



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

3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, April 28, 2016
(FORA Conference Room)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Committee Members:

Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)
Richard Garza, Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVC Foundation)
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:

Robert Norris
Michael Houlemard, Jr.
Mary Israel

Others in Attendance:

Terry Bare, Veterans Transition Center
Erica Parker, Office of Assemblymember Stone
Bob Schaffer, member of the public
Cliff Guinn, Forthm
Candace Ingram, CCVC

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Richard Garza led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. March 24, 2016

MOTION: Richard Garza moved, seconded by Sid Williams, to approve the March 24, 2016 Veterans Issues Advisory Committee minutes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Principal Analyst Robert Norris said he visited the new assistant Director, and there is a hiring process underway for a local cemetery manager. Ms. Johnsen noted a gap in VA attention to veteran requests for updates and information distribution.

ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda

Mr. Norris said there is a CAC steering committee meeting on May 12th at 10 a.m. and the main focus will be review of the tabulations which will justify in-ground burials at the new cemetery.

iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Sid Williams said he will attend the meeting which will discuss the MOU on May 12.

iv. Opening Ceremony

Erica Parker said that mid-September is still the completion date and that the ribbon cutting should be in that window of time.

v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report

Richard Garza said there are 200 reported. Candy Ingram offered to request more data from Mr. Stein of Sacred Memorial Mortuary. Mr. Garza said that June is the end of the pre-application annual cycle, so the placeholder must be presented in advance of that. Mary Estrada said the data on interest in in-ground burial should be shown for the next 20-25 years, in addition to current requests.

b. Fundraising Status

i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Mr. Garza said funding is coming in and the Foundation is working on new marketing which will be introduced in the next few weeks.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Mr. Williams reported that the VA looked at the flagpole and will test structural integrity next.

ii. Clinic Construction Schedule

Mr. Norris said October 14th is the date for the ribbon cutting, but there is no local engagement in organizing it yet.

d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction

Terry Bare said a 70 unit housing project for the west end of VTC property is caught in a loophole on the fiscal permission due to federal law; recent Farr/Ritter discussions were not helpful in avoiding that, so he is looking into a buyout option. VTC is seeking options for water to support the project with Col. Fellingner of the Army for the amount out of their allocation.

e. Historical Preservation Project

Cliff Guinn said that he is still pursuing his 501c3 status for Forthm. Jack Stewart and Mr. Guinn discussed their pursuit of a new location for the historical preservation project. Group suggestions included: East Garrison, old FORA building.

f. California State Assembly Bill 2561

Executive Officer Michael Houlemard noted the letter attached to the meeting agenda, and said that he has proposed some changes to the endowment parcel MOU in the area of who represents FORA.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Bare announced several events including the Cal Vet leadership summit last week, Warhorse Day on May 7, Vet Court Symposium May 13, and a DLI Language Day recognition of Vietnam veterans at 12:30 on May 13. He also announced there are plaques made for outside of Martinez hall which highlight historical facts about Fort Ord.

Ms. Estrada said the Marina Foundation dinner to raise funds for VTC is on May 28th and ticket information is on the website.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 3 p.m. May 26, 2016