

EAST KERN CEMETERY DISTRICT MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yaw at 5:00pm.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Victor Yaw & Vice-Chairman Glenda Willie were present. Trustees: Harold Smith & Owen Carder were present. Manager Paul Holzer was present. Trustee Buford Land was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Yaw.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: There were none at this time.

APPROVAL of the AGENDA and MINUTES: Trustee Carder made a motion to approve the Agenda & Minutes as presented. Vice-Chairman Willie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Yaw, Willie, Smith & Carder. Absent: Land. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BUDGET AND VOUCHERS: Trustee Smith made a motion to approve the monthly budget and vouchers #G032123, G033023 & G040623. Trustee Carder seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Yaw, Willie, Smith & Carder. Absent: Land. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: The Manager informed the Board that:

- The District performed 1 interment since the last meeting (CCMP: 1C).
- The Manager successfully set up “auto-pay” with: AT&T U-Verse, AT&T Mobility & Waste Management. The Gas Co. and So. Calif. Edison only allows auto-pay via checking or savings. However, the Manager was able to consolidate each of the So. Calif. Edison bills onto 1 monthly bill for all, not separate bills. This will allow for more efficient payment.

SAFETY REPORT: The Manager assured the Board that there have been no incidents of safety to report and that every effort is made to ensure a safe work environment.

PENDING ITMES: There are no Pending Items at this time.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: There is none at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: **A. BENCH INSCRIPTION FEES:** Due to material & labor costs, it is necessary to list bench inscriptions separate from other inscriptions such as final date or columbarium. The Manager proposed to have bench inscription fee @ \$200.00 (includes first 10 digits) and additional digits @ \$1.50 ea. Trustee Carder made a motion for bench inscriptions to be set at \$200.00 (including first 10 digits) and additional digits @ \$1.50 ea. Vice-Chairman Willie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Yaw, Willie, Smith & Carder. Absent: Land. Motion carried. **B. AB2449 – TELECONFERNCE – BROWN ACT:** The Manager reminded the Board that the State has made accommodations for continued teleconference meetings, however, strict guidelines and Brown Act rules apply. The Board can opt for occasional remote meeting attendance by resolution, if it chooses, but may not accommodate a request for convenience. If a board were to adopt a resolution to allow remote attendance, it would have to install equipment such as audio/video. Trustee Smith expressed that he has attended meetings with audio/video equipment that often malfunctions, is hard to follow because of “live” delays and excessive interruptions and talking over others. Vice-Chairman Willie suggested that, for EKCD, it doesn't warrant the investment of the necessary equipment. After some discussion, the Board determined that in-person attendance is vital to its role of being transparent, efficient & effective. Trustee Carder made a motion for the Board to attend meetings in-person without teleconference accommodations (except where Brown Act affords). Vice-Chairman Willie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Yaw, Willie, Smith & Carder. Absent: Land. Motion carried. **C. REVIEW DRAFT AUDIT FY 2021-2022:** Blomberg & Griffin CPA has prepared the draft audit for Board &

Management review. The Board has reviewed the draft audit and accepted its findings. Trustee Smith made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 audit draft as presented. Trustee Carder seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Yaw, Willie, Smith & Carder. Absent: Land. Motion carried. **D. CAPC CONFERENCE DEBRIEFING – OWEN CARDER:** Trustee Carder explained that the conference was well attended, largest gathering since COVID restrictions. There were a lot of new faces (due to retirements mostly). Overall, discussions included: employer/employee relations, training policies, safety issues, harassment & ethics training, creating revenue, adding cremains to casket before interment & prevailing wage contracts (Public Works). Trustee Carder expressed that it was good to hear and listen to some of the issues & struggles other districts have been dealing with and how our District has dealt with those same issues. It was rewarding to hear that our District & Board, seem to be on the right track and doing things in accordance with laws. The Manager expanded, saying that it is gratifying to learn that the District is doing well, by being in accordance of governing principles. Additionally, the Manager mentioned to the Board that there was a question to the amount of compensation each Board receives. Answers ranged from \$0-150 (which raised some eyebrows). The Board recently discussed compensation and if there was room for an increase. It was determined that the board that receives \$150 per mtg., has been approving increases for some time, via Sec. 20200 of the Water Code (may, by ordinance, adopt increase not to exceed an amount equal to 5% per calendar year). Trustee Smith made a motion to approve Trustee Carder's voucher for \$200.00 (mtg. stipends). Vice-Chairman Willie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Yaw, Willie & Smith. Abstain - Carder. Absent: Land. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vice-Chairman Willie: April 20 @ 12pm – Senior Luncheon. April 26 @ 5pm – K.C. Public Works recycling meeting at Veterans bldg.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Adding cremated remains into casket before interment: allow/deny, fees, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Carder made a motion to adjourn at 5:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Paul Holzer,
District Manager / Board Secretary