



Fort Ord Reuse Authority

920 2nd Avenue, Ste. A, Marina, CA 93933

Phone: (831) 883-3672 • Fax: (831) 883-3675 • www.fora.org

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (VIAC)

2:00 PM Thursday, March 28, 2013

920 2nd Avenue Suite A, Marina, CA 93933 (FORA Conference Room)

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Confirming a quorum, Acting Chair Greg Nakanishi (Chair Edelen was delayed due to flight cancellations) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Sid Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following people, indicated by signatures on the roll sheet, attended:

Committee Members

Tom Griffin, MVAO
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Sid Williams, MCMVAC
Andrew Wynn, US Army POM
James C. Bogan, UVC
Jerry Edelen, FORA Board Chair

Others in attendance

Wes Morrill, MVAO
Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Janet Parks, CCVCF
Erica Parker, Asm Mark Stone
Richard Garza, CCVCF
Jack Stewart
Kathleen Lee, Sup. Potter

FORA Staff

Michael Houlemard
Robert Norris
Jonathan Garcia
Crissy Maras

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Santa Cruz VFW Post Resolution in Support of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

The Committee received the Santa Cruz VFW resolution, and a letter from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors supporting a bill related to the CCCVC was distributed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jack Stewart asked if the Cemetery Advisory Committee could be represented on the Committee. Staff will research the possibility of adding members and report back at the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review of Committee Charge

The Committee reviewed the Charge and noted modifications: "Veterans Administration/ US Army Clinic" is changed to "Veterans Administration/ Department of Defense Clinic" and "processing these projects and others as assigned" is changed to "processing these projects and others related to veterans or military issues".

The Charge will be taken to the FORA Executive Committee for concurrence and then deemed established.

- b. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

- i. Receive Report on FORA Meetings with California Department of Veterans Affairs

Executive Officer Houlemard reported that meetings with the CA Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), CA Department of General Services (CDGS) and CA Department of Finance

(CDF) were held in Sacramento on March 11 to determine how the State could be prepared to accept the transfer of the cemetery parcel. There was also discussion regarding how FORA could contract with the CDVA on behalf of the State for the planning and construction of the cemetery.

Nicole Charles reported that four different State agencies are involved in getting the land transferred from FORA to the State. The meetings allowed these agencies to outline the process toward approval by an August 15th deadline. Congressman Farr has asked that all support this deadline to assure consideration of the capital grant in the current federal fiscal year.

Wes Morrill asked if UXO issues existed on-site. Executive Officer Houlemard responded that the US Environmental Protection Agency and the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control had issued letters declaring the parcel clean and ready for transfer and use as a cemetery. Both Monterey County and the City of Seaside have approved transfer to the State, but Seaside approved by agreement with FORA. The FORA Board will be asked to approve that agreement at their April meeting.

Acting Chair Nakanishi asked about the required \$30K fee for the State to accept the land transfer. Executive Officer Houlemard noted that the fee is for reimbursement of the time required to process the transfer and accept the land. The Cemetery Foundation may be asked to pay the fee, which might be reimbursable as a project cost.

ii. State Burial Claim Reimbursements

The US Department of Veterans Affairs will reimburse the State for burial costs. The CDVA will base the reserve amount on the reimbursement rate.

c. Joint Army/VA Clinic – Status Report

The FORA Board approved the consistency determination this past December. The City of Marina conducted a Request for Proposals and is currently in the selection phase. The clinic is expected to open in about one year.

d. Approve 2013 Meeting Dates

Although the VIAC was originally expected to meet quarterly, some ramping up is anticipated, requiring monthly meetings in the beginning. Monthly meetings on the last Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM were suggested (with the exception of November and December). The Committee reviewed the suggested meeting dates and determined that the start time should change to 3:00 PM to accommodate committee members.

MOTION: Edith Johnsen moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the suggested meeting dates, changing the start time from 2:00 to 3:00, and choosing December 19th as the preferred December date.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

5. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

a. Other items concerning the VIAC or Veteran Community

Ms. Johnsen requested the addition of a columbarium first phase and re-phasing to future agendas in order to think the process through and meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Williams noted that since the metes and bounds had been completed, it would be important to take all of the next steps in a timely way to help ensure the project can be found consistent by the FORA Board.

Mr. Williams provided a copy of the cemetery master plan to the US Army representative. It was anticipated the Army would provide water for the cemetery, in perpetuity, from the Army's allocation. Tom Moore noted that the permanent amount needed (a smaller amount) would be deducted from the Army's water allocation, not the amount necessary for the initial phase/ establishment (larger amount). Chair Edelen said FORA staff would assemble a briefing for the command on the water issue and would research the previous Army agreement related to this request.

Mr. Williams noted a petition being circulated by the Fort Ord Access Alliance asking to designate several hundred acres of Fort Ord land as permanent open space.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: April 25, 2013

Action minutes prepared by:

Crissy Maras, FORA Grants and Contracts/Records Coordinator.