



**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 P.M. Thursday, May 26, 2016
(FORA Conference Room)**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Confirming quorum, acting Chair Edith Johnsen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Chair Jerry Edelen was excused. 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
Jen Simon

Others in Attendance:

J. Fagan, CCVC Foundation
George Guinn, Forthm
Edwin Marticorena, Veterans Transition Center
Virgil Piper, Marina Planning Commission
Bob Schaffer, member of the public

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sid Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card from Sue Putnam in the Agenda Packet.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Virgil Piper asked how to purchase cemetery spots. Richard Garza said that individuals pre-qualify and application by the individual or a family member is done by calling 647-7613.

Mr. Piper also asked what the status of the new VA clinic is, and how to set up co-pay. Mr. Garza suggested calling the same number above, to ask the County.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. April 28, 2016

MOTION: Sid Williams moved, seconded by Mary Estrada, to approve the April 28, 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 the hiring process underway for a local cemetery manager. Ms. Johnsen noted that they have approximately six hundred and eighteen candidates.

ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda

Jack Stewart said there is a lack of clarity as to the role the CAC will play in the cemetery opening. Mr. Norris said that the CAC steering committee drafted a portion of the application to begin the statement of need for Phase 2.

iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Sid Williams said the May 12 County Board of Supervisors Fort Ord Committee meeting, which he anticipated would discuss amending the MOU, was cancelled.

iv. Opening Ceremony

Mr. Norris confirmed the opening is still set for October.

v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report

Ms. Johnsen reported that Dan Fahey (Interim Veterans Cemetery Manager) is doing a good job.

b. Fundraising Status

i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Mr. Garza said the Foundation is focused on fundraising for Phase 2. He responded to a question from the public about plaques.

ii. Heroes Open Golf Tournament

Mr. Williams reported out from the planning meeting held onsite before this VIAC meeting. He explained how the event information can be accessed on the web and shared brochures. Mr. Williams stated that the letter for corporate sponsorship for the Tournament has been finalized, and that they will require a local match.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Mr. Williams reported that the VA have yet to test structural integrity of the flagpole.

ii. Clinic Construction Schedule

Mr. Norris said the schedule is on track for mid-October for the ribbon cutting.

d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction

Edwin Marticorena said VTC is seeking a conference call with FOR A and the Army to negotiate water to support the project. J. Fagan said the CEQA is under review at City of Marina.

e. Historical Preservation Project

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

Mr. Norris said that AB 2561, a bill that declares monies can be specified for various purposes for the cemetery only, went through the Senate with a unanimous vote.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Ms. Johnsen said the Marina Foundation dinner to raise funds for VTC is on May 28th and ticket information is on the website. Mr. Marticorena added that the cost of the dinner is \$25 per plate.

Ms. Johnsen also noted the selection of Mayor Edelen as the FORA representative to the County's Cemetery Advisory Committee. She asked for an additional business item for him to report on those meetings at VIAC.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: 3 p.m. June 23, 2016

