



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



REGULAR MEETING Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) April 22, 2021, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p>	<p>Mayor Oglesby at 3:06 <i>(Roll Call by Jonathan Brown from MVAO, Quorum Established)</i></p> <p>United Veterans Council – Mary Estrada United Veterans Council – James Bogan United Veterans Council – Bob Lockwood MVACC – Sid Williams MVAAC – Dan Presser City of Seaside – Mayor Oglesby City of Marina – Wesley Hays City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt</p> <p><i>VIAC other / Ex Officio Members:</i></p> <p>Congressional Office - 20th District – Phil Deppert Congressional Office - 20th District – Ben Uslar State Senate Office – 17th District – Angela Chesnut State Senate Office - 12th District – Marisa Hernandez U.S. Army Garrison Presidio of Monterey – COL. Chhoeung CalVet – Erica Chaney Veterans Transition Center – Kristen Massey Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation – Rich Garza Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) – Jason Cameron, Jack Murphy, Jonathan Brown</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by Richard Garza</p>
<p>3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murphy from the MVAO acknowledged the two new voting members, Wesley Hays representing the city of Mariana, and Nat Rojanasathira representing the city of Monterey.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Oglesby also welcomed the new members. • Hays said a few words introducing himself to the committee
4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD	None
5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (from March 25, 2021)	Williams / Estrada Accepted minutes as submitted Roll call vote: Approved unanimously

6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION

Business items are for Committee discussion, debate, direction to staff, and/or action. Comments from the public are not to exceed 3 minutes or as otherwise determined by the Chair.

a. Affordable Housing:

i. VTC: General Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massey reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovations are continuing, the duplexes are planned to be finished July 1st. • Lightfighter Village is in the final stages of approval. VTC expects to break ground this summer. 18 million is financed with the remaining 20 million based on a number of grants.
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b. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

i. Veterans Cemetery Status Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaney reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-ground burials should start the first week of May. There will be a press release that will go out with further information. • The excavator will be back from repair at the cemetery on April 23rd. • There are still only 30 people per ceremony. • The exam from GS for the two open positions is being expedited.
ii. Property Transfer / Property Use Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the utilities on the triangle parcel going into the cemetery CalVet will most likely not designate that space for any use other use. • Mr. Brown had a meeting with Erin Harwayn from Dennis Duffy and Associates, who did the EIR for the cemetery to discuss if she knew of any environmental issues with the square parcel if developed into a park. In that meeting, Erin said she did not know of any



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	<p>because an EIR was not done for that area since it was not a part of the cemetery property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had another meeting with other County representatives who suggest that an EIR may not be needed for the square parcel. • He then opened it up for discussion among the committee to advise what the next steps should be.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Various Members: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion was had in which the direction was to focus on the square parcel and to determine what development, if any, the committee would like investigated by the MVAO.

c. Fundraising Status

<p>i. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garza reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising is on track. • There was a meeting with CalVet on the donor memorial wall, a site was determined to be near the flagpole, and a plan is being developed to take to the Monuments and Memorial committee for CalVet.
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d. Ord Military Community

<p>i. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COL. Chhoeung reported: 	<p>There were no updates to give at this time.</p>
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e. VA-DOD Clinic:

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogan reported: 	<p>Operations are going smoothly.</p>
<p>ii. Pharmacy Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameron reported 	<p>On the history of the pharmacy issue. His office is working to gather letters of support to have a fully function pharmacy at the Gourley Clinic. His office is also conducting joint meetings with the appropriate parties to keep the issue going forward.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deppert reported 	<p>He has a meeting with the Director of VAPA on May 3rd to discuss the pharmacy issue.</p>

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<p>i. Membership update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown reported: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Jeanne Nakagawa has resigned from representing Veterans Families in VIAC. The notice for applying to VIAC as a Veterans Families representative will go out shortly after the conclusion of this meeting Katie Moon has left Congressman Panetta's office. Ben Uslar will be her replacement. Wesley Haye has joined as the representative for city Marina Nat Rojanasathira has joined as the representative for the city of Monterey
<p>ii. Monthly Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is working on a joint partnership between the California Military Department (National Guard), the California Department of Veteran Affairs, and California Veterans Service Offices, to put together a process for discharging guard members so they can receive Veterans benefits classes. He is looking to move his office, possibly, to the Coast Office for the County of Monterey. There will be a walkthrough Monday, April 27th, at 2 pm that the committee is welcomed to join. See attached monthly report from MVAO

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Receive communication from Committee members as it pertains to future agenda items.

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8. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Oglesby