

Board of Trustees

Mark Franey
Tanya Gordon
Mark Vasquez
Victor Keaton
Eugene Butticci

Barstow Cemetery District
Mtn. View Memorial Park
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(760) 256-2797

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ashley Tarpley
General Manger

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 4:00 PM

Call To Order:

1. The Board of Trustees Chairperson, Mark Franey, called the Regular meeting of the Barstow Cemetery District to order at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Board Members present at roll call were, Vice Chair Tanya Gordon, Trustees Mark Vasquez, and Trustee Eugene Butticci. Trustee Victor Keaton was absent.
2. All present stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.
3. Notice of minor revisions to agenda items, items removed or continued: None

Public Comments:

Peter Castillo- Welcomed Betty Brock to the "Task Force" for the "Friends of the Barstow Cemetery". Requested that the benches be moved from the side of the fence and would like to see if we can have them placed somewhere else on the premises.

Cecilia Cordova- Addressed a community member had stated they were told they would be charged a \$200 monthly fee for having a bench on the property. She reached out to the General Manager Ashley Tarpley and was told this was not true and there is no fee for this. Would like to know what section of landscaping is being completed next as this has been spoken about being changed. Does the board need to vote on these changes?

John Williams- Questioned about 2 bids that were received previously and do these bids get presented to the board. If they do, then why did they choose the higher bid out of the two? Would like to know what the General Manager must present to the Board.

Consent Calendar:

4. Meeting minutes for the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on July 17, 2024, were emailed to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, for their review.
Discussion: None

Motion to accept the July 17, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes as presented: Trustee Mark Vasquez
Second: Vice Chair Tanya Gordon
All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Victor Keaton: Absent,
Eugene Butticci: Aye

General Manager Reports:

5. Interments for the month of July were 4 Cremains and 4 full. The Tree Removal Phase is complete. The Veterans support group presented the Barstow Cemetery District staff with a plaque and a certificate of appreciation. The Cemetery would like to get with the "Friends of the Barstow Cemetery" about raising funds for a veteran fencing that would have military emblems to add to our Veterans section. When the funds from the Prop 1 Grant have been used, we will not be able to reapply for additional funds through the same grant or the Mojave Water Agency. We will have to find a way to get additional funds after these have been used to continue the project. The General Manager feels that it would be most financially responsible to start the 4000 section that is nearest to the Cemetery gates. This area is already curbed and will not have as many trees added to the area. This is also a smaller section so it will take less funds to complete. Management feels that to start the project at the top of the Cemetery grounds will leave the area incomplete and the Cemetery would like to be able to work on something they can finish rather than an area half completed. If the money left from the grant allows them to start in another section, they can move forward with spreading the fines in other areas. The goal is to have no lapse in money, but this is not a guarantee that we will be awarded another grant in time.
Joe Gomez asked why we would not be doing the section that was previously voted on. That section being completed was the reason that all the markers were left on top of the ground exposed. Why would the Cemetery not do that section with the landscaping funds if that was originally voted on. Ashley Tarpley explained that plans must change to accommodate the situation. If it is more financially responsible to start on a different section, then that is what is best for the Cemetery and that should be considered first.

Action and Information Items:

6. Unfinished Business: Vote on Final Budget for 2024/2025
Discussion: General Manager Ashley Tarpley presented that the budget is still not an accurate representation since we are still working on reducing the cost of some insurances and other utility bills. Due to the record keeping not being accurate the income is also not believed to be a true representation. After this year we will be able to get accurate numbers to present a more realistic budget for next year.
Tanya Gordon asked if the State Fund is one that we are still working on getting lowered. Ashley Tarpley advised yes that is one and is awaiting the audit to be able to present the changes that should help facilitate that.
Motion to accept the Final Budget for 2024/2025 as presented: Trustee Eugene Butticci
Second: Trustee Mark Vasquez
All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Victor Keaton: Absent, Eugene Butticci: Aye
7. New Business: None

Items for Future Agenda:

1. None

Cemetery Board and Employee Comments:

1. Chair Franey: Explained when he began on the Board in 2016 the water bill was more than 20k a month and was past due, the grass was not green, and the trees had dry rot and insect infestation. They investigated other avenues to get water including imitation grass. These were not feasible and when a member of the Mojave Water Agency proposed the Desert Landscaping Project, they felt that was the best route to take for the Cemetery. Unfortunately, the proposed cost of the project before covid was less than what the cost is now. He was unaware of the proposal to start the 4000 section, before the sections with the removed grass, until the meeting but is appreciative of a new idea. Franey stated finding a place for the benches is something the Cemetery has been working on.
2. Vice Chair Gordon: None
3. Trustee Vasquez: None
4. Trustee Keaton: Absent
5. Trustee Buttici: Thanked Mark Franey for the history on the Landscape Project stating people only see a snapshot of what it is now.

Announcements:

1. None

Adjournment:

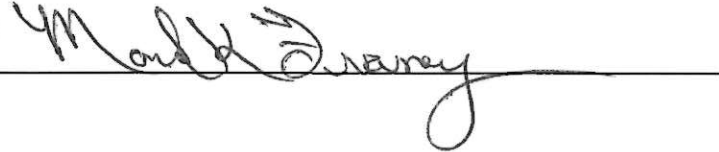
1. Motion to Adjourn at 4:39 pm: Trustee Eugene Buttici
Second: Trustee Mark Vasquez
All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Victor Keaton: Absent, Eugene Buttici: Aye
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, in the Community Room of the Cemetery at 4:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Ashley Tarpley, General Manager, Barstow Cemetery District

Accepted after Board Approval by:



Mark Franey, Chairperson
Barstow Cemetery District