

North Carolina Cemetery Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025

The North Carolina Cemetery Commission held a quarterly meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, hosted at the Hilton in North Hills, Raleigh.

President William “Bill” Gaffney and the following Commissioners were present: Mr. Brian Hill, Mr. Bobby Townsend, Ms. Sharon Weaver, Ms. Bonita Caldwell, Mr. David Simmons, Mrs. Linda Cotten, Mrs. LaRay Holloman, and Mr. Gantt Stephens, Director of Operations, were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. President Gaffney called for a moment of silence.

The first item of the meeting was the agenda approval. Ms. Cotten moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill. All voted in favor of accepting the agenda as written.

The second item of the meeting was the minutes approval. Ms. Caldwell moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cotten. All voted in favor of accepting the agenda as written.

I. Conflict of Interest:

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

No conflicts were reported.

II. Operations Report - Mr. Stephens began by reviewing the financials and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. The operations report was provided to the Commissioners. No questions were received.

Ms. Cotten moved to write a resolution honoring the service of former Commissioner Ebbie Hendren to thank her for her years of service to the Commission and community. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. Requests from the Public to Address the Commission - President Gaffney invited any member of the public wishing to address the Commission to come forward.

No public speakers were present.

IV. New Business-

- a. **Change of Control for Holly Hill Memorial Park** – Mr. Gaffney directed the Commissioners to the packages of information sent by the current and proposed new owners of Holly Hill Memorial Park. The Commissioners confirmed that all items needed for the change were present. Representatives from both the buyer and seller were present and available for any questions. Ms. Cotten moved to accept the change of control of Holly Hill Memorial Park from the LeBer family to Eric and Megan Anderson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and passed unanimously.

b. **Change of Control for Fairview and Swain Memorial Parks** – Mr. Gaffney directed the Commissioners to the packages of information sent by the current and proposed new owners of the parks formerly owned by Sheila Gahagen of Smoky Mountain Memorial Parks. Mr. Gaffney reminded the Commissioners that these properties have been in receivership for quite some time regarding a dispute of lands disposition. Mr. Gaffney explained the proposed new owner is the current receiver, Mr. Todd Bryson. Mr. Bryson was present and available for any questions. The Commissioners confirmed that all items needed for the change were present and thanked Mr. Bryson for his commitment to the community during the time of receivership. Mr. Hill moved to accept the change of control of both Fairview Memorial Park of Sylva and Swain Memorial Park of Bryson City to Mr. Todd Bryson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holloman and passed unanimously.

I. Old Business

a. **LandQuest Legacy Receivership** – Mr. Stephens provided an update on the situation at the five cemeteries owned by Kyle Corkum of LandQuest Legacy. He explained the receiver, Mr. Mason, has ordered hundreds of outstanding deliveries to fulfill the past due liabilities to the consumers at these properties. The receiver continues to do an excellent job improving the grounds and financial health of the cemeteries. There are no further updates.

b. **Shepherd Memorial Park Receivership** – The auction of Shepherd Memorial Park resulted in no bids due to the high reserve price. The court has determined there will be another auction in the future with a reserve price to be determined.

II. Reminder of next meeting date

Mr. Gaffney reminded all in attendance that the next scheduled quarterly meeting will take place on July 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hilton in North Hills, Raleigh.

III. Adjournment

Ms. Cotten moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. The meeting was adjourned.