

The Office of Secretary of State
Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division
Georgia State Board of Cemeterians
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes
August 28 , 2024 – 10:00 A.M.

Attendance

	Pres.	Absent
BOARD MEMBERS		
Haas, David, Chair	X	
Anderson, Mark	X	
Couey, William “Mickey”	X	
Dempsey, Cliff	X	
Lord, Tom	X	
Parker, Richard		X
NON-BOARD MEMBERS		
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE		
Zaharis, Noula (Cemeteries Division Director)	X	
Mckeel, Lynn (Division Enforcement Attorney)	X	
Herd, Christina (Enforcement Staff)	X	
Brink, Fallon (Enforcement Staff)	X	
Cornelison, Bryson (Enforcement Staff)	X	
Librada, Jenalyn (Registrations Analyst)	X	
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL		
Michelle Sawyer (Assistant Attorney General)		X
Thomas McNulty (Senior Assistant Attorney General)	X	

Approval of the Agenda:

Chairman David Hass presided and called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Cliff Dempsey moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the Board voted to approve the August 28, 2024, agenda.

Minutes:

Tom Lord moved, Cliff Dempsey seconded, and the Board voted to approve August 28, 2024 Open Session minutes, and Cliff Dempsey moved, Mark Anderson seconded to approve the Executive Session minutes.

Open Session:

A member of the public, Max Rafiq, addressed the Board. Mr. Rafiq has established a 501c(3) that works with the Burmese community (Muslim) with burial arrangements. The organization has: (a) one 5.5 acres of land and (b) one 10.2 acres of land. Rafiq inquired on whether or not there are there exceptions with the required acres since the cemetery is for non-profit and limited resources, as the non-profit was looking to use the 5.5 acres as the cemetery designated solely for the Burmese community. Discussion followed regarding the process of establishing cemetery.

Executive Session:

Cliff Dempsey moved, seconded by William “Mickey” Couey, 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. Richard Parker moved, seconded by David Hass to approve recommendations made in executive session. **MOTION APPROVED.**

New Business:

Director Zaharis reported on the inquiry from the Fulton County Medical Examiner’s office regarding the disposal of cremated remains. The Board advised this is a matter for the State Funeral Board.

Adjournment:

Being no further business, Cliff Dempsey moved, seconded by Mark Anderson, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 A.M. EST.

Minutes recorded by: Noula Zaharis, Division Director

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Noula Zaharis, Division Director Minutes were approved on: _____

David Hass, Chairman

Noula Zaharis, Division Director

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Executive Session Minutes

Georgia State Board of Cemeterians voted to enter into the Executive Session on August 28, 2024, 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.

A. Attorney General's Report:

Thomas McNulty, Senior Assistant Attorney General, reported on the Cedar Ridge Receivership, and sale of cemetery.

B. Enforcement Actions

1. Hillcrest Memorial Park – ENCE-0541

Attorney Lynn Mckeel provided update on the investigation, including outreach to the GBI, and recommended sending an inspector along with GBI

C. Complaints: Care and Maintenance

1. ENCE-0483 Cherry Blossom Memorial

Attorney Christina Herd provided an update on the investigation and although some improvements made, numerous issues remain. She recommended moving forward with a Notice of Hearing and Proposed Order.

2. ENCE-0544 Greenwood Cemetery

Attorney Christina Herd reported that the Division had an informal conference with the owner, Mr. Bowen. Bowen made representations that he would submit the reinstatement paperwork. Bowen acknowledged receipt of the Letter of Caution and represented that due to a lack of funds, some repairs and not all cited in the Letter of Caution could be done. Herd reported that the Division has not received the reinstatement paperwork and has no indication of repairs being made.

3. ENCE-0552 Magnolia Gardens

Attorney Lynn Mckeel presented the inspection report.

4. ENCE-0550 Gateway Memory Park

Attorney Lynn Mckeel provided an update; the community appears to be handling the care and maintenance as the cemetery ownership has been abandoned.

5. ENCE-0562 Amiker Group, Inc. d/b/a Melwood Cemetery

Fallon Bring provided an update. The cemetery submitted a change of ownership in April; the complaint has been since new ownership. An inspector has been requested to gather more information.

6. ENCE-0558 Resthaven Garden of Memory Cemetery

Fallon Brink provided an update on this investigation.

Motion made to approve Division staff recommendations. Motion Passed.

Motion to close the executive session and return to open session. Motion Passed.