



APPROVED

**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY  
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES  
3:00 P.M. September 26, 2019 | FORA Conference Room  
920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair, Ian Oglesby, called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

**Committee Members Present:**

Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families/Fundraising  
Ian Oglesby, Mayor of Seaside  
James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans  
Jason Cameron, Monterey County Office of Military & Veteran Affairs  
Richard Garza, CCVC Foundation  
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council  
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military and Veteran Advisory Commission  
Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Advisory Committee

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Sid Williams.

- 3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- Marina Perepelyuk announced she is leaving her position with Congressman Jimmy Panetta's Office. Ms. Perepelyuk introduced her replacement, Katharine Moon, and expressed her appreciation for the Committee and her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the veterans community.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

- 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- a. August 22, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

*\*Staff will bring the minutes back to the Committee with corrections for approval.*

- 6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**INFORMATION/ACTION**

- a. **Affordable Housing**

- i. **Veterans Transition Center Housing Development**

Marina Veterans Transition Center ("VTC") Deputy Executive Director Jack Murphy provided an update on supportive housing programs VTC offers. Mr. Murphy reported that a Request for Proposal to repurpose the former Veterans Affairs ("VA") Clinic for housing was successfully submitted. An application was also submitted to develop in the Menlo Park area. Mr. Murphy stated that more projects will begin at the beginning of the new fiscal year ("FY").

**b. Post-FORA VIAC Committee**

Committee member Sid Williams reported he attended the August 23, 2019 County Fort Ord Committee meeting and raised concern regarding transition plan implementation. Mr. Williams noted the plan's only reference to Post-FORA veterans issues is the Memorandum of Understanding for a veterans cemetery endowment parcel. Mr. Williams recommended reaching out to the FORA Board to encourage designation of a successor entity to oversee the completion of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery ("CCCVC") and several other veterans projects in the region. The Committee discussed how to communicate these concerns to FORA's Board of Directors and County Board of Supervisors. Chair Oglesby stated he would consult with FORA Executive Officer Michael Houlemard and return to the October 24, 2019 meeting to outline issues the Committee intends to present to the Board.

**c. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report**

Ms. Perepelyuk noted that CCCVC was awarded a \$6.4M federal grant for construction, memorial plaques, roadways, landscaping and supportive infrastructure. Committee member Bogan asked if the grant applies to FY 2019 or 2020 budgets and Ms. Moon stated she would confirm and report back. As requested by CCCVC Manager Erica Chaney, staff provided a flyer announcing CCCVC will receive the Organizational Excellence Award on October 9, 2019. The ceremony will take place at CCCVC at 9:00 a.m. and features guest speaker Senator Bill Monning. Ms. Ingram requested an update regarding available chapel buildings for the cemetery and Presidio of Monterey ("POM") Retirement Services Officer Kai Yuan stated he will provide more information as it becomes available.

**d. Ord Military Community**

Mr. Yuan answered members' questions regarding the Army Retiring Soldier Commendation Program package. He informed the Committee that the package is generally provided to service members who retired after 2012, but he would gladly provide one to any military retiree. Contact Mr. Yuan to request a package.

**e. Fundraising Status**

***i. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation Status Report***

Committee member Richard Garza reported on the Epic Ride and is in the process of determining funds raised by the event. Mr. Williams reported the Heroes Open will take place Saturday, October 26, 2019 at Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Club in Seaside. He noted the event still needs volunteers, sponsors, golfers and auction items. Mrs. Ingram stated CCCVC is in development phase two of eleven, with ongoing maintenance and operations costs, therefore continued fundraising efforts and community outreach are essential for the project's completion.

**f. VA-DOD Clinic**

Committee member James Bogan provided an update on VA-DOD events, and noted that on September 18, 2019 the VA hosted a celebration honoring veterans of the Korean War and WWII with around three hundred veterans in attendance. Mr. Bogan reported that the same afternoon at the Salinas Town Hall meeting there were only about five veterans present. The next Town Hall meetings will take place in December at Post 593 in Prunedale and in March at the Seaside VA Clinic, details to come.

**g. Military & Veterans Affairs Office – Monthly Report**

Committee member Jason Cameron provided a Military & Veterans Affairs Office (“MVAO”) Activity Report for the month of August. He informed the Committee that MVAO has coordinated with VTC to expand services and now provides on-site veteran claims assistance on the third Thursday of every month and discharge claims assistance on the first Friday of every month at POM. Mr. Cameron reported MVAO is in early stages of collaboration with local public libraries to introduce video conferencing software for virtual claims assistance in underserved areas of the county. He noted that the Women Veterans Alliance will hold the 2019 unConference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey October 11-13 and the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Awards will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Bayonet & Black Horse.

**h. Calendar of Events**

- The Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta will host a Committal Service honoring World War I Army Veteran Mr. Edward Auton Adams on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the San Francisco National Cemetery.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheelchair Rock Cod Fishing Derby will hold a pre-registration and dinner on October 4<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post 694 in Marina, with the Derby the following morning, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Our Fallen 5k/10k run will take place at Fort Ord Dunes State Park on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Heroes Open Golf Tournament will be held at Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Club on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Awards will be held at Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Club on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Chair Oglesby confirmed he would review this meeting’s main points with Mr. Houlemard and return to the next meeting to discuss the status of the VIAC post.

**8. ADJOURNMENT** at 3:58 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Natalie Van Fleet