

The North Kern Cemetery District Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 9, 2018

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 were Andrew Mendoza, Pearl Rivera, George Chase, Hubert Rabanal, and Alfred Roman, Manager

Audience: Susana Valenzuela, Victoria Frost

Public Comment: Susana Valenzuela commented there are no signs in Spanish indicating “no solicitation”, also questioning who is our weekend security company, and that a “flower board” is needed on East cemetery. Mrs. Valenzuela asked what happened to the Pre-Need program that was discussed in the past regarding Parkview Mortuary. Mrs. Valenzuela also asking that if the district has a vacant position open, where is that position posted. Mrs. Valenzuela also stated that North Kern Cemetery District now has a social media page and is asking if that was authorized by the Board. Victoria Frost commented if Board members have individual email accounts. Mrs. Frost asking what is the irrigation time schedule on west side cemetery and can they be posted. Mrs. Frost also asking if we can have a “better” flower sign indicating when flowers will be removed or left alone on special occasions.

Approve Transfer of Revenue July 2018 in the amount of \$34,327.71 to the County Treasure for Deposit.

Motion made by George and seconded by Andrew to approve transfer of revenue.
Motion passed, no nays.

Approve July 2018 Bill List for \$49,669.41.

Andrew asking for the hours that WestCoast Security patrols the cemetery. Hubert asking that when a warrant is issued to an employee of the District that a copy of the warrant be forward to the Board members for full transparency. Motion made by Pearl to approve Bill List and seconded by George. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve Financial Report July 2018.

Report reviewed, and motion made by Andrew and seconded by Pearl. Motion passed.
No nays

Approve July 12, 2018 Board Minutes

Minutes reviewed, motion made by George and seconded by Andrew. Motion passed.
No nays.

Regular Agenda:

Monica Baca – Extension of time that flowers remain on graves.

Monica presented to the board the request if flowers could be left on graves for two weeks instead of removing them weekly. Lengthy discussion was held regarding this topic. The suggestion was made that we don't edge around markers for a month thus allowing flowers to remain on and around headstones. Some Board members agreed and disagreed on the length of time that flowers would be allowed to remain on headstones. Discussion was also held as in what month would be most appropriate to test this new procedure and that time would be required to post this testing procedure in the paper and advising the citizens that this would be in the testing mode for one month. George Chase was not in agreement in testing this procedure for a month, as the grass around the markers would grow too fast and look unsightly. Hubert believed we should test this procedure out in order to ascertain if it would work. Monica Baca stated that she would communicate to the local religious affiliations that the cemetery would be testing this new procedure out and see how it would work out. Board made a decision to test out the new procedure in the month of October. Motion made by Pearl and seconded by Andrew. Hubert opposed, and Jose abstained. George in agreement to test in October. Motion passed.

Asphalt Bid to Patch and Repair Avenues on East Cemetery.

Discussion held and regarding patching and repair. Board commented that it would be a good idea to inform the citizens of the patching depending on how long project would take and if we would have to close gates on said date. Motion made by George and seconded by Pearl. Motion passed. No nays.

Reports

Manager's/Trustee's Reports:

Manager reported July casketed burials: 22. Cremations: 1 Monthly Total: 23 YTD; 191 YTD Casketed: 169 YTD Cremations: 22.

A. Promfet Fence (west side)

Completed

B. Irrigation Project

Project has been completed one month ahead of schedule.

C. Tractor for Edging

Tractor is slated for delivery on August 10, 2018

D. Water Testing

Cemetery wells tested positive for E-coli and nitrates. Signs will be placed in rest rooms and water spigots indicating that water should not be consumed.

E. Graffiti Removal

Graffiti was removed from west cemetery two weeks ago.

F. Tree Replacements

Trees have been ordered for East cemetery and should arrive by August 16, 2018.

G. Trash Receptacles

Approximately 10 receptacles have arrived for both East and West Cemeteries.

H. Bids for Lighting West Cemetery Entrance

Manager awaiting bid from vendor out of Bakersfield. Vendor from Tulare stated he was not interested in performing the job as the trees in the island on Lily of the Valley Drive would interfere with electrical work. Andrew Mendoza suggested applying for a grant for solar lights in that area.

I. Wonderful Company Grant

Manager informed the Board that a grant proposal was submitted to Wonderful for the CemSites project in the amount of \$27,000.00.

George Chase mentioned that there were a few weeds that needed to be abated on the East cemetery. Manager mentioned that the abatement of “goat heads” is underway on East cemetery and the abatement of this weed should be eradicated in about three years if we continue to spray on a regular basis as well as place a pre-emergent in early spring. Andrew requesting to know that hours that WestCoast security makes rounds. Information provided to Andrew by Manager. Pearl requesting that Board invite new Delano Police Department Police Chief to a future Board Meeting. Manager will forward correspondence to police department. Jose mentioned that inviting Chief would be a good idea and it would be a pleasure to have him attend. Hubert thanked the public for coming out to tonight’s meeting and providing input. Hubert also thanked the District Manager for all of his hard efforts on working on the various cemetery projects and issues. Jose mentioned that the cemetery Board continues to focus on how to improve the cemetery appearance daily.

Adjournment: Hubert made motion to close meeting and seconded by Jose. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Alfred Roman, Manager NKDC