

Board of Trustees

**Mark Franey
Tanya Gordon
Mark Vasquez
Victor Keaton
Eugene Butticci**

**Barstow Cemetery District
Mtn. View Memorial Park**
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P.O. Box 1033 Barstow, CA 92312
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(760) 256-2797

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Ashley Tarpley
General Manger**

**Board of Trustees
Regular and Closed Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 20, 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, November 20, 2024. Board Members present at roll call were, Vice Chair Tanya Gordon, Trustee Mark Vasquez, Trustees Victor Keaton, and Trustee Eugene Butticci.
2. All present stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.
3. Notice of minor revisions to agenda items, items removed or continued:
Remove item 5. B to appoint two Trustees as bargaining representatives. Upon counsel with legal due to already set Policy this is not necessary.
Add Ratify Generals Managers acceptance of bid for \$141,250.00 made by Kormex Construction related to Board action taken on 10.16.2024 to item 5.A Unfinished Business.

Public Comments:

Marta Vuiller- Voiced her concern that there are not enough trashcans in the upper sections. She would be willing to provide trash bags for the Cemetery if that was the problem, but trashcans are needed, and people will use them if they are available.

Peter Castillo- He feels that the Cemetery has an issue of debits and credits. There is not enough money to sustain the Cemetery. At one point there were 1.5 crew members and now there are two. What is the remedy to get money? Since the County will not help with funding, he feels that the Cemetery should be given to the County since they have the funds to take care of it, or sell the property to a private buyer. If it is possible to make it sustainable there needs to be a road map of what that looks like.

Cecilia Cordova- Pointed out that even though the Cemetery is asking for funds, or recommendations for Grants are being made, Grant writing it is a laborious task and it is not guaranteed when or if the funds will be awarded to the Cemetery.

Consent Calendar:

4. Meeting minutes for the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on October 16, 2024, were emailed to the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, for their review.

Discussion: Mark Franey requested for the amendment of the minutes to show on Item 7.1 after request for first motion it should show the motion died due to a lack of second.

Motion to accept October 16, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes as amended: Trustee Butticci

Second: Trustee Vasquez

All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Victor Keaton: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Eugene Butticci: Aye

General Manager Reports:

5. Interments for the month of October were 2 full, 2 cremains.

It was brought to the attention of the General Manager that some districts of similar service are receiving more in apportionments than the Barstow Cemetery. A request was put in with the assessor's office to see if this could be reassessed. This could result in an increase in apportionment funds or a decrease depending on the property value, so it is a risk.

The landscaping in section 4000 is on track to be completed before the Thanksgiving Holiday. MWA is working on getting the remaining balance that is left in the Grant after this section is completed. Management has received quotes on curbing for the additional blocks behind the office. If the funds can be gathered for this element, then the staff will be able to continue working on the project by backfilling the DG saving on costs and delaying the project.

Management addressed that there have been rumors about the Cemetery gates being closed the week of Christmas. This is a false statement, and the gates will be opened the same as any other week. Management also requested if anyone from the public has questions or concerns to please contact the office before taking them to social media with incorrect information.

Pete Castillo- Stated that the liability insurance with Hartford should be set at 3,000,000.00

He feels the Endowment should be rebalanced and a rep needs to come out and do a presentation on how the money can be reinvested to see a better return.

Action and Information Items:

6. Unfinished Business:

1. Ratify General Managers acceptance of bid for \$141,250.00 made by Kormex Construction related to Board action taken on 10.16.2024

Discussion: None

Motion to accept the bid for \$141,250.00 to be used from the Prop 1 grant fund for the Landscape Conversion project accepted by Ashley Tarpley with authority given from the Board on 10.16.2024: Trustee Vasquez

Second: Trustee Butticci

All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Victor Keaton: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Eugene Butticci: Aye

2. New Business:

None

Closed Session

1. Labor Negotiations pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 - Public Employee
Adjourned for closed session at 4:29pm

Post Closed Session Announcements:

- Regular Board Meeting resumed at 4:57pm
No reportable action was taken at this time.

Items for Future Agenda:

1. None
Discussion: Joe Gomez inquired when the voting for upright headstones will be added to the agenda. Chair Franey responded that the Board would like more time to see if it is feasible to allow them after the 4000 section is completed. There are more services being held in the 4000 section so there is the opportunity to test the backhoe and the clearance levels.

Cemetery Board and Employee Comments:

1. Chair Franey: Noted the benches have continued to be put out and the rows being straightened. He thanked management and staff.
2. Vice Chair Gordon: None
3. Trustee Vasquez: None
4. Trustee Keaton: Advised he made the payment for the Veterans Memorial fence to the contractor, and they should be reaching out to go over specifics with management.
5. Trustee Buttici: Explained that he put some information out to the public to help inform them on the process for Grant writing and its logistics

Announcements:

1. None

Adjournment:

1. Motion to Adjourn at 5:11 pm: Trustee Buttici
Second: Trustee Vasquez
All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Victor Keaton: Aye, Eugene Buttici: Aye


The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on Wednesday, December 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