

State of North Carolina
Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2019

The North Carolina Cemetery Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, July 17th in the Hilton North Raleigh Midtown located at 3415 Wake Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609.

The members in attendance were President William "Bill" Gaffney, Vice-President Linda Cotten and the following Commissioners: Leonard "Boscoe" Fulcher, Ebbie Whitley-Hendren, Lenual Primus, David Simmons, and Sharon Weaver. Gantt Stephens as Director of Operations was also in attendance, as well as members of the public.

The meeting was called to order by President Gaffney at 10:00 a.m. The President called for a Moment of Reflection. The first item of the meeting was the agenda approval. Ms. Cotten moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Whitley-Hendren seconded. All voted in favor to accept the agenda.

The next item for approval was the minutes from the April 17, 2019 NC Cemetery Commission meeting. Ms. Whitley-Hendren moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Fulcher seconded. All voted in favor.

I. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

President Gaffney declared that, in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act 138 A 15E, it is the duty of every Commission member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts in regards to the matters being brought before them and to refrain from any undue participation in the particular matters involved.

No conflicts of interest were reported.

II. OPERATIONS REPORT:

Mr. Stephens began the report with a review of the most current financial reports. As he reviewed the 2018-2019 budget, he indicated revenues were in part down due to cemeteries paying assessments that were not required. NCCC inspectors have been correcting these errors over time which has impacted the NCCC revenue. Mr. Stephens also suggested the decline in revenue could be connected to a decline in sales at the cemeteries. The Commission can

charge assessments on Mausoleums and increase the assessment fees, if warranted, since these fees have not increased in over twenty years. Mr. Stephens suggested it be determined if this is a down year or a trend before fee prices are increased.

The proposed 2019–2020 budget was reviewed by Mr. Stephens. Ms. Whitley-Hendren moved to approve the budget and Mr. Fulcher seconded. All voted in favor to accept the budget.

Cemeteries that have not renewed their cemetery license at this time are Calvary Memorial Cemetery and Pisgah View Memorial Park.

Twenty (20) complaints have been received since the last meeting, bringing the year to date complaint total to 38.

Cemeteries late on their monthly reports are Crawford/Ray Memorial Gardens, Forest Lawn of Lincolnton and Yadkin Memorial Gardens which are all delinquent on their May monthly reports. Cemeteries late submitting their annual care and maintenance reports are Shepherd Memorial Park in Hendersonville which submitted their report today. All annual reports are in at this time.

Twelve (12) inspections have been completed since the last meeting. Thirty-two (32) inspections have been completed year to date.

Copies of the cemetery payment plans were provided for the Commissioners to review.

Mr. Stephens stated his Operations Report was complete unless there were questions.

III. REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION:

No requests from the public to address the commissioners.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Ronnie Scites Sales License Application: After discussion, Mr. Simmons moved to deny the license application and Mr. Fulcher seconded. All voted in favor to decline the license. Mr. Scites can appeal this ruling with the Office of Administrative Hearings, if desired. The Commission will provide information to Mr. Scites on the appeal process.

- B. Lakeland Memorial Park: Lakeland has not responded to their audit findings in a satisfactory manner. Ms. Whitley-Hendren moved to have a special inspection at the expense of the cemetery. Mr. Primus seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor.
- C. Adoption of Budget for FY 2019-2020: This item was approved in earlier discussion.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Crestlawn Memorial Gardens: Crestlawn wants to modify their payment agreement since they were unable meet their payment obligations. In addition, the Commission has continued to receive complaints regarding grounds maintenance. Mrs. Cotten made a motion to decline his proposal and continue with the receivership. Mr. Fulcher seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor.
- B. Crown Memorial Park: Mr. Hand made an offer to work toward catching up on his deficiencies. Mrs. Hendren moved to continue to look for a receiver for the next three months, while Mr. Hand continues to implement his proposed payment plan of \$500/month. The Commission will review and decide at the next quarterly meeting. Mrs. Cotten seconded and all commissioners voted in favor.

VI. Election of Officers

Mr. Fulcher nominated Mr. Bill Gaffney as President, Mrs. Linda Cotten as Vice President and Ms. Sharon Weaver as Secretary/Treasurer as officers for the coming year. Ms. Whitley-Hendren seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

VII. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING DATE:

October 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

VIII. Adjournment:

Mrs. Cotten made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Weaver seconded. All Commissioners voted in favor. Mr. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.