

# **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 11/8/2021**

**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, Engel; Trustee, Tunnell.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** District Manager Ron Jacobs; Carrie Troup, C.P.A.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup> and Special Session September 27, 2021. Motion by Lucas, second by Evans. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Engel, Tunnell. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Members of the public addressed the Board regarding the cemetery hours. They stated that they are protesting any reduced cemetery hours and would like to maintain the current dawn to dusk cemetery hours.

Additional members of the public addressed the Board regarding the parties, BBQ's, festivals, drinking on the grounds and requested the hours be limited due to the disrespectful activities on the grounds. They suggested the possible use of cameras on the district grounds.

Members of the public addressed the Board regarding management disallowing decorations when headstone settings have been delayed.

**The Board Recessed to Closed Session 9:20 am**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNCIL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

**Initiation of litigation pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9 (1 Case)**

**10:35 am the Board adjourned Closed Session and reconvened to Open Session**

**Report from Closed Session:**

**The Board will proceed with civil litigation.**

**Motion by Engel, second by Lucas. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Engel & Tunnell. Motion carried.**

### **ITEMS FOR ACTION/OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Brandon Heavener (Bethel Engineering) discussed Phase II of the Expansion Project. He reported the parcel must be rezoned per the planning department. He is waiting for plans from RJM. The Board directed District Manager Jacobs to check on the ongoing status with Laurie Tamura (Urban Planning Concepts).
- b) The Board and District Manager Jacobs discussed the general expansion plan layout and the location of an ossuary in the niche wall area of the expansion.
- c) Trustee Evans Discussed financing for the expansion project.
- d) District Manager Jacobs reported on the equipment and dump truck needs of the district. The Board approved to purchase dump equipment not to exceed \$35,000.00 with final

approval of Chairman Diaz. Motion by Evans, second by Lucas. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Engel & Tunnell. Motion carried

**ITEMS FOR ACTION/NEW BUSINESS**

- a) The Board Discussed KSBY and Santa Maria Times inquiry and follow up. They will be accessing ways to post district policies in both Spanish and English.
- b) The Board Discussed Day of the Dead issues and complaints.
- c) General Manager Jacobs reported on the need for security patrols on the grounds. He discussed possibility of patrols by the City Rangers which would be done sensitively to address the concerns of the community.

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

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- a) District Manager Jacobs discussed the options for trees for the grounds.
- b) District Manager Jacobs discussed temporary, safe grave markers for the cemetery.
- c) District Manager Jacobs discussed the City of Santa Maria's promise to complete the sidewalks.
- d) District Manager Jacobs presented a recap of the October burial information. Services: 32; 20 Casket, 12 Cremation. 49 graves sold: 14 casket at need, 22 casket pre-need, 2 cremation grave pre-need, 3 Cremation at need, 1 Baby, 1 at need in original section, 1 pre-need in original.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Chairman Diaz- Reported on the flowers on the unmarked graves.
- b) Co-Chair Lucas- Discussed Veterans Day Observance at the cemetery. The district will be contacting the American Legion.
- c) Trustee Evans- Discussed the irrigation map of the grounds.
- d) Trustee Tunnell – Reported on his meeting with JD Human.
- e) Trustee Engel – Discussed price point options for the new development; Requested a phase 1 status report, including corresponding estimates.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Monday December 6, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm. Motion by Lucas, second by Evans. Ayes: Lucas, Diaz, Evans, Engel, Tunnell. Motion carried.