



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 25TH, 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MADERA CEMETERY DISTRICT HELD, TUESDAY AUGUST 25TH, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE ARBOR VITAE CEMETERY LOCATED AT 1301 ROBERTS AVE, MADERA, CA. 93637

TRUSTEE'S PRESENT:

LOIS BETTY
JIM HARPER
DAVID NEMETH
MAURICE CAPPELLUTI
CANDY TALLEY

PUBLIC/EMPLOYEE'S PRESENT:

BELVA BARE -DISTRICT MANAGER
JOHN ANDERSON – OPERATIONS MANAGER
TRACY ISAAK – OFFICE TECHNICIAN
RONNIE RAMIREZ – SUPERINTENDENT
IGNACIO BECCERA- CEMETERY SPECIALIST
KATHY BORIA
MELISSA NOBLET

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Lois Betty called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD:

Chairperson Lois Betty took roll of the Board. All Board Members were present.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Trustee Candy Talley presented the flag.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA IF NECESSARY:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY AGENDA ITEM:

No public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Trustee David Nemeth made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Trustee Maurice seconded the motion. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020.

Motion on consent calendar: A unanimous vote was had.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Lois Betty asked for close session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION - REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Lois Betty asked to reopen closed session to accommodate Item A, and return to closed session
Returning to Open Session Trustee David Nemeth made a motion for a rejection letter to be sent to the claimant regarding Item H. Trustee Candy Talley seconded the motion. No other action was taken

DISCUSSION/REPORT/APPROVAL/DENIAL FAMILY PRESENTATION TO REMOVE A TREE IN BLOCK B, ARBOR VITAE CEMETERY, ZOOM PRESENTATION:

Chairperson Lois Betty asked the presenters for their names for the record. Public, Kathy Boria passed out handouts to the Board. Public, Melissa Noblet stated we are coming before the Board on behalf of our family. Our Mother's only request was to be buried by a tree. But the tree's roots are disturbing everything around there, the tree leaves stain the headstone. Our mother's beautiful headstone was created by a graphic artist and cost a lot of money and the tree is making a mess on the head stone with leaves and droppings. We were told if the tree started to cause damage to the headstone it would be removed. We asked the Cemetery Manager to address this issue, all that was offered was to shave the roots, this was about five years ago. Since then the roots have grown back. If shaving the roots would have killed the tree then why can't we have the tree removed and replaced with the correct tree? We have requested several times to remove the tree and we would pay for a replacement at our expense. We have purchased 27 plots for a monetary amount of \$16,605.00 these plots surround our mother and we will also be affected by the tree. Now is the time to remove the tree. We will pay for the tree to be removed and pay for a new one. It's an investment for our future resting place. A picture was presented showing other trees that have the same issue. Kathy Boria stated she spoke to Peter Brother's nursery regarding the tree. Peter Brothers stated you should have a root barrier around all trees. Kathy Boria stated we feel that Madera Cemetery District is equipped to take the tree out, if not we will pay for it. Chairperson Lois Betty asked the opinion of Operation Manager John Anderson and Superintendent Ron Ramirez. Operations Manager John Anderson stated he has done some investigating regarding this concern. We have over 400 trees here at Arbor Vitae. Some of these trees are 50 to 60 years old. We feel we can provide the maintenance needed by going back and removing the roots. We would remove the stone and replace if after the root system is completed. Kathy Boria stated this is the worst tree for its roots and it is not planted correctly. Operations Manager stated we feel we can take care of this by removing your mother's headstone and taking out the roots and replacing the headstone. Kathy Boria stated this tree is not planted correctly. Operation Manager stated we have gone through a drought the last few years. Without water, the root system looks for water. Kathy Boria stated it is an ugly tree. Melissa Noblet asked what happens when a family member passes away and the roots are in the way of the burial. Operation Manager John Anderson stated we take care of the burial and remove the roots. Kathy Boria stated what is the big deal to remove the tree. District Manager Belva Bare stated this is an established tree, families sit under this tree, other family members of deceased would not be happy if it was removed. After a short discussion regarding the beauty, the ugly root system and what if the tree died, would we remove it? Chairperson Lois Betty stated they would like to take

some time to process and do their own investigating and get back to Melissa Noblet and Kathy Boria regarding removal of the tree. Chairperson Lois Betty stated she appreciated them coming to the Board with their petition.

The Board of Trustee's recessed to view the tree location to access the concern. A short discussion was had regarding other trees of this nature and the root system. Operation Manager John Anderson stated yes and we take care of it. Trustee David Nemeth asked if you trim the roots how many years until you have to trim roots again. Operations Manager John Anderson stated it depends on the tree. After a short discussion it was stated for Manager Belva Bare to contact a person/arborist regarding the cost of removal of this tree, and if we would be able to replant another tree in this location.

DISCUSSION/REPORT/ OAKHILL NICHES:

District Manager Belva Bare stated everything is going forward with the installation of the new niches at Oakhill. After a short discussion the name for the niche area is "Chapel View"

DISCUSSION/REPORT IF NEEDED ON OPERATIONS OF M.C.D. CEMETERIES

Operations Manager John Anderson stated there has been some issue with the 15 horsepower pump at Calvary Cemetery, we are working on it.

DISCUSSION/REPORT/APPROVAL PRESENTATION BY SANDRA WHEELER AS PER ZOOM FOR STIFEL INVESTMENTS:

District Manager Belva Bare stated Zoom is not working and we will be doing a telephone report:

Sandra Wheeler stated it has been almost a year since the Madera Cemetery District changed from Wells Fargo to Stifel Investments. Sandra stated it was a great move. Sandra stated while we were doing very well, then Covid hit and the interest rates got cut drastically. Sandra stated the interest rate may continue on this path until 2022. Trustee David Nemeth stated we are doing better with Stifel than with the County. Sandra reviewed our portfolio. The District funds are currently at 2.22%. A short discussion on corporate bonds, mutual bonds, mutual funds and government codes was had. Sandra thanked the Board for their continued support.

DISCUSSION/REPORT/APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY POLICIES REGARDING COVID:

District Manager Belva Bare discussed and explained the Emergency FMLA Leave compensation. The first 10 days of emergency FMLA leave are unpaid but the employee can use their vacation and sick leave. When the 10 days are completed the employee will get 2/3 of their pay. A new office Covid-19 policy was discussed. After a short discussion Trustee David Nemeth made a motion to implement the emergency polices regarding Covid and approval of the Covid-19 Office Protocol policy. Trustee Jim Harper 2nd the motion. Poll of the Board: Trustee David Nemeth aye, Trustee Candy Talley aye, Chairperson Lois Betty aye, Trustee Maurice Cappelluti aye, Trustee Jim Harper aye.

DISCUSSION/REPORT OF LOCAL AGENCY BIENNIAL NOTICE MADERA COUNTY:

District Manager Belva Bare stated Madera County would like to know if any information has changed regarding Conflict of Interest forms. A signature is required. Chairperson Lois Betty signed.

DISCUSSION/REPORT/APPROVAL OF CALPERS PENSION AND UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

District Manager Belva Bare stated when I receive this information I like to present it to the Board for awareness. Trustee David Nemeth stated it is best to wait a year to investigate this further.

REPORT/DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF ACCIDENT REPORT SUBMITTED TO GSRMA:

District Manager Belva Bare stated a decision from GSRMA was had regarding this accident report.

DISCUSSION/REPORT/APPROVAL OF CAPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR MARCH 18TH, 2021 QUESTIONNAIRE:

District Manager Belva Bare stated the question of would you as a Board feel comfortable attending the March 18th, 2021 Annual Conference. The Board was in agreement that they would be unsure.

DISCUSSION/REPORT ON ZOOM PRESENTATION PRESENT BY PCA & CAPC "DOCUMENTING EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE" SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.:

District Manager Belva Bare stated she will be attending this Zoom, Operations Manager John Anderson stated he has signed up a few of the Superintendents for this Zoom education.

DISCUSSION/REPORT/APPROVAL OF DISTRICT MANAGER TO RUN FOR NOMINATION ON THE CAPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

A motion was made from Trustee Candy Talley for District Manager Belva Bare to run for nomination on the CAPC Board of Directors. Trustee Maurice Cappelluti seconded the motion. All Board Members were in favor. Chairperson Lois Betty signed nomination papers.

DISCUSSION/REPORT ON MOSQUITO & VECTOR REPORT:

District Manager Belva Bare stated all is going well.

DISCUSSION/REPORT ON WESTLAKE PROPERTY:

District Manager Belva Bare stated nothing new to report.

DISCUSSION/REPORT ON CEMETERY SECURITY REPORT:

District Manager Belva Bare stated nothing to report. We have had an issue with a homeless person sleeping in the mausoleum. He was a little aggressive with Superintendent Ronnie Ramirez. A short discussion regarding locking the mausoleum during the weekends for a few weeks to help deter the person was had.

**DISCUSSION/REPORT/DECISIONS ON INVESTMENTS FOR E.C. AND PRE-NEED
AS PER SANDRA WHEELER/STIFEL INVESTMENTS IF NEEDED:**

Trustee David Nemeth stated nothing to report at this time

ADJOURNMENT: 8:38 p.m.