

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
www.mountainviewmemorial.specialdistrict.org
(760) 256-2797

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ashley Tarpley
General Manger

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 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, January 15, 2024. Board Members present at roll call were, Vice Chair Tanya Gordon, Trustee Mark Vasquez, Trustee Eugene Butticci, and Trustees Victor Keaton.
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:

Betty Brock- Requested more trashcans be put on the grounds.

Cecilia Cordova- Would like to know more about the financials. How much money does it take to run the Cemetery? What is being done to get more money?

Debbie Aguayo- There is a lot of feedback about things not being done. People negotiated a service in their contract when they paid for the site with expectations of services and maintenance. Is wondering if there have been attempts to reach out to Native American tribes because we have code talkers and other Native American people in the Cemetery.

Ruby Crabtree- Would like to know what happened to the Cemetery and what the plan is for it in the future.

Pete Castillo- Asked questions about the financial spread sheet including: How is the preneed and endowment interest accrual zero? What is the breakeven point every month? How often does the Cemetery receive apportionments?

Charles Parker- Feels his family has been dishonored. The individuals who have taken over are now responsible for what is to come of the Cemetery.

Debbie Aguayo- Informed the Board the "Friends of the Barstow Cemetery" are working to become a non-profit. Once this happens, they want to work with the Board and Management to get funding to add elements to enhance and beautify the Cemetery. Especially in areas like the Veterans section.

Consent Calendar:

4. Meeting minutes for the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on December 18, 2024, were emailed to the Board of Trustees on Thursday, January 9, 2025, for their review.

Discussion: None.

Motion to accept December 18, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes as presented: Trustee Buttici

Second: Trustee Keaton

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

General Manager Reports:

5. Interments for the month of December were 2 full, 1 cremains.

The 4000 Section Landscaping Project continues with the maintenance staff leveling the stones and burying the vases with their sites.

The grant for MDAQM is being submitted this February for the replacement of the retired backhoe with an electric vehicle. The BNSF Grant and the Route 66 Preservation Grant were not given to the Cemetery.

The final day for Christmas decorations on sites is January 15, 2025.

The Cemetery staff do not remove the vases from sites. If a vase is missing, then it is because someone else visiting has removed it.

The ground crew have worked to clean the top of the columbarium and back fill it with the fines.

After the staff have finished the 4000 section, they will continue with the work to Block 16. This includes straightening rows, recementing markers, and cleaning debris.

The Veterans fence being donated by the Keaton family has been built and is being powder coated. The fabricator has estimated the end of the month to be able to install it on the grounds.

Management is working on making a donation list for items the community can donate. Management would like to avoid monetary donations and feels an item list will make people feel better about donating.

Management gave a presentation and read previously filed LAFCO reports that can be found on the LAFCO website. Reports show that progress has been made, and they feel the mechanisms are now in place for the Cemetery to be sustainable.

Action and Information Items:

1. None

Cemetery Board and Employee Comments:

Mark Franey- Will be working on putting together a document with the history of the Cemetery and the water situation to post on the Cemetery website to help people have a better understanding of what happened and what has been accomplished.

The "Friends of the Barstow Cemetery" are a separate entity from the Cemetery, and they would be establishing a non-profit not the Cemetery or Board. He appreciates them doing this to be able to help the Cemetery.

Regarding the ADA bathroom, it is in the construction phase for building the module.

Tanya Gordon- Thanked Ashley Tarpley General Manager for work that's been done and the thorough report. It is going to take time to undo all the things that were mismanaged previously. Things have already gotten better just in the time she has been on the Board.

Mark Vasquez- Wished everyone a Happy New Year. The money is an issue, the only income for the Cemetery is sites that we sell. Two employees are trying their hardest to do everything that needs to be done. His wife and family are buried here, and he got on the Board to try and help. If he thought that getting off the Board for someone else to take over would help, he would do it.

Victor Keaton- Reminded everyone that the finances are public record shown in the audits. Prior management abused the funds and the Cemetery, but it didn't happen overnight. The progress that has been made is not apparent visibly, but we are starting to move forward.

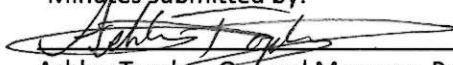
Eugene Butticci- Received the link for the LAFCO report like it was a negative. The information that was collected shows that there is progress. The problem at the Cemetery has gotten smaller. Management has been applying for grants but because you apply it does not mean you will be awarded the grant. It is a small percentage that get chosen for a grant. Thanked the "Friends" for working together as a non-profit.

Adjournment:

1. Motion to Adjourn at 4:46pm: Trustee Keaton
Second: Trustee Vasquez
All In Favor: Mark Franey: Aye, Tanya Gordon: Aye, Mark Vasquez: Aye, Victor Keaton: aye, Eugene Butticci: Aye

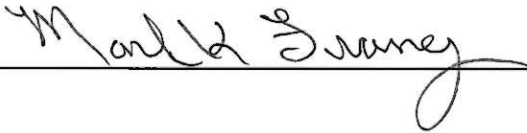
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, in the Community Room of the Cemetery at 4:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Ashley Tarpley, General Manager, Barstow Cemetery District

Accepted after Board Approval by:



Mark Franey, Chairperson
Barstow Cemetery District