

Santa Maria Cemetery District

Board Minutes

Location of Meeting:

Location of Meeting: 1501 S College Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454 and via teleconference

Meeting Date 03/14/22

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 A.M.

Chairman, Lee Diaz; Trustee, Cole Lucas; Trustee, Mark Evans; Trustee, Trustee; Tunnell, Trustee; Engel.

OTHERS PRESENT: District Manager Ron Jacobs; Carrie Troup, C.P.A.; Karen O'Neil, Kirk & Simas

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 14, 2022, Motion by Lucas second by Tunnell. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Tunnell, Engel. Motion carried. The Board also reviewed and approved the minutes of the special Meeting of February 22, 2022. Motion by Evans second by Lucas. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Engel. Abstain, Tunnell. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A member of the public addressed the Board regarding items being discarded by cemetery staff.

Members of the public reported on their interactions with the general manager. The strict adherence to the rules and regulations was discussed.

Individuals described incidences of cemetery staff removing and discarding items, such as stone statues from the gravesites. The incidents have been described as negative and abuse of power.

The public speakers described flags and mementos being discarded with no way for individuals to retrieve their items.

SEIU Field Rep Rob Adam Perry addressed the Board regarding the concerns of their members. Photo of staff are being posted online by the public who are unhappy with items are being removed from the gravesites and thrown away.

Josh Nelson from The Santa Maria Times addressed the Board for comments.

The Board recessed to closed session 9:25 A.M.

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PROPERTY: Vicinity of the Easterly terminus of Newlove Drive, City of Santa Maria.

Potential modification to lease involving Leasing Party: Bejo Seeds. Agency Negotiator/Karen O'Neil and Ron Jacobs.

Reconvene to open session 9:40 A.M.

Report from Closed Session: No action taken.

ITEMS FOR ACTION/OLD BUSINESS

- a) **John Will (JF Will) reported on the Phase II Expansion Project. Pavers are being placed. The curbs are in progress. The project is proceeding, they are currently waiting on the Air Pollution Control District. He projects that the project will be complete at the end of April 2022, excluding the landscaping.**

- b) Brandon Heavener (Bethel reported on Engineering) reported on Phase II expansion. The plans are in for review with The City of Santa Maria building department. He discussed tree bubblers. The Board is in favor of approving the change order for tree bubblers unless further information is presented April 7 – May.
- c) The Board discussed the rules, regulations, and security for cemetery. District Manager, Jacobs will develop an education program for the public regarding what's allowed and not allowed at gravesites.

ITEMS FOR ACTION/NEW BUSINES:

- a) Board Members Evans, Diaz, Tunnel and General Manager Jacobs, reported on their attendance to the CAPC Education Conference. Evans discussed the upcoming required conversion to electric power tools. Lucas inquired about training on the corresponding battery hazards. Jacobs reported on the CAPC topics covered during the seminar such as policies, bylaws and procedures. He also reported on the required Covid policy.
- b) General Manager gave notification of his upcoming leave of absence.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Carrie Troup, C.P.A. reported on the financial status of the district.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

- a) District Manager Jacobs presented a recap of the February burial information. Services: 33; 25 Casket, 7 Cremation, 1 Baby. 32 Graves sold: 10 Caskets at need, 17 Casket pre-need, 1 Cremation grave pre-need, 2 Cremation at need, 1 Baby, 1 Niche pre-need.
- b) District Manager presented information on the purchase of a new truck for \$5,000. The Board approved of the purchase. Motion by Lucas second by Evans. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Tunnell. Engel. Motion carried.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- a) Chairman Diaz- Reported on his attendance at the CAPC Conference last week.
- b) Co-Chair Lucas- Expressed concern over the public relations program regarding the regulations.
- c) Trustee Evans- None
- d) Trustee Tunnell – None
- e) Trustee Engel – None

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday April 11th, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM

Motion by Engel second by Evans. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Engel. Absent for vote; Tunnell. Motion carried.