



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) July 28th, 2022, Thursday, at 2:30 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: Dan Presser • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Dan Presser 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby Vice Chair – Dan Presser UVC – Mary Estrada UVC – John Gay MVAAC – Sid Williams City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson City of Marina – Wesley Haye Veterans Families – Walan Chang Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Jonathan Brown</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (From June 23rd, 2022 and July 13th, 2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Rick Johnson • Second: John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roll Call: Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes – Unanimous • Motion Carried

5. 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: John Gay <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"> • VTC currently has 101 Veterans living in our housing. 75% are housed under Federal Programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs and 25% are under State programs. • Lightfighter Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTC is a finalist for the Lightfighter Village Accelerator Program. If approved would provide a \$28 Million long-term, low-interest loan. This would move the Lightfighter Village project up six months. • Possible groundbreaking date: November
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-20 month build out providing 71 units for low and extremely low-income housing on VTC property.
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c. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

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

<p>i. General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Garza and Candy Ingram reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich explained: The Memorial Wall application was accepted. Rich also praised Candy for her diligence in keeping Cal-Vet and the Foundation Board accountable. • Rich further explained that the acceptance of the application does not mean Cal-Vet has accepted the project but that they may obtain construction drawings to prepare a finalized plan. • Louise Goetzelt had a question: Is it a memorial wall or donor wall? • Rich clarified: donor wall. • Candy explained: The Foundation has gone ahead and acted ahead of Cal-Vet’s acceptance. We have contracted with a quarry to prepare the plaque stone and an engraving company to ultimately engrave the plaques. • Also had a contribution from Denice Duffy & Associates who provided an environmental review showing this is a categorically exempt project. Meaning that it is a minor project taking place in an already disturbed area with no protected species. • Next step: Moving forward with Architects to prepare drawings for Cal-Vets review. Preparing specifications for construction and bids for said construction. • Potential opening: Memorial Day 2023.
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e. Ord Military Community

<p>i. Active-Duty General Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSM Joseph Traylor reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Garrison Commander is eager to engage with the community. Hoping he will make it to an in-person VIAC meeting in the future. • Starting a monthly Retiree Council meeting the first Thursday of every month. Located at Stillwell. • Retiree Appreciation Day: August 13th from 0800-1400 hours at the La Mesa Community
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	Center. Two guest speakers with an agenda available.
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f. VA-DoD Clinic

i. General Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
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g. Municipalities

i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Johnson reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise is running for City Council • Thanked the Presidio of Monterey for leading the 4th of July Parade. 20,000 attendees, the largest turnout in recent memory.
ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
iii. City of Marina, General Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wesley Hays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not able to report due to illness. Attended to establish Quorum.
iv. City of Seaside, General Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates at this time.

h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

i. General Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran Service Officer, Jason Cameron 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: The Monterey Office will be moving to the Coastal Building in Marina. The Salinas Office will be moving to 730 La Guardia. Tentative completion date is November. • Reminder: The Military & Veterans Affairs Office does provide virtual services via Zoom or over the phone. Will also provide a house call in necessary. • Attended the California Veterans Board meeting for public comment to express the need for a new Veteran Home. • The Deputy Secretary of Veteran Homes provided a report listing the reasons they don't feel a new facility is necessary. • Conducted a meeting with a Deputy Cabinet member of the Governor's Office to express the need for an additional Veteran Home. • Scheduled a meeting with Chair of the State Military and Veterans Committee, Senator Archuleta to express Veteran needs. • Supervisor Alejo communicated with the American Legion Riders to gather additional support letters. Once obtained, the American Legion Riders will coordinate a ride to the State Capital to hand deliver the letters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Oglesby provided input: It would be advantageous to let the
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	<p>legislators know in advance to ensure they are present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are still having conversations regarding the VA Clinic Pharmacy among ourselves and the Congressional Aide in Washington DC to push that issue from a federal perspective. • Looking to include mandatory presentation from a Veterans Service Officer at TAPS Programs federally. • Stand Down: moving to increase the frequency and reduced the duration of the Stand Down. Two times a year for one day duration. • Stand Down: Looking to open the Stand Down to all Veterans along with homeless Veterans. • Jason thanked the cities of Seaside, Carmel, and Soledad for expressing interest in the possible changes to the Stand Down. • He gave MVAO's monthly report, see attached. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He shared a customer satisfaction survey result of 100% satisfied or better! • Louise Goetzelt made a comment: Information about the California Tuition Fee Waiver needs to spread more. We must make sure more Veterans are aware of this program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jason Cameron and Jack Murphy explained: Veterans rated at 100% disability can use the California Tuition Fee Waiver and the VA Chapter 35 benefits simultaneously. • Mary Estrada asked a question: Are you reaching out to the schools? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jonathan Brown explained: We have reached out to the counselors and have created a database for a future presentation. The outreach and effort are continuous. • Walan Chang asked a question: Does the California Tuition Fee Waiver cover trade schools or only University and Community Colleges?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jason Cameron explained: It is only for California publicly funded schools or Universities (CC, CSU, UC). He also further explained that the Plan B Tuition Fee Waiver does not have a time limit and can be used until a Doctorate if desired so long as the student maintains the qualifying criteria. ▪ Jack Murphy elaborated on various VA Education Benefits. • Dan Presser praised the work done by the Military and Veterans Affairs Office.
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6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned AB 1623 regarding the taxation of military retiree pay in the state of California. She explained that California is the only state that does not provide any tax reduction for military retirees. She further explained that there is a one question survey that will assist in gauging support for a change in this practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Cameron made a comment: I will be taking this information to the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for formal support.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Estrada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned that the Cadet Program at Marina Highschool needs an instructor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy responded: We have been attempting to get the word out through many channels including the EDD Office.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kurt Schake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentioned the Biennial Point-In-Time Count is available, and Monterey County homeless Veterans have decreased by 20.• The official count is 154 homeless Veterans. The concern being that half of them are unsheltered. We are trying to find and provide services to those Veterans.
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8. ADJOURNMENT: Dan Presser