



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) June 23rd, 2022, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Jonathan Brown 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>UVC – Mary Estrada UVC – John Gay UVC – Shane Strong MVAAC – Sid Williams City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby Veterans Families – Walan Chang Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt</p> <p><u>Ex Officio Members Present:</u></p> <p>Congressional Office – 20th District – Xochitl Guerrero State Senate Office – 17th District – Justin Tran State Senate Office – 12th District – Marisa Hernandez State Assembly Office – 29th District – Erica Parker State Assembly Office – 30th District – Dominic Dursa USDVA – Kintina Edouard VTC – Kurt Schake Cemetery Foundation – Candy Ingram Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) – Jonathan Brown</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Erica Parker</p>
<p>3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (from April 28th, 2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Mary Estrada • Second: Louise Goetzelt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call Vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes – Unanimous • Motion carried

6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION

a. AB 361

<p>i. Consider the resolution presented on AB 361</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Louise Goetzelt • Second: Mary Estrada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call Vote: Unanimous – Ayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion Carries
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b. Affordable Housing:

<p>i. VTC – General updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighterfighter Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTC, with their partnership with EAH, will receive half of the needed funding, approximately \$22 million, through grants. • They expect the other half to come in by the end of the month through an accelerator grant with the State. • If complete funding is resourced, they expect to break ground by November, with a full build-out expected to take 20 months. • Enhanced Use Lease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTC is in the final negotiations with a private equity investor to fully fund the project. • Even without the investor, they have a backup plan to get the funds through bonds and expect to break ground by the of the year. • That project will be affordable housing for anyone but hold a veteran’s priority preference.
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c. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

<p>i. CCCVC Status Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None given
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d. Cemetery Foundation

<p>i. General updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy Ingram 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked everyone who participated in the Memorial Day event, reporting there were approximately 200 people in attendance. • Recognition Wall update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They hope to receive the acceptance letter allowing them to proceed by early next week. • Due to supply chain issues and inflation, they are forced to decide on certain materials by the end of next week or possibly face a six-month backlog in shipping and a minimum 10% increase in prices. • Final construction drawings still need to be submitted to Cal-Vet. And they are obtaining bids to build the wall. • Candy reminded the Committee the wall will be placed behind the flag circle to the south.
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e. Ord Military Community

<p>i. Active-Duty General Update:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>ii. Retiree Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Retiree Appreciation Day will be on August 13th at the La Mesa housing area off Aguajito Rd. at the Community Center. And they are looking for guest speakers.

f. VA-DoD Clinic

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kintina Edouard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gourley Clinic is experiencing a shortage of some service providers, but they are actively recruiting to fix that issue. • They are still providing the Covid vaccine for those who want it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Estrada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked for an update on the extended wait times for individuals to receive their CPAP machines from the VA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinitina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged that delays with veterans receiving their machines are a known issue. She further reported a nationwide shortage of CPAP machines, and the issue is not unique to the VA. • Without much more information, she said she would send a more complete update to the MVAO office to share with the Committee.

g. Municipalities

<p>i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Johnson reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FORTAG initiative Measure B passed.
<p>ii. City of Marina, General Updates:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>iii. City of Monterey, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat Rojanasathira reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a City Council meeting earlier in the week to adopt the operating budget, but due to a mistake in the noticing requirement, the meeting had to be rescheduled to next Wednesday, June 29, at 7 pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs have gone up, but Monterey will be able to hire a few more staff back from layoffs in 2020 due to COVID. • They will be doing a public safety feasibility study for their central Police station and combined Fire station, Station 11. • They will continue to prioritize their joint contract with Seaside through the Presidio Municipal Services Agency, the City Building Maintenance, and Public Works Services they provide to the US Army.
<p>iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the organizers of the Stand Down.

h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

<p>i. General update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Brown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Chair as the Mayor of Seaside. Through his advocacy, Seaside City Council pledged up to \$20,000 for the following Homeless Veterans Stand Down. • He thanked Kurt Schake and Sid Williams for their outstanding efforts in organizing and running the Stand Down. Reported that he was told 150 veterans attended the event. • He also acknowledged Kurt Schake for receiving a State Senate Certificate from Senator Laird for their work at the Stand Down.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding future Stand Downs, he thanked the municipalities' representatives as each one has helped to ensure that a more frequent Stand Down will be provided. • Reminded the Committee that two of the MVAO offices will be moving. The Salinas office on 1000 S. Main will move to 730 La Guardia. The Monterey office will move to the Marina Coastal Building. Both are on track to be moved in by the end of this year. • Reported that the CACVSO Summer Conference is happening, and Jason Cameron, VSO, and three of MVAO's VSRs are attending. Jason will be giving a presentation at the conference and representing Monterey County. • The Veterans Home initiative has shifted from a local issue to a State issue to get Cal-Vet to acknowledge there is a need to establish a 9th Veterans Home in the State. In that effort, his office has set meetings with the Charis of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on the State Senate and Assembly side, and he feels soliciting their support will be very important to the overall effort. He also noted that when the appropriate time comes to push for the Home to be in Monterey County, his office will be ready to put in the effort. • He gave MVAO's monthly report, attached. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He shared a report of one of the Veterans that came into his office last month. The veteran was homeless and unemployed. The Veteran was referred to VTC housed the same day. He was also given job recommendations during his appointment and had a full-time job within one week.
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7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sid Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bogan is recovering at Cypress Ridge Care. He can receive cards and visitors if any members wish to do so.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked if VTC works with Veterans who would like to work on getting discharge upgrades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake replied that they work with MVAO and Congressman Panetta for issues as they come up.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported for the Stand Down, there was <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Vendors • 80 Volunteers • 50 Walk-in Veterans • 100 Registered Veterans • And thanked Assemblymember Stone's office for putting in for a veteran's hub at the Soledad prison in the CA budget noting there will be more on that program if the budget is approved.


8. ADJOURNMENT: Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

May 2022

11 Outreach Events 198 New Contacts	 727 Phone Calls	 383 Vet Rep Appointments
252 Unique Veterans 508 Claims Actions 169 Compensation Awards		36 College Fee Waivers \$236,088
 \$238,813 Retroactive Payments \$57,765 Recurring Monthly Payments		
	Customer Satisfaction Survey 95% Very Satisfied!	

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