

**SUMMARY OF FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPPORT GROUP
MEETING OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2013
6:00 PM-7:30 PM, Oldemeyer Center, Seaside
Prepared by Henrietta Stern**

- I. **Welcome**—Henrietta and Kay welcomed attendees

- II. **Group announcements**
 - A. MORCA—Henrietta noted that MORCA’s trail work (normally third Saturday) would be on Public Lands Day on 10/26/2013
 - B. FORA/CSUMB Colloquium on Ecotourism—planned for December; Jane Haines reported on this last month and will update us again next month
 - C. FORT Friends is now on Facebook www.facebook.com/fortfriends The goal is for the Facebook Page to be concise, interesting, accurate and reliable sources of information about the National Monument and nearby Ft Ord trails. There are about 260 “likes” to date. Thanks to Eric Palmer for setting this up.
 - D. Gordon Smith provided an update on funding for the Veteran’s Cemetery, including Gov. Brown’s signoff on \$1 mil allocation and Carmel Mayor Jason Burnette’s fundraising efforts locally. He urged support for Measure M.
 - E. Michael Wildgoose from Seaside Art and History Association described a recent meeting with developer Danny Blakewell about the potential of using the old thrift store off of Lightfighter Blvd (main entrance of Highway 1) as a museum/visitor center/gateway to the National Monument for the next 2-3 years until planned development begins construction. Various city officials now seem more open to the possibility than before. Michael is organizing a group to encourage the City to help make this happen. Other interested entities include the Fort Ord Alumni Association, CSUMB historians and others. We brainstormed a bit on the possibilities such as site would offer.

- III. **BLM related announcements** (no BLM reps due to Govt. Shutdown)
 - A. Government Shutdown impacts on FONM – we described how Creekside and Badger Hills trailheads are closed, but using the public lands is not illegal according to BLM website. But do not expect any ranger assistance.
 - B. Public Lands Day October 26—this event is well planned in advance and can become a “go” very quickly, so it is still “on” unless we are advised otherwise. FORT Friends received a \$2,000 grant from PG&E/CLF to pay for food and entertainment for the volunteers.

- IV. **Eric Palmer Video on Fort Ord and FONM**
 - A. For his Leadership Monterey Peninsula project, FORT Friends board member Eric Palmer and team shot, wrote and directed a 20+ minute professional documentary on Fort Ord history and choices to be made by the community today as part of the reuse process. The group was very impressed by the quality editing and spectacular visuals. He plans to enter it in film festivals and then provide on the web after it has been seen at festivals. We agreed this

type of film would be great in a visitor center or as part of a membership campaign.

V. FORT Friends Grant Application to Conservation Lands Foundation

- A. Henri noted that FORTF submitted the \$10,000 grant application to the Conservation Lands Foundation on September 24; decision is November 1
- B. The concept is a FONM Coalition hosted by FORTF— focus only on FONM, website upgrade, master calendar of events and volunteer opportunities, volunteer database; outreach plan, fundraising, printed materials
- C. Under comments, Henrietta described an example of outreach as to the faith and business communities. Ralph described the Pinnacles group as a good model and felt an established 501-c-3 non-profit such as FORT Friends is in a good position to further the coalition concept.

VI Specific Follow-up Tasks

- A. Participants are encouraged to visit the existing Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas (or other) visitor centers, chambers of commerce (in person or on the web) and see what information is currently provided on the Ft. Ord National Monument. Write down what is there, what is missing and your suggestions to improve.
- B. Michael Wildgoose, Kay Cline, Ralph Lauer (all Seaside residents) and others will pursue the visitor center concept as a committee.
- C. We will stay tuned regarding government status and be ready to mobilize quickly for Public Lands Day on October 26.

VII. Next meeting is Thursday, November 14 at 6 pm at Oldemeyer Center—