

**South Carolina Perpetual Care Cemetery Board
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10:00am
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building
Lowcountry Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Perpetual Care Cemetery Board office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Board Members Present:

William Russel Floyd, Jr., Chairperson, of Spartanburg
David Brown, Vice-Chairperson, of Florence
Pamela P. Turner, of Florence
Jeff Riggins, of Lancaster

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Mary League, Advice Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Meredith Buttler, Program Director
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement
Chuck Watters, Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement
Tori Smith, Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement

PUBLIC:

Chris Hamiel Bush River Memorial Park
Doc Smith, Retired Investigator. LLR
Cameron Harley, Witness
Ron Safey, FFH, Inc
Gwen Austin FHH, Inc
Sharyn Howell, Summerville, SC
Jeanette Bourne, Moncks Corner
Michelle Cooper, Moncks Corner Dial Murray Funeral Home
Caitlin Arhbaugh, Charleston, SC

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mr. Floyd called the meeting to order at 10:12am.

ADOPTING OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

The board members and staff attending the meeting introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF UNEXCUSED ABSCENCES

Motion: To approve the absence of Felicia Smith-Charles. Motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING MINUTES

Motion. To approve the minutes for May 16, 2024, Board meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – W. Russel Floyd, Jr.

Mr. Floyd welcomed everyone to the Board meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Board Executive Report

Ms. Buttler advised the Board that the renewal period for cemetery licensees will open on October 1, 2024.

Financial Report: As of July 31, 2024 the cash balance is -\$410,261.09.

B. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report

Mr. Robert Dean presented reported that the Office of Investigation and Enforcement received 14 complaints, with 5 active investigations, and closed 10 closed between January 01, 2024 and September 5, 2024. This report is for information only.

C. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report

Mr. Dean presented the IRC report for the Board's approval. The IRC recommends 1 case for dismissal and 2 cases for letter of caution.

Motion: To approve the IRC report. Motion was made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion passed.

D. Office of Disciplinary (ODC) Counsel

Ms. Bell informed the Board that as of September 19, 2024, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) has 15 open cases; and they have 16 cases pending hearings or agreements. ODC closed 2 cases since the last report. This report is for information only

Evidentiary Hearing

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary

a. Case No: 2022-31

The State and the Respondent's attorney made opening statements. Ms. Bell, representing the State, then presented the case before the Board and witnesses were asked questions and cross examined by the Respondent's attorney. The State and Respondent's attorney gave closing arguments.

Motion: To go into Executive Session to seek legal advice. Motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

Executive Session

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

Motion: Violation number one to have a public reprimand and a fine of \$2500 paid within 60 days of the final order. Violation number two also requires a public reprimand and \$1500 fine to be paid within 60 days of the final order. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed

b. Case Nos: 2022-17,2022-66, 2023-2

The State and the Respondent's attorney made opening statements. Ms. Bell, representing the State, then presented the case before the Board and witnesses were asked questions and cross examined by the Respondent's attorney. The State and Respondent's attorney gave closing arguments.

Motion: To go into Executive Session to seek legal advice. Motion made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion passed.

Executive Session

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

Out of Executive Session

Motion: To dismiss both violations. The motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion passed.

Application Hearing

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

Change of Ownership

1. Bush River Memorial Gardens- Columbia-Phyllis Williams

Mr. Hamiel is representing Bush River Memorial Gardens. He is requesting a Change of Ownership for Bush Memorial Gardens with Phyliss Williams as the proposed manager. Mr. Hamiel was asked questions by the Board and responded.

Motion: To go into Executive Session to seek legal advice. Motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Turner. The motion passed.

Executive Session

Motion: To come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

Out of Executive Session

Motion: To approve change of ownership pending the update of disciplinary action on the application, Truist bank statements including the letter of transfer and showing of balances, along with Care and Maintenance definition and updated itemization and disclosures in the contract and also advise on who is the buyer and who the assumption of liability for the Owner. Motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Mr. Floyd called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion. To adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting for the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board is **November 6, 2024.**