



# FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

## VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) REGULAR MEETING

920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933 (FORA Conference Room)  
3:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 14, 2016

### AGENDA

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

*Members of the public wishing to address the Committee on matters within its jurisdiction, but not on this agenda, may do so for up to 3 minutes.*

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

ACTION

- a. September 22, 2016
- b. October 27, 2016

**6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

INFORMATION

- a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report
  - i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report
  - ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda
  - iii. Endowment Parcel MOU
  - iv. Opening Ceremony
  - v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report
- b. Fundraising Status
  - i. CCVCF Status Report
- c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report
  - i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update
  - ii. Operational Schedule
- d. Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction
- e. Historical Preservation Project

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING: January 26, 2017**

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**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**



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

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