

The Office of Secretary of State
Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division
Georgia State Board of Cemeterians
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present:

- William “Mickey” Couey
- Mike Lawrence

- Mark Anderson
- Clift Dempsey
- Tom Lord

Members Absent:

- Richard Parker
- Cassius Butts

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
- Cheryl Parker, Paralegal, Attorney General’s Office
- Dan Walsh, Senior Assistant Attorney General
- Jeff Stump, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Approval of the Agenda:

Clift Dempsey was presided over the meeting as the Chairman unable to attend. Mike Lawrence moved, Mickey Couey seconded, and the Board voted to approve the June 15, 2021 agenda.

Minutes:

Mark Anderson moved, Mike Lawrence seconded, and the Board voted to approve the April 20, 2020 Open Session and Executive Session minutes.

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. Mark Anderson moved, seconded by Mike Lawrence, to approve recommendations made in executive session. Motion approved.

Other Business:

1. Tharpe Family Cemetery (Warner Robbins)
Our Division received complaints about damage to the cemetery. This cemetery is not registered as it falls under the family exemption. Discussion followed on handling complaints on cemeteries that are exempt from registration. The Board provided guidance on local ordinances and notification to zoning/code enforcement in those jurisdictions. The Board pointed out that if this cemetery is selling then there may be an issue and that it would possibly trigger registration; if plots are given to friends without receiving compensation, then this may not trigger registration.
2. Atkinson Baptist Church (Waynesville)
The new owner of the property contacted the Division about cemetery regulations. The Board discussed that receiving compensation triggers registration, and this cemetery would have to be registered or exempt.
3. Serenity Gardens (Macon)
The cemetery submitted a No Action Letter request from the Division and the Board. The cemetery found a private lender to inject money into its improvements and lender wants to encumber the property. The Board discussed its historical handling of similar situations and directed Division staff to ask for additional information before it would comment on the No Action Letter request.

Adjournment:

Tom Lord moved, seconded by Mike Lawrence, 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: August 18, 2021

Richard Parker, Chairman

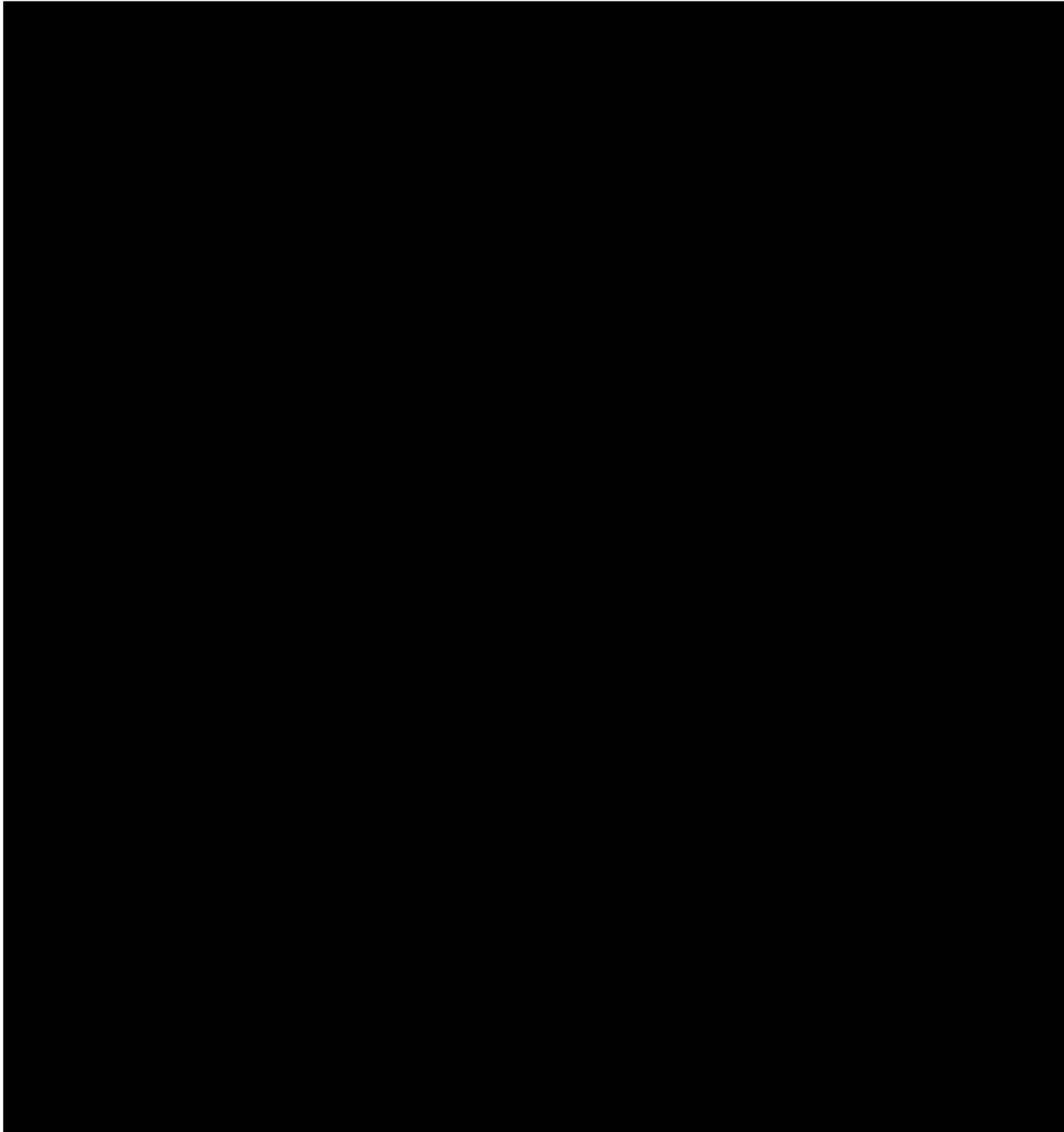
Noula Zaharis, Division Director

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Georgia State Board of Cemeterians
Teleconference Board Meeting – June 15, 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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