

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

Wednesday, November 6 2024, at 10:00am
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building
Upstate 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:

David Brown, Vice-Chair, of Florence
Pamela Turner, of Florence (WebEx)
Jeff Riggins, of Lancaster
Felicia Smith-Charles, of Florence

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Mary League, Advice Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Matalie Mickens, Board Executive
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement
Tori Smith, Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement
Byron Ray, Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement

PUBLIC:

Ronnie Sites, Faithful Heritage
Carl Hillard, Esq Faithful Heritage
Gwen Austin, Faithful Heritage
Jon Royle, LLR (retired)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

ADOPTING OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion made by Mrs. Smith-Charles with amendment to remove Case 2022-63, seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

The board members and staff attending the meeting introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF UNEXCUSED ABCENCES

Motion: To approve the absence of Russel Floyd, Jr. Motion made by Mrs. Smith-Charles and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING MINUTES

Motion. To approve the minutes for September 19, 2024, Board meeting. Motion was made by Mrs. Smith- Charles and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

VICE CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS – David Brown Mr. Brown welcomed everyone to the Board meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Board Executive Report

Ms. Mickens advised the Board of the licensee totals as of November 6, 2024. Cemetery with less than 10 acres 6 have renewed out of the 23. Cemetery with more than 10 acres show 30 renewed out of 94 cemeteries.

Financial Report: As of July 31, 2024 the cash balance is -\$425,448.54.

B. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report

Mr. Robert Dean presented reported that the Office of Investigation and Enforcement received 20 complaints, with 5 active investigations, and closed 10 closed between January 01, 2024 and October 29, 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 2 cases for dismissals, 2 formal complaints and 1 case for letter of caution.

Motion: To approve the IRC report. Motion was made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mrs. Smith- Charles. The motion passed.

D. Office of Disciplinary (ODC) Counsel

Ms. Bell informed the Board that as of November 1, 2024, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) has 12 open cases; and they have 0 cases pending hearings or agreements. ODC closed 3 cases since the last report. This report is for information only

Evidentiary Hearing

a. Case No: 2022-17 Belleville

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 Mrs. Smith-Charles and seconded by Mr. Riggins. The motion passed.

Executive Session

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

Motion: Mr. Riggins made a motion that the state did not meet its burden of proof that violations had occurred, and to dismiss the matter with a letter of caution to be mindful that substitution of merchandise must be disclosed more transparently with a specifically documented disclosure that there has been a substitution, what has been substituted and specific documentation thereof. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith- Charles. The motion passed

b. Case Nos: 2022-62 Red Hill Memory Gardens

The State ask for a continuation in the case, to verify that the Respondent was properly notified of the hearing.

Motion: To approve a continuance. Mr. Brown ruled to make a continuance on the case.

Elections

Motion: To elect Russel Floyd as Chair and David Brown Vice Chair. Motion made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mrs. Smith- Charles. The motion passed.

Public Comments –

There were no public comments.

Adjournment-

Mr. Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion. To adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Charles. The motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting for the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board is **March 6, 2025.**