemetery is short a person, and they need a volunteer in the office. Sid offered to distribute their Volunteer Service Agreement, so it could be placed on local webpages.

Rich Garza reported that he has been involved with incarcerated veterans at Soledad prison. Palo Alto has been refusing to go to the prison for exams.

Mary Estrada announced that the Marina Foundation has recently provided for a \$2,500 grant to the United Veteran's Council for their emergency fund. The Marina Foundation also gave a donation to The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) for their use for helping needy veterans. They are also exploring working with the Visiting Nurses Association to address the needs of Marina veterans. Mary also noted that they provided drill rifles to the new cadet battalion that was formed at Marina High School. Lastly, the Marina Foundation made a donation to TRIA for their work with the local Jr ROTC for Monterey County.

Mr. Guinn confirmed that the final paperwork has been sent ending the Historical Preservation Project. However, he noted that the Historical Museum for Fort Ord still has interested parties.

**8. ADJOURNMENT** at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Shawn Hall