

North Carolina Cemetery Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

The North Carolina Cemetery Commission held a quarterly meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2025, hosted at the RRC Room in the Office of Administrative Hearings.

President William “Bill” Gaffney and the following Commissioners were present: Mr. Brian Hill, Mr. David Buchanan, Mr. Bobby Townsend, Ms. Bonita Caldwell, Mr. David Simmons, Ms. Linda Cotten-Dodson, Ms. Sharon Weaver, 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 Dodson moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. All voted in favor of accepting the agenda as written.

The second item of the meeting was the approval of the minutes. Mr. Hill moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. 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 Commissioners reported conflicts.

- II. **Operations Report** - Mr. Stephens began by presenting the financial reports. He reminded the Commissioners they are able to contact the Commission accountants at any time with any questions. The operations report was provided to the Commissioners, and the floor was opened for discussion. No questions or concerns.

- 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. There were none.

IV. New Business-

- a. **Carolina Biblical Gardens of Guilford County – Medley Family Complaint** – The Commissioners were provided with documents detailing a complaint between the Medley family and Carolina Biblical Gardens of Guilford County, which is owned by EverStory Partners. Ms. Marshika Hale was present to represent the Medley family. Ms. Hale explained that she had been unsuccessful resolving an issue at the cemetery that was preventing her mother and father being interred together as they had pre-planned. After discussion between the Commissioners, Commission office staff and Ms. Hale, a motion was made by Mr. Hill to send notice to Carolina Biblical Gardens of Guilford that they have seven days to provide a permanent solution to the Medley family, whether it be placing Mr. and Mrs. Medley in a ground space or tandem mausoleum spaces, together, at no cost the family. The solution must include the grave(s) being marked by

a memorial. Evidence of orders and payment for the memorial(s) must be provided if they cannot be installed within the 7 days. The letter should state a lack of compliance will result in the suspension of the sales license for Carolina Biblical Gardens of Guildford. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

- a. Lafayette Memorial Park – Inspection Findings** – Mr. Gaffney reminded the Commissioners that Lafayette Memorial Park appeared before the Commission at the previous meeting due to non-payment of perpetual care and other inspection findings. This resulted in a special inspection. The results of this inspection were provided to the Commissioners for review. Mr. Mark McDaniel, Ms. Heather Boshier, and Ms. Kayla Covar were present to represent Lafayette Memorial Park. Discussion regarding these findings led to a motion from Mr. Hill to have the inspector and the cemetery come to a final agreement on the balances and liabilities of the trusts; for the cemetery to deposit funds to correct any deficiency; and for the cemetery to pay a fine of \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Buchanan. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Harnett Devotional Gardens** – Mr. Gaffney reminded the Commissioners that Harnett Devotional Gardens had failed to follow-up on a grounds complaint and inspection request. Since the last meeting, the inspection was completed and a response has been received. Harnett has sent photos of road and mausoleum roof and interior repairs. Efforts are being made to rectify the condition of the grounds.
- c. Landquest Receivership**- Nothing new to report regarding the receivership. No concerns at present.
- d. Shepherd Memorial Park Receivership** – Mr. Stephens reported that the matter is currently with the NC Court of Appeals and that no trial date has been set. The NC Attorney General is assisting the Commission with the appeal.

VI. Reminder of next meeting date

Mr. Gaffney reminded all in attendance that the next scheduled quarterly meeting will take place on July 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the RRC Room at the Office of Administrative Hearings

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Cotten-Dodson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.