



APPROVED

**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES
3:00 p.m. August 22, 2019 | FORA Conference Room
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Ian Oglesby, Mayor of Seaside
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families/Fundraising
James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans
Jason Cameron, Monterey County Office of Military & Veteran Affairs
Candace Ingram, CCVC Foundation
Col. Gregory Ford, U.S. Army
Sid Williams, Monterey County Office of Military & VA Commission

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Committee member Jason Cameron.

3. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- FORA Executive Assistant Heidi Lizarbe, announced that Administrative Coordinator, Shawn Hall, has left FORA for a position at the Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey ("LAFCO"). She advised the Committee that Administrative Assistant, Natalie Van Fleet, will be providing VIAC meeting support going forward.
- Committee member Jason Cameron distributed an infographic handout summarizing the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office Annual Activity Report. The reported annual contribution totaled \$12,091,988. Mr. Cameron announced effective January 1, 2020, all armed forces veterans will have access to the base, regardless of status, and will be able to shop at the commissary. In addition, Mr. Cameron reported that Blue Water Navy vietnam veterans may now file for presumptive conditions with the Veterans Affairs ("VA") office.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. July 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On motion by Committee member Johnsen and seconded by Committee Chair Oglesby, the VIAC Committee approved the July 25, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

INFORMATION/ACTION

a. Affordable Housing

i. *Veterans Transition Center Housing Construction*

Jack Murphy of the Veterans Transition Center ("VTC"), provided an update on the supportive housing programs VTC offers. Mr. Murphy reported that a grant application in the amount of \$4 million has been submitted to the California Health Commission by the developer. The Request for Qualifications window for grant applicants has closed. The VTC Board met on August 21, 2019 approving an agreement between the VTC, the developer, and the contractor in preparation for moving forward with the project should the grant be awarded to the VTC project. Mr. Murphy also announced the VTC is honored to receive an award for Non-Profit of the Year in the Human Services category from the Non-Profit Alliance of Monterey County. The award ceremony is scheduled for September 13, 2019 from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. at Embassy Suites in Monterey.

b. Post-FORA VIAC Committee

Chair Oglesby reported that FORA is continuing to develop a plan, along-side local agencies, to ensure a closely related, liason, or governing entity, is established prior to FORA dissolution.

c. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery ("CCCVC") Manager, Erica Chaney, provided an update on Phase II. She stated that the bidding period has closed and 4 bids were received and are currently under review. Phase II progress remains on schedule and construction may begin as early as November 2019. Ms. Chaney stated the interment project is estimated to begin in spring or summer of 2021.

d. Ord Military Community

Committee member Col. Gregory Ford updated the committee on continuing efforts to transfer the Drill Sergeant Statue to CCCVC.

e. Fundraising Status

i. *Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation Status Report*

Candy Ingram of the CCCVC Foundation provided an events update. A reception will be held at American Legion Post 31 ("Post 31") in Salinas on September 8, 2019 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. to celebrate the Epic Ride for Dignity and Remembrance. On August 29, 2019, Ms. Chaney, Mr. Cameron, Ms. Ingram and Mr. Garza will be sharing a booth for Seniors' Day at the Monterey County Fair. They hope to provide information and answer questions from local seniors and/or veterans. The Heroes' Open is scheduled for October 26, 2019 and Ms. Ingram noted the need for sponsors and auction items. The 7th Annual Honor Our Fallen Run is scheduled for October 19, 2019 and remains in need of sponsors, volunteers and runners/walkers. Ms. Ingram informed the Committee that once construction begins on Phase II, the next step will be to organize a Cemetery Advisory Committee to discuss the development of a donor facility.

f. VA-DOD Clinic

Committee member James Bogan reported on the upcoming meetings at Post 31 in Salinas.

g. Calendar of Events

A BBQ will held September 25, 2019 from 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. at the Monterey County Veterans Building to celebrate Post 31's 100th anniversary.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Murphy announced that the 2019 Monterey County Homeless Census is scheduled for press release on September 23, 2019. This comprehensive analysis of the county's homeless population, including veterans, is intended to help policy makers and service providers to better assist the County's homeless.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 3:42 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:
Natalie Van Fleet