



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

3:00 P.M. Thursday, October 27, 2016

920 2nd 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 Robert Norris

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Robert Norris, FORA Principal Analyst, announced correspondence received – a letter of thanks from the Secretary of California Veterans Affairs for FORA's work and a letter from Col. (Ret.) Terry Bear, seeking approximately 6 volunteers for the Kiwanis Club at the "Taylormade" Pebble Beach Invitational Golf Event on November 17-19. Edith Johnsen provided details regarding the 10 year anniversary memorial services in honor of her late husband, Major (Ret.) Frederick William Johnsen at the Veterans Cemetery in Seaside. The burial services for Master Chief Abel Quinones, US Navy, was also announced and will take place on December 9.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments received from the public.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

Mr. Norris led the Committee through each of the business items. Some of the information in the status report was provided by updates from Daria Maher and Dan Fahey, Veterans Outreach, Memorials and Cemeteries California Department of Veterans Affairs.

- i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report
Approximately 1,076 applications have been processed covering over 1,800 people which includes 1,033 veterans, 17 veteran couples, 809 spouses and 7 children of veterans. These numbers lead to more work to be done for future considerations. These issues will have to be covered between the VIAC and Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) to review the existing cemetery master plan and revise certain elements before a pre-application can be accepted. Certain considerations will be made regarding the ratio of in-ground burials, comment on "green burial" options and look at the getting a pre-application submitted in the spring of 2017.
 - ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda
The working group received materials (available to those that express interest) from Mr. Norris regarding the draft pre-application for the expansion phase. A meeting for the working group to review and complete the "needs statement" is likely to be scheduled prior to the next CAC meeting.
 - iii. Endowment Parcel MOU
FORA Executive Officer, Michael Houlemard, will be meeting with the County Administrator in regards to a list of issues that have been stagnant, including but not limited to the Endowment Parcel.
 - iv. Opening Ceremony
With updates from Daria Maher, it was estimated that over 600 people attended the Opening Ceremony for the Veterans Cemetery on October 11. Comments were received about their experience and appreciation of the opening ceremony service.
 - v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report
No report at this time. Question regarding the application – in-ground burial is not provided as an option for applicants to choose. Mr. Norris will follow up with more information at the next meeting.
- b. Fundraising Status
 - i. CCVCF Status Report
Despite challenges that have delayed the progress of the fundraising efforts, the CCVCF has gained some momentum since being identified as a 501(3)c organization. There has been a significant change in the response from other organizations.
 - c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report
Mr. Norris reported that Mr. Houlemard and other FORA staff attended the "soft ribbon cutting" ceremony for the VA/DoD Veterans Clinic on October 14. The ceremony centered on thanking legislators and other key people for their contributions on getting the clinic established. The clinic will not be operational until February 2017. Many dignities and elected officials spoke in support of the establishment and opening.
 - i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update
Mr. Sid Williams informed the committee and public that Marina Community Partners are looking at the issue since the task is unlikely to be pursued by the VA. There are still challenges to overcome and some safety issues that need to be resolved. A

report has not been completed but is expected to be forthcoming at the next VIAC meeting.

ii. Construction Schedule

The expectation is that the clinic would be operational for February 2017. In the future, this item title should appear to say "Operation Schedule".

d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction

Mr. J. Allen Fagen ("Jay"), reported that he recently spoke with the developer and indicated that a water transfer installation command is in San Antonio and the VA in Palo Alto has signed on in support since it will help regionally with veteran housing problem. Also, the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has been approved the designation from transitional housing to permanent; and has also approved a quicker process to make sure all of the neighborhood restrictions and other components are handled. There is a March 2017 deadline to submit the public tax credit application and then it will be possible to move forward and the goal is to break ground in 2018. The four (4) unit Monterey Quad transitional housing project, has submitted grant applications that are now in with the DAV and community foundation for operational funding that will focus on transitional housing and case management services for female veterans. The public bid process is out and open, with a "contractors walk" being scheduled for November 8. In the Martinez Hall, job center is expected to be completed within the next week or so and will be available to help support the public. The VTC Executive Officer vacancy job opening is still until October 31.

e. Historical Preservation Project

Mr. Norris was assigned to assist Cliff Guinn in drafting a letter to the Marina City Manager to get Historical Preservation group assistance in obtaining a location to further their efforts. The letter will be reviewed at the next VIAC meeting.

6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- a. Hero's Open Golf Tournament on October 29 and banquet
- b. VTC is seeking a donation of a commercial freezer – contact: Jay Fagan
- c. Veteran of the Year Awards Luncheon – November 5
- d. Country Store & Silent Auction at the VA Clinic – November 7
- e. Appreciation Dinner for UVC - November 17

7. ADJOURNMENT at 3:47pm

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: December 15, 2016