

The Office of Secretary of State

Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division

Georgia State Board of Cemeterians

Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021 – 10:03 A.M.

Members Present:

- Richard Parker, Chairman
- William "Mickey" Couey
- Mike Lawrence
- Cassius Butts
- Mark Anderson
- Clift Dempsey
- Tom Lord

Others Present:

- Noula Zaharis, Division Director
- Charles Jarrett, Sr. Enforcement Attorney
- Nicholas Vretakis, Enforcement Attorney
- Lynn Mckeel, Enforcement Attorney
- April Yoo, Enforcement Attorney
- Cathelynn Tio, Assistant Attorney General
- Cheryi Parker, Paralegal, Attorney General's Office

Members Absent:

Dan Walsh, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Jeff Stump, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Approval of the Agenda:

The Board voted to approve the February 16, 2021 agenda.

Minutes:

Tom Lord moved, Clift Dempsey seconded, and the Board voted to approve the December 15, 2020 Open Session and Executive Session minutes.

Annual Reports Update:

Division Director Zaharis reported that the annual reports are actively coming in, with very few deficiencies noted. At this time, the Division has received 90 annual reports.

Executive Session:

Mickey Couey moved, seconded by Mike Lawrence to move the meeting into Executive Session. The Board voted to enter the Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-19(h), and 43-8B, for the purpose of discussing complaint cases and to hear the Attorney General's report.

Other Business:

1. Senior Enforcement Attorney Charlie Jarrett reported on the city of Macon's intent to assume control of Riverside Cemetery. Discussion followed regarding the issue of trust accounts; the trusts are designed to be irrevocable however the city can go to court and obtain a court order regarding the trust accounts. The Board directed the Division to investigate a way for the Division and Board to make the city honor the trust accounts.
2. Chairman Parker inquired about whether cemeteries have a right to see the complaints the Secretary of State's office receives about their establishments. Senior Enforcement Attorney Jarrett discussed that the Division interprets the law that complaints are part of investigations and therefore are deemed confidential. The Division will investigate whether redacting information about the complaints will suffice in order to give those to the cemeteries, if requested.

Adjournment:

Mark Anderson moved, seconded by Clift Dempsey, to adjourn meeting. Meeting Adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Noula Zaharis, Division Director

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Noula Zaharis, Division Director

Minutes were approved on: June 15, 2021

Richard Parker, Chairman

Noula Zaharis, Division Director

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Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division
Georgia State Board of Cemeterians
Teleconference Board Meeting – April 20, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

Executive Session Minutes

Georgia State Board of Cemeterians voted to enter into the Executive Session on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 10:10 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-19(h), and 43-8B, for the purpose of discussing complaint cases, and to hear the Attorney General's report.

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