



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC)

3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

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

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 3:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Members of the audience wishing to address the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) VIAC on matters within the jurisdiction of FORA, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment Period. Public comments are limited to three minutes. Public comments on specific agenda items will be heard under that item.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. May 29, 2014 VIAC Minutes ACTION
- b. June 26, 2014 VIAC Meeting Notes ACTION

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report INFORMATION
 - i. Groundbreaking Ceremony Planning INFORMATION
- b. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report INFORMATION
- c. Identify Property for a former Fort Ord Museum INFORMATION/ACTION

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Viet Nam War Commemoration INFORMATION

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

9. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: AUGUST 28, 2014 (If necessary)

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UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1-3, 2014: Stand Down on Joe Lloyd Way

September 4, 2014: Army Soldier Show at Presidio of Monterey

November 8, 2014: Heroes' Open Golf Tournament at Bayonet and Blackhorse Golf Course

For information regarding items on this agenda or to request disability related modifications and/or accommodations please contact the Deputy Clerk by 5:00 p.m., one business day prior to the meeting. Agendas are available on the FORA website at www.fora.org.



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, May 29, 2014 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following were present, as indicated by signatures on the roll sheet:

VIAC Members:

Sid Williams, Mo. Co. Military/Vets
Edith Johnsen, Vets Families/Fundraising
Jack Stewart, Cemetery Advisory Comm.
CSM Wynn, POM
James Bogan, UVC
George Dixon, MVAO
Richard Garza, CCVFC

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Candace Ingram, CCVCF
Eric Morgan, BLM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Johnsen asked Sid Williams to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Acting Chair Johnsen acknowledged Eric Morgan, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representative, and Candace Ingram, Community Foundation representative, were in attendance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BLM rep Morgan provided handouts illustrating the restoration of an armored military personnel carrier and requested help in facilitating a partnership with the Fort Ord Alumni Association and the VIAC to restore additional equipment for public awareness and enjoyment at the National Monument. FORA Principal Analyst Robert Norris provided a copy of an assignment prepared by Monterey Peninsula College students focusing on their tour of former Fort Ord barracks. Acting Chair Johnsen requested that the MPC report be **attached** to the minutes from this meeting.

5. APPROVE VIAC MEETING MINUTES: April 3, 2014

MOTION: Sid Williams moved, seconded by Jack Stewart, to accept the April 3, 2014 minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. **California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

Mr. Norris described an out-of-the-box coordination meeting with the State and their lead consultants which led to their participation in a FORA training video and cemetery site access. A revised Department of General Services (DGS) schedule was distributed. Cemetery water approval is now awaiting signature by the Deputy Secretary, which is expected in the next several days. Senator Monning's representative Nicole Charles reported that Senator Monning was uplifted by

recent meetings with CalVet and encouraged by the conceptual designs. She added that CalVet and DGS have prioritized cemetery planning and that environmental work is underway.

b. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

Although there is activity at the site, requests for a construction schedule from the City of Marina have not been answered. Staff anticipates including a schedule in the next meeting packet.

7. NEW BUSINESS - none

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Williams noted that he had requested FORA assistance to identify property for a museum. Mr. Norris agreed to meet separately and bring the request to a future VIAC meeting. Acting Chair Johnsen added that she had recently submitted six tapes of Fort Ord ceremonies toward that effort and encouraged others to do the same as they come across Fort Ord items that would have public benefit. Ms. Ingram added that Defense Language Institute Historian Steven Payne had prepared a presentation on the history of Fort Ord and the DLI. That presentation is being scheduled for FORA staff in the near future.

Mr. Williams noted that the Marina Foundation wants to increase awareness of the local veteran population and added that they had raised funds to install a flag pole at Martinez Hall. Mr. Williams asked that Steve Emerson be invited to the next meeting to provide an update. James Bogan announced a retirement appreciation ceremony on June 14th at Stilwell Hall; cemetery updates will be provided at a County-sponsored booth. George Dixon announced a booth at the Fort Ord PX on May 30th which would provide information regarding veterans' services. Sgt. Major Wynn invited members to the Army Soldier show on September 4th at the Presidio of Monterey. Acting Chair Johnsen announced the Heroes' Open golf tournament on November 8th and requested that upcoming events be added to the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.



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VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING NOTES

3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 26, 2014 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

With no quorum present, Acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting of the whole to order at 3:05 p.m. The following were present, as indicated by signatures on the roll sheet:

VIAC Members:

Edith Johnsen, Vets Families/Fundraising
James Bogan, UVC
George Dixon, MVAO
Richard Garza, CCVFC
Jack Stewart, CAC
Wes Morrill, MCVAO

FORA Staff:

Robert Norris
Crissy Maras

Others:

Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Sonya Sokolow
Steve Emerson, Marina Found.
Joan Gay, MOPH

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Johnsen asked Rich Garza to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Robert Norris announced that the cemetery property transfer agreement had been signed and notarized and would be sent overnight to the Department of General Services (DGS). Escrow is scheduled to close on June 30th. The signed water agreement from the Army is expected soon. Crissy Maras announced that FORA had located the former parade field flag pole and asked if it would be installed at the cemetery or the new clinic. James Bogan responded that he would follow up on an agreement with the clinic regarding their use of the flag pole.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

5. APPROVE VIAC MEETING MINUTES: May 29, 2014

With no quorum present, the minutes will be rescheduled for consideration at the next meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. **California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

i. **Groundbreaking Ceremony Planning**

Senator Monning representative Nicole Charles reported that Senator Monning has been actively meeting with the public to address concerns related to the environmental assessment. She added that there appears to be a lot of misinformation about the environmental work and requested that any questions be directed to her or Senator Monning.

Regarding the groundbreaking ceremony, Jack Stewart noted that the people he had been able to contact wanted to know for what date the ceremony was planned. He added that he is still working to locate/contact others.

b. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

This dual sited clinic will be a model in health care transitioning from active duty to retired. The City of Marina is working on an updated project schedule and it will be provided to the Committee when it becomes available.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Identify Property for a former Fort Ord Museum

Mr. Stewart reported that the Cemetery Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing the property to house a museum representing all service branches and the Monterey County Veterans Affairs Office. It was noted that CSUMB is renovating the Chamberlain Library, in concert with the DLI historian's office, for the Fort Ord Alumni Association. This item will be rescheduled for further discussion.

8. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Steve Emerson described the Marina Foundation and their mission in Marina. A recent Foundation fundraiser provided the funds to install a flag pole at Martinez Hall. They are finalizing the purchase and Monterey Peninsula Engineering will provide installation, anticipated to be complete by Veterans Day. Mr. Emerson also reported that Marina was the first to install their Purple Heart City signs.

Sonya Sokolow outlined the program at her urban ranch where she offers equine therapy to veterans. She has over 400 YouTube videos demonstrating various equine related activities as a part of the Wounded Warriors program. She is seeking to develop a 501(c)3 organization, possibly in conjunction with the Monterey Horse Park, to continue safely teaching veterans horseback riding and horse care/grooming skills.

Wes Morrill announced that the Stand Down event, scheduled for August 1-3 on Joe Lloyd Way, was behind on pre-registration. He noted that they are seeking donations and volunteers for the event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting of the whole at 3:40 p.m.