



Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 8, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Location: Woodlake Public Cemetery District Office, 165 N. Cypress Street in Woodlake

Board Members Present: George Clausen; Belen Gomez; Bill Crawford

Others Present: Trilby Barton, District Manager; Louie & Luanna Mijea

Call to Order: Board Chair, George Clausen called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: It was moved to approve the agenda by Mr. Clausen, and seconded by Bill Crawford. Agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Louie & Luana Mijea Haro voiced their concerns about the past history with Raul Gonzalez, former District Manager. She talked about the cemetery not being taken care of for so long, and has noticed people taking items from gravesites, including her own family's sites. Mrs. Haro understands the maintenance area problems, but her son's items are gone and her concern is where are they, specifically the vase from his headstone. She also commented on a recent video on Facebook showing a woman taking items from gravesites. Trilby Barton, District Manager, commented that she saw the video and coordinated with Woodlake Police Department to patrol the area.

Mr. Clausen mentioned that gang members do gather in the cemetery, and Mrs. Haro mentioned people smoking pot in the cemetery. Mrs. Haro also noticed much of the grass is dried, and Mr. Haro said the lawns need to be mowed. Ms. Haro commented that gravesites are cracked and sunken in. She also mentioned her past history trying to work with Raul Gonzalez, which was not a good report.

Mr. Crawford and Ms. Gomez asked for patience as we try to catch up now, and to come back to check in at future meetings. Recent Facebook posts were also discussed, and Mr. and Mrs. Haro are willing to come help us at the Cemetery. They are in agreement with the new Flower & Memorial Policy.

Minutes: Mr. Clausen moved to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2022 Board Meeting, and Mr. Crawford seconded. The minutes were approved.

Administration:

- **Financial Report:** Ms. Barton explained that we had a very busy month as reflected on the report, and explained the miscellaneous monies was mostly from a refund from AT&T. She also commented that the Visalia Public Cemetery has now been paid in full.

Ms. Barton reviewed the Wishlist Items Report and explained that items will be marked off when complete, but all are in the 2022-2023 approved budget.

- **Financial Audit RFP Status:** Ms. Barton has contacted Pine, Pedroncelli & Aguilar for audit information. There were no responses to the RFP, but the above mentioned firm had contacted for additional information during the RFP process. She is still trying to find an audit company, but will be following up with them again.
- **Office Organization Update:** Ms. Barton reported that painting of the office will be done in the Fall, and she is working to find new filing cabinets.

Grounds Report:

- **North Section Opening Timeline:** Ms. Barton had a clean version of the North Section cemetery map scanned so she can mark the new lots and graves. Mr. Clausen asked how many grave sites are left. Ms. Barton explained that it isn't a clear answer because she needs to go through the lots and compare to the book. We do have lots available though in the South Section. And there are a number of cremation plots in the columbarium area. She also mentioned there are more available along the front entrance wall that she needs to confirm. Community members have expressed interest in that area. The goal is to open the new North Section in September. We may look into the possibility of doing double gravesites in the area, but will depend on how the digging goes.
- **Memorial Benches:** Ms. Barton has been working on getting numbers together for possible memorial benches for the cemetery, starting with placing them in the columbarium area. Ms. Barton is looking into prices and what our cemetery would charge. Woodlake Lions Club has expressed interest in purchasing one in remembrance of their past members. It was also discussed to put benches in the area near the neighboring home in the North Section.
- **Other Grounds Reports:** AT&T phone system has been unreliable, so Ms. Barton has been in touch with Spectrum about switching services. They gave a bid to put in four new telephone poles to get the service to the office building, which would be covered by Spectrum. The bid is valid for one year. Ms. Barton will wait for now to see if AT&T service improves, but there was no objection from the board for the service change.

Board Comments:

- Ms. Gomez commented that Ms. Barton is doing a great job.
- Ms. Barton commented that it's taking a long time to preserve our cemetery items and go through the information, but we're making progress. She has gotten some rude remarks from citizens, but the majority of people have been good and understanding. She also remarked there are people coming out regularly to clean the grave sites.
- New trash cans are supposed to be donated by the Woodlake Lions Club, but Ms. Barton will follow up with Chief Marquez.
- Next meeting: Ms. Barton asked if we can change the September 12th meeting, because she will be out of town September 9 through September 19th. Or we can cancel the

meeting. Ms. Gomez can be on call if something comes up while Ms. Barton is out of town. The phones will be forwarded to Ms. Barton's phone though. Mr. Clausen mentioned will need to sign checks before she leaves. Ms. Gomez and Mr. Crawford can do that.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m..

Signed: _____

Belen Gomez, Board Secretary