

The North Kern Cemetery District Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 12, 2017

The North Kern Cemetery Board met at 4:15 PM at the regular meeting place, North Kern Cemetery District office at 627 Austin Street, Delano, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jose J. Hernandez. Present: Pearl Rivera, Ruben Hill, Hubert Rabanal, Alfred Roman, Manager, and Rueben Pascual.

Audience: Lizbeth Dennis, Tom Pasek, Laura Silva, Lupe Wolfe, Lupe Arreola, Jennifer Garcia, Margarita Garcia, Lydia Magana Vivian Basurto, Raquel Vargas and various other citizens that did not identify themselves.

Public Comment: Public comment was held regarding the district's public notice of intent to bar solar lights from cemetery gravesites effective December 1, 2017. Laura Silva, Lupe Wolfe, Lupe Arreola, Jennifer Garcia, Margarita Garcia, Lydia Magana, Raquel Vargas, all expressed concerns that the district consider not banning solar lights from gravesites. These individuals feel that the lights look attractive at night and bring them comfort from being able to place them at the gravesites. Discussion was held with public and district board members. Public and board agreed to form a committee and attempt to come to a compromise with the solar light issue. Both parties agreed to meet on October 26 at 5:00 P.M., at the District Office in order to continue dialogue.

September 14, 2017 Board Minutes: Board Minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Ruby to approve and seconded by Pearl. Motion passed. No nays.

Review and Approve Transfer of Revenue September 2017 to the County Treasure for Deposit. Revenue reviewed and motion made by Hubert and seconded by Rueben. Motion passed. No nays.

September 2017 Bill List: List reviewed and motion made by Hubert and seconded by Ruby to approve. Motion passed. No nays.

August and September 2017 Financial Reports: Reports reviewed and motion made by Hubert to approve and seconded by Pearl. Motion passed, no nays.

Vivian Basurto – Ms. Basurto feels that solar lights should be permitted at gravesites and asked the board to reconsider. Mr. Ruby Hill, suggested that a committee possibly be formed with the public to continue dialogue with the solar light issue. Committee of public members and board member came up with a date of October 26, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at District Office. Ms. Basurto also discussed her son's scratched headstone. Ms. Basurto feels that it was scratched by grounds staff. Ms. Basurto presented pictures to the board of her son's headstone. Mr. Jorge Jaime, cemetery foreman presented photos

taken of her son's headstone as well. Mr. Jaime stated that grounds staff could have scratched the marker, as well as Ms. Basruto could have when she covered her son's stone with a covering that she or her family provided which is against district policy. Mr. Jaime informed her the district is not responsible for the alleged damage.

Raquel Vargas – Ms. Vargas addressed the board stating that she did not like the workmanship of the cement border placed around her son's marker. Ms. Vargas feels that she should not be asked to sign a waiver for in case the marker is damaged during recasting of the cement border. Ruby made motion that she not have to sign a waiver and seconded by Rueben. Pearl stated for the record that cement border will be redone but only this one time. No nays.

District Investment Policy – Board members discussed and reviewed policy.

Irrigation Bid East Cemetery – Mike Letourneau Landscape Services provided us with a presentation regarding his irrigation bid. Board members posed questions to Mike regarding type of irrigation system and time required to be installed. Mr. Ruben Pascual made mention that he would like a breakdown of the total proposed fee prior to approving this project. Mr. Letourneau to provide new bid to district manager. Item tabled to next month's board meeting. District manager brought to the attention of Mr. Letourneau that his bid include prevailing wages. Hubert suggested that district manager make contact with vendors with whom Mr. Letourneau has conducted business with in the past and ascertain if they were pleased with his services.

Zero Tolerance Drug Abuse Policy – Policy reviewed and discussed. Hubert made motion to adopt and seconded by Rueben, motion passed. Nays, none.

Closed Session Item: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS PROMFET CEMETERY: Motion made by Hubert to go into closed session and seconded by Pearl at 7:10 p.m. Information provided to board by District manager regarding negotiations with King Golden State. Motion made by Ruby and seconded by Pearl to return to Open Session at 7:16 P.M. Hubert made a suggestion that in the future all Closed Sessions be at the end of the agenda.

Reports: Manager's/Trustee's Reports: Manager reported 23 burials and 4 cremations for September. Jose made a suggestion that board be provided with YTD burials and cremations. Hubert expressed his appreciation to Jorge Jaime for his presentation on the pouring and placing of markers. Jose also suggested that all the district employees and board members look at a possible future date to get together to get to know each other a little better since there is new staff. Jose also discussed possibility of providing lighting pricing to west side cemetery. Hubert mentioned the prayer at the beginning of the board meeting and if it okay to say a prayer. District Manager informed board that legal counsel had stated in the past that a "prayer" could be said prior to the start of a board meeting as long as no one objected. If someone objects, then they prayer could be omitted. Hubert Rabanal mentioned that all audience members present should

have been heard with their concerns since we (district) is a public entity and that we work and are compensated by the public. Hubert further stated that the board should have listened to the public's concerns and that the concerns of the public would be taken into consideration and would be answered at a future board meeting. Hubert Rabanal also stated that any changes to the "Rules and Regulations" are not final until the board votes on any changes. Hubert ended by stating that he would like to be on the committee with when the public meets on October 26, 2017.

Discussion Items:

- A. **Upright Monument Section:** No discussion – No discussion regarding this item.
- B. **CemSites** – Manger discussed recent webinar and a virtual walk through the system. Basic proposed pricing provided to board. Board suggests we look at another vendor for comparison.
- C. **Office Google Connection** – Manager provided timeline to board regarding going on-line with this project. District should be on-line within three weeks.
- D. **Promfet Cemetery:** Refer to Closed Session
- E. **Cemetery Street Signage** - Manager informed that street signage has been placed on East cemetery. Board stated that signs looked very appealing.
- F. **Master Plan** – Manger informed board that we continue to await possible bid/drawings from a firm in Fresno regarding the Gazebo to cover the columbarium.
- G. **Correspondence to City Manager:** Correspondence from City Manager discussed with board members. Board suggested that manager forward correspondence to legal counsel for interpretation.

Adjournment: Hubert made motion to close meeting, and seconded by Ruby. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Alfred Roman, Manager NKDC