



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

3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, March 24, 2016
(FORA Conference Room)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Confirming quorum, Chair Jerry Edelen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following were present:

Committee Members:

James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans
Mayor Jerry Edelen, City of Del Rey Oaks (Chair)
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)
Richard Garza, Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVC Foundation)
Master Sgt. Alan Gerardo, U.S. Army (POM Garrison)
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Citizens Advisory Committee
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC)
Preston Young, U.S. Army (POM/DLI)

FORA Staff:

Mary Israel
Michael Houlemard, Jr.

Others in Attendance:

Terry Bare, Veterans Transition Center
Erica Parker, Office of Assemblymember Stone
Bob Schaffer, member of the public

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sid Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Edelen announced the FORA Board of Directors resolved to declare 2016 the Year of the Veteran (Reso. #16-05).

Executive Officer Michael Houlemard Jr. announced that he now has a grandchild, and that he has been selected as a community leader in attendance at the U.S. Army National Security Seminar at the Army War College in Pennsylvania June 4-8 of this year.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. February 25, 2016

MOTION: Jack Stewart moved, seconded by James Bogan, to approve the February 25, 2016 Veterans Issues Advisory Committee minutes with changes as noted by Mary Israel. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Mr. Houlemard said he visited the Cemetery yesterday and construction is moving along and that it is time to form a committee to work toward the ribbon cutting ceremony. The former construction administrator is now effectively replaced by the new assistant Director, and although there will be no "new Eddie Falco," there is a hiring process underway for a local cemetery manager.

ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda
No report.

iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Mr. Houlemard said that the endowment parcel MOU review is rescheduled to the April meeting of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Fort Ord Committee.

b. Fundraising Status

i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Richard Garza had no other report than his research on State Assembly Bill 2561, which is discussed in 6f of this meeting agenda.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Sid Williams reported that the primer coat is on the flag pole, and he is scheduled to meet in person with Veterans Affairs (VA) to discuss placement. James Bogan said that the Clinic ribbon cutting is set for October 14th and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is expected to attend. Therefore, he will invite the Secretary to see the veteran transitional housing of Veterans Transition Center (VTC). Otherwise, the attorneys of the VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) are discussing the variance.

ii. Clinic Construction Schedule
No report.

d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction

Terry Bare said a 70 unit housing project for the west end of VTC property is with the Marina Planning Commission and Design Board. Meanwhile, the timeline is tight to keep the funding, so VTC is seeking options for water to support the project and Sam Farr's office is helping to iron out a disagreement on site control with Health and Human Services. Mr. Houlemard offered that VTC measure real need rather than use Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) estimates, which project higher than actual acre-feet per year (AF-Y) need. When VTC has a real need number, they could approach the Army for the amount out of their allocation. Mr. Bare said that after City of Marina and MCWD, Colonel Fellingner has been asked to transfer Army water rights as an alternate.

****Chair Edelen left the meeting at 3:20 p.m. Edith Johnsen became acting Chair.****

e. Historical Preservation Project

Jack Stewart said he is working to enhance Cliff's work by speaking with Marina City Council member Amadeo.

f. California State Assembly Bill 2561

Mr. Garza said that the CCVC Foundation has two concerns with the wording of AB 2561: 1)"expended for maintenance and repair" could limit every penny of the capital campaign and prior fundraising to cemetery development, and 2)"maintanence or beautification project designated by donor" is a phase of the project, whose funds exist at profit for the first ten years, so it could limit funding flow at other phases.

Mr. Houlemard said the intention of the bill is to assure funds aren't swept away at a fiscal year change. Mr. Williams said he questioned the bill's wording as Mr. Garza had, so he wrote to his representatives about it. Senator Monning's Chief of Staff contacted him and explained the reasoning for the terms and that they are helpful because they assure "continuous appropriation," which he took to mean the CCVC doesn't need to go through the state legislature to access the funds. Mr. Williams provided a copy of an email from Kathy Smith on the subject. Acting Chair Johnsen requested the email be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Mr. Williams said he will continue to research the administration of the fund with the office of Assemblymember Mark Stone about the bill, such as who would serve as the auditor and how the Fund will be distributed. A member of the public asked what administrative fee would be charged.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Acting Chair Johnsen suggested the VIAC add Opening Ceremony in 6a to the next agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 3 p.m. April 28, 2016