



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES

3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 25, 2016 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933

1. CALL TO ORDER

Confirming a quorum, Acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
Chair Jerry Edelen excused due to an accident. The following were present:

Committee Members:

Master Sgt. Alan Gerardo, U.S. Army (POM Garrison)
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Advisory Commission
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Richard Garza, CCVC Foundation
Jack Stewart, Monterey County Cemetery Citizens Advisory Committee
James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans
Preston Young, U.S. Army (POM/DLI)

Others:

Terry Bare, Veterans Transition Center
George Guinn, Forthm

FORA Staff:

Mary Israel
Robert Norris

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mary Estrada led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Terry Bare of Veterans Transition Center (VTC) announced the 7-unit housing development Phase II for homeless veterans has a waiver for development as Affordable Housing under the Kerry-Vento Act. On March 16, the City of Marina Design Review Board will review the plans.

Mr. Bare also announced a delay in the VTC annual dinner. Mr. Bare reported that the pieces of the Stillwell bar are in VTC hands, so he is looking for feedback as to where to install them. Mr. Bare reminded the members of the Aug 19-21 Homeless Veterans Stand Down and shared a flyer.

Principal Analyst Robert Norris asked the acting Chair if the Transition Center Housing construction should become a regular business item for the Agenda; the Chair agreed.

Mr. Norris recommended a book with a chapter written by Lionardo Ortiz (member of the Citizens Advisory Committee), entitled "The Power of Imagination." He recommended the use of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) newsletters in a free online library for engaging veterans in housing and employment.

Preston Young announced the June 11, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Presidio of Monterey Annual Retirees Appreciation Day at General Stillwell Building on old Fort Ord. Mr. Young announced the May 13 11:30 a.m. DLI Language Day, where Vietnam Veterans will be recognized by Colonel Fellingner. He also passed out posters for the Army Field Band free concert on March 17 at 7 p.m.

Acting Chair Johnsen asked what avenues the members could suggest for Public Relations for all of these announcements. Mr. Young suggested the Arrow. Sid Williams offered to discuss greater outreach with KSBW Chairman and spokesman Mr. Heston, but mentioned that items are posted on the United Veterans Council (UVC) website and Facebook page. Ms. Estrada offered to talk with someone at the County Veterans office about website events updates and a bimonthly publication.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

George "Cliff" Guinn announced his work on the Veterans Memorial Trail is going ahead.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. January 28, 2016

MOTION: Jack Stewart moved, seconded by Sid Williams to approve the January 28, 2016 Veterans Issues Advisory Committee minutes with correction to George Dixon's name spelling.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. VIAC Appointments

Mr. Norris confirmed the VIAC appointments for each organization.

b. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Mr. Norris said tht August is the expected completion time.

ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda

James Bogan said there were new ideas among the CAC on what to deliver to the public and that they plan to go to the County for better results from CDVA. Mr. Stewart said that the CAC needs statistics on full body vs. cremated remains, and Tom came through with some. Mr. Bogan referred to a conversation with Secretary MacDonald about moving the application ahead. Mr. Norris said he is drafting the pre-application for expansion is titled as expansion for priority in funding and therefore they must determine the unmet need for in-ground burials.

iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Mr. Williams reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is going to be reviewed in a meeting on the 29th. Mr. Stewart said it is imperative that VIAC members show up to the meetings because there will be opposing views. Mr. Bogan said that the MOU is designed for funds to go to the cemetery maintenance so attendance at the City of Seaside meetings is important.

c. Fundraising Status

i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Richard Garza reported that there is not much change. The Foundation is working to estimate how much is needed before the Capital Campaign. He reported that the CCVC Foundation has not taken a position on flagpoles and benches, etc. VIAC members offered to circulate items for purchase lists and a Scope of Work for naming plaques. Mr. Norris will distribute the full reports to Ms. Estrada and Mr. Williams and a cost summary attachment to all other VIAC members.

d. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Mr. Williams reported that George Reid is sandblasting the flagpole. There is no specific location settled for the flag pole at this time.

ii. Clinic Construction Schedule

Mr. Norris reported that the hospital interim reconfiguration moved the date out to August-September. He said there is also a discussion to add a dental facility. VIAC members discussed coordinating with Sam Farr's schedule so he can be present for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

e. **Historical Preservation Project**

Mr. Guinn said he is working with the City of Marina to pick buildings to work on, but as his 501(c)3 is still pending, there is no funding but he is doing grants research. Mr. Norris said that council members publicly supported the Veterans Memorial Trail. Mr. Garza suggested Mr. Guinn attend free workshops available through the Community Foundation of Monterey County. Ms. Estrada suggested Mr. Guinn ask at Sam Farr's office for help on his IRS status.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

a. Year of the Veteran

Mr. Williams said that 2016 was proclaimed the Year of the Veteran by the County Board of Supervisors (County BOS) on February 9th and a copy of the resolution is at the VTC. Mr. Williams said that Marina has made a similar one. Mr. Bogan said that Seaside will review a Year of the Veteran proclamation on the first Thursday of March. Mr. Norris said that he would like a copy to bring before the FORA Board of Directors (Board). Members had uniform agreement that the Board consider adopting a resolution, without objection.

b. VFW 811 Fort Ord Memorial closing

Mr. Stewart said the VFW 811 Fort Ord Memorial is closing doors on Saturday. He said the charter will continue.

c. Veterans Kiosk

Mr. Bogan said that Veterans don't like using the kiosk.

d. NCHV Housing Summit

Mr. Norris said the Mayor of San Diego came to the Housing Summit he attended there, and the Mayor has set an annual performance charge to all agency heads to end Veteran Homelessness. The City pays for shelter with VASH program funds.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Edith Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 3 p.m. March 24, 2016