

The Office of Secretary of State
Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division
Georgia State Board of Cemeterians
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

Attendance

	Pres.	Absent
BOARD MEMBERS		
Parker, Richard (Chair)	X	
Anderson, Mark	X	
Butts, Cassius	X	
Couey, William "Mickey"	X	
Dempsey, Cliff	X	
Lawrence, Mike	X	
Lord, Tom	X	
NON-BOARD MEMBERS		
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE		
Zaharis, Noula (Cemeteries Division Director)	X	
Yoo, April (Division Enforcement Attorney)	X	
Mckeel, Lynn (Division Enforcement Attorney)	X	
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL		
Walsh, Dan (Senior Assistant Attorney General)		X
Stump, Jeff (Senior Assistant Attorney General)		X
Tio, Cathelynn (Assistant Attorney General)	X	

Approval of the Agenda:

Chairman Mark Anderson presided and called the meeting to order. Cliff Dempsey moved, Cassius Butts seconded, and the Board voted to approve the February 15, 2022 agenda.

Minutes:

Mark Anderson moved, Mickey Couey seconded, and the Board voted to approve the December 14, 2021 Open Session and Executive Session minutes.

Affidavit of Public Officer Annual Requirement:

Assistant Attorney General Cathelynn Tio discussed this requirement by the state for all board members.

Public Comment Period:

The meeting was attended by several members of the public and attorneys for Stonemor Properties.

BJay Pak, Alston & Bird, who is representing StoneMor properties in the current enforcement proceeding, made a presentation on the properties, including a visual presentation of those properties. He said StoneMor is willing to work with the Secretary of State Office and the public, to address the issues.

Andy Pierrotti, 11 Alive Investigative Reporter, asked the Board members about their views and handling of conflicts of interest issues, specifically with Stonemor purchasing the cemeteries of board members during the current enforcement proceedings.

Several members of the Rome GA communities were in attendance and several addressed the Board regarding their concerns about the care and maintenance issues with Stonemor. Speakers addressing the Board included: Barbara Penson, April P. Worthington, and Sonya Vincent. The Board assured the public that it is taking their complaints serious and will work to address the issues.

Jackie Williams wanted to discuss her question with the Cemeteries Board about her getting denied from registration because of her background. The cemeteries board said they would not be able to answer her question. She will need to follow the process and fill out an application before that could be discussed.

Executive Session:

Richard Parker moved, seconded by Cassius Butts, 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. Cassius Butts moved, seconded by Mike Lawrence, to approve recommendations made in executive session. Motion approved.

Adjournment:

Being no further business, Mickey Couey moved, seconded by Mike Lawrence, to adjourn meeting. Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Noula Zaharis, Division Director

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Noula Zaharis, Division Director Minutes were approved on: April 21, 2022

Mark Anderson, Chairman

Noula Zaharis, Division Director