

State Board of Cemeterians
Minutes
March 23, 2010

A meeting of the State Board of Cemeterians was held on Tuesday March 23, 2010, at 2 Martin Luther Jr. SE. Room 1410-12 West Tower, Atlanta, Ga. 30334.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Micky Couey at 10:30 a.m.

A quorum was established with members being present:

- William (Micky) Couey (Vice-President)
- Clift Dempsey
- Emory Lamar
- Mike Lawrence
- Tim Smith

Absent:

- Richard Parker (President)
- Daniel (Dan) Greene

Staff Present:

- Bob Terry, Division Director, Securities and Business Regulation
- Debra Ferguson, Cemeteries Director, Securities and Business Regulation
- Roy White, Registration Supervisor, Securities and Business Regulation
- Melissa Marlowe, Senior Investigator, Securities and Business Regulation
- Lori Young, Investigator Analyst, Securities and Business Regulation
- Becky Wallace, Senior Examiner, Securities and Business Regulation
- Sandy Irving, Board Secretary, Securities and Business Regulation

Other Present:

- Jeff Stump, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
- Katherine Ruiz, Paralegal, Attorney General's Office
- Mike Helmase, President Ga. Cemetery Association
- Juanita L. Burney, Concerned Group Representative
- Patty Tanner
- Tesa Shumake
- Kelly Wallace, Attorney for Tanner/Shumake

Public Comments:

1. Ms. Juanita Burney addressed the board concerning maintenance issues with Mt. Olive Memorial Gardens, Hephzibah, GA.
2. Ms. Tesa Shumake addressed the board regarding issues concerning her grandmother's burial at Melwood Cemetery and Resthaven Memorial Gardens of Dekalb County.

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Mr. Lawrence moved, Mr. Lamar seconded and the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting.

Enforcement Cases Presented for Closing; by Debra Ferguson, Cemeteries Director

1. Woodlawn Memorial Park, ENCM-00323- Macon, GA
2. Pulaski-Bleckley Memorial Gardens, ENCM-00324- Cochran, GA
3. Memorial Park Cemetery, CO-1251- Gainesville, GA
4. Carver Memorial Gardens, CO-1268- Jonesboro, GA
5. Hillcrest Abbey West, CO-1286- Savannah, GA
6. Forest Hills Memorial Gardens CO-1290- Forest Park, GA
7. Cherokee Memorial Park, CO-1295- Canton, GA
8. Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, ENCM-00273- Savannah, GA
9. Cheatham Hill Cemetery and Scott Rismiller, CO-1383- Marietta, GA- The board recommended the Secretary of State office's send a letter to the cemetery concerning complaint received.

Mr. Lawrence moved, Mr. Dempsey seconded and the board voted unanimously to close all of the above cases.

Melwood Cemetery, CO-1383- Stone Mountain, GA- Mr. Smith recommended the Secretary of State's office review possible rule changes. The board recommended the Secretary of State's office send a letter to Melwood Cemetery with a copy to the complainant's attorney recommending that it is the better practice that family members are notified in advance of any disinterments and that a family member is present at the disinterment. Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Dempsey seconded and the board voted to close the case.

The following cases will remain open:

- Mt. Olive Memorial Gardens, CO-1282 & Inspection 1714, Hephzibah, GA
- Cremation Society of the South, LLC. CO-985, Marietta, GA
- Resthaven Gardens of Memory, Decatur, GA. CO-1290- The board requested that Lori Young, Investigator Analyst reinspect the cemetery to determine when graves are covered and backfilled.
- Reita Vault Company, CO-1266, Savannah, GA
- Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Inspection-1715, Cordele, GA

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- Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Inc. I-1804, Newnan, GA- The board voted to approve the preneed salesperson application for Mary Hazelrig. However, the inspection is to remain open for further action.

Mr. Lawrence moved and Mr. Dempsey seconded and the board voted to **Withdraw Notices of Proposed Orders** for the following.

1. Evergreen Memorial Gardens, ENCM-00321, Cordele, GA
2. Burke Memorial Gardens, ENCM-00325, Waynesboro, GA
3. Cherry Blossom Memorial, ENCM-00328, Macon, GA

Executive Session:

Mr. Dempsey moved, Mr. Lawrence seconded and the Board voted to enter into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with O. C. G. A. §50-14-4(b) and §35-3-38 to review background information concerning the following preneed salesperson applications:

- Copper Anita Stubbs, I-1882, Lincoln Cemetery, Atlanta, GA
- Elaine M. Hymer, I-1880, Evergreen Memorial Park, Athens, GA

Mr. Lamar moved, Mr. Lawrence seconded and the board voted to conclude the **EXECUTIVE SESSION** and return to **Open Session**.

Mr. Dempsey moved, Mr. Smith seconded and the Board voted to send deficiency notices to the applicants requesting additional information.

Report of Pending Registration Issues by Debra Ferguson:

- Satilla Memorial Gardens- Douglas, GA – Plat is deficient
- Greenlawn Cemetery- Waycross, GA – Warranty deed and plat are deficient

Mr. Dempsey moved, Mr. Lawrence seconded and the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes approved at the May 25, 2010 meeting.