



APPROVED

**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY  
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES  
3:00 P.M. April 23, 2020 | This meeting was held at the following Zoom link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/956115894>**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ian Oglesby called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Ian N. Oglesby, City of Seaside – Chair  
James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans  
Command Sgt. Major Robert Londers, U.S. Army  
Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee  
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military and VA Commission  
Richard Garza, CCVC Foundation  
Jack Murphy, Veterans Transition Center

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Oglesby.

3. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Metz acknowledged the work of active-duty military and veterans in the US and around the world. Mr. Oglesby acknowledged the work that the local National Guard has been carrying out at local food banks and giveaways.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment was received.

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. February 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** On motion by Member Murphy and second by Member Garza, the Veterans Issues Advisory Committee moved to approve the February 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

- a. **Affordable Housing**

Mr. Murphy reported that the Veterans Transition Center (VTC) is at 100% occupancy in all of their programs. They also increased the size of their emergency residential shelter from 10 to 14. Martinez Hall is still open, but with reduced operations and the only entrance is near the flagpole. A duplex that was awarded to one disabled veteran contractor is funded almost exclusively by the City of Seaside Community Development Block Grant. The financing component of Lightfighter Village continues to move forward and has gained quite a bit of traction recently and he is optimistic that they will be able to break ground on that project sometime in Winter of this calendar year. The VTC is going to partner with a local developer, EAH, to work on the former VA clinic. He also noted that the VTC pantry is open to all veterans and active duty members. They have drive-through food give aways on Wednesdays, and are not checking ID's. For non-veterans, the drive throughs are Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.

**b. Post-FORA VIAC Committee**

Mr. Oglesby stated that VIAC members should continue to send letters to the FORA Board. Mr. Metz noted that all letters sent to the Board have been recorded as corespondence to the Board. Monterey County has submitted \$1.5 million funding request to FORA, \$350,000 of which would be allocated to three years of support to Jason Cameron's position. As of the last FORA Board meeting, there was \$3.2 million worth of asks to the FORA Board for unbudgeted items. However, when the Mid-Year Budget was discussed, there was only \$1.8 million of unassigned funds available. Because there are more asks than funds, there will be some prioritization done. Mr. Metz answered questions from the members.

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

No report.

**d. Ord Military Community**

Sgt. Major Londers and Colonel Ford express their thanks to the local community. They are extremely proud that the Presidio is the only US Army Base without a COVID case. Londers noted that he will be there at the VTC food handout next Wednesday. Their commissary is working overtime to make sure folks have what they need, they ask that non-active duty folks go on Saturday mornings. To enter the Presidio, you must wear a mask. Some members of the community have had issues with agent letters. If VIAC members know someone who has that issue, reach out to him, so that they can get a person to shop for them at the PX or the Commissary. Send him an email at [Robert.n.londers.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Robert.n.londers.mil@mail.mil) if you have an agent letter issue.

**e. Fundraising Status**

Mr. Garza noted that contributions are still coming in at \$3-5k each month. Completion date is end of this year or early next year. Also, they are getting calls regarding in-ground burials.

**f. VA-DOD Clinic**

No report.

**g. Military & Veterans Affairs Office ("MVAO") – Monthly Report**

Mr. Cameron noted that in March they had retroactive payments, nearly \$300k was brought in, \$41k new monthly payments going out. They had 361 walk-ins and appointments, waived \$900k in college fee waivers, and drove 45 veterans to Palo Alto. However, there have been changes as they have suspended the van rides program and all outreach events. Any member of the public can still make an appointment with their office online or over the phone.

**h. Calendar of Events**

Mr. Metz reported that there are 68 days until FORA closes. Sgt. Major Londers voiced that he would like the retirees council to take over the VIAC if that is possible. He also noted that Language Day has been cancelled due to COVID and Salute to the Nation may be cancelled. There may be some kind of re-scheduled event once COVID is over. Mr. Metz stated that he would send out talking points to the VIAC members for their public comment.

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Mr. Stewart noted that he'd like to hear more about Sgt. Major Londers request that the retirees council become the new VIAC.

**8. ADJOURNMENT** at 4:02 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Harrison Tregenza  
Deputy Clerk