



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

**3:00 P.M. Thursday, September 22, 2016**

920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A., Marina California | FORA Conference Room

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Committee Members:**

James Bogan, Disabled American Vets

Colonel Lawrence Brown, Presidio of Monterey

Mayor Jerry Edelen, City of Del Rey Oaks (Chair)

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)

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Erica Parker

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Robert Norris, FORA Principal Analyst, provided information to the Committee regarding the Veteran of the Year Award on November 5 and Heroes Open on October 29. Chair Edelen announced that Col. (Ret.) Terry Bear is no longer with the Veterans Transition Center and recognized his impact, great contribution and thanked him for his service to the organization.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments received from the public.

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**a. July 28, 2016 (Correction to the agenda)**

The agenda was posted with the error that the minutes to be approved were for August 25, 2016; Nicole Valentino (FORA) advised the Committee that a correction should be noted that the minutes to be approved are for July 28, 2016.

*On motion by Jack Stewart and seconded by Richard Garza and carried by the following vote, the VIAC moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 28, 2016.*

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

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

Mr. Norris led the Committee through each of the business items.

#### i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Close to 1,000 applications have been received and about 900+ approvals with the schedule for services going well into the early part of 2017.

#### ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda

Planning Committee has been meeting weekly for about 3 weeks, program has been completed, including details like order of speaker preliminary meeting announcements and media releases are scheduled for distribution.

#### iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

A meeting with the County is still in the works to be scheduled and the purpose would be to clarify the MOU regarding the use of the land that was dedicated to fund the expansion operations of the cemetery; and that's the agreement is primarily between Seaside, County, the foundation and FORA – regarding the use of the parcel.

#### iv. Opening Ceremony

A tentative order of events/agenda has been established, invitations and parking/transportation details are being developed and coordinated with the planning committee. Once the VIP list is confirmed other elements will be coordinated in conjunction with the City of Seaside and the Army. Handicap/Disabled transportation will also be provided from the drop off point to the site of the ceremony – Monterey Bay Vets has contributed greatly to that effort. Benches were donated by various individuals through the Marina Foundation and currently there is a backlog of orders that are waiting to be placed. A banner has been proposed that will recognize the supporters of the site. Mr. Norris did confirm that there will be Color Guard present at the ceremony and provided through the California National Guard. Colonel Brown requested information about the status of a canon salute. Also, the commemorative lapel pin was also discussed and that the size of the pin will be between 1" to 1.5". Media has expressed interest in having a presence at the ceremony.

#### v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report-not at this time.

### b. Fundraising Status

#### i. CCVCF Status Report

Richard Garza provided updated the fundraising efforts that have been done and the importance of continuing those efforts. A fundraising booth was set up at the Monterey County Fair and several speaking engagements have been set up in Santa Cruz County. There is an ongoing effort to diversify the outreach and fundraising efforts.

### c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

Jack Stewart, James Bogan and Col. Brown provided input regarding the VA/DoD Clinic status.

#### i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

#### ii. Construction Schedule

- d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction  
Robert – the letter is at the very final stages and perhaps that there is positive and definite approval of the housing construction. Mr. Fagan added that Marina has put in a request for Environmental Review and hoping for a resolution next week and a letter is being prepared and facilitate approval.
- e. Historical Preservation Project  
Cliff Guinn – No report

#### **7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

- a. Jack Stewart – Mr. Guinn is now the Chairman of the Fort Ord retiree council
- b. COL Brown announced DLI 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (same day as veterans)
- c. Richard Garza – request for 501 c3 status has been granted and backdated to 2002
- d. James Bogan – Monterey Bay Vets is opening dive program; Fishing derby on October 1
- e. J. Fagan – In-kind contributions for VTC event; Col. Brown was directed to write a national article of the event
- f. Cliff Guinn – shared a story about a vet that missed his bus and was provided a free ride by an Uber driver to Santa Clara

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT** at 3:33pm

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: October 27, 2016**