

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

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 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
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:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Stefani Midkiff, Rollings Funeral Service, LLC
Crystal Fletcher Barnwell & Bamber Memory Gardens
Robert Fletcher Barnwell & Bamberg Memory Gardens
Justin Wilson, Esq., Argent Trust

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

ADOPTING OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion made by Mr. Riggins, seconded by Mrs. Smith-Charles. 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 Russel- Floyd, Jr. and Pamela Turner. Motion was 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 November 6, 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 November 6, 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 and 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.

Application Hearings

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

A. Transfer of Irrevocable Care and Maintenance Trust

1. Bush River Memorial Gardens Care and Maintenance – Columbia
2. Bush River Memorial Gardens Merchandise – Columbia

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete. The applications were heard together. Stefani Midkiff and Justin Wilson, Esq. spoke regarding the transfers.

Motion: To approve the Transfer of the Care and Maintenance Trust and of the Merchandise Trust to Argent. Motion was made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Charles. The motion passed.

Evidentiary Hearing

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

a. Case No: 2022-62 Red Hill Memory Gardens

The Respondent was not present. Ms. Bell, representing the State, presented the case before the Board.

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

Motion: Respondent's license is suspended, with the suspension stayed for thirty (30) days from the date of the Final Order, for Respondent to engage a CPA, and submit a plan to the Board for completion and submission of the AUPs in question. The AUPs must be completed and submitted to the Board within six (6) months from the date of the Final Order. The stay will be lifted and the license suspended if Respondent fails to comply with the Order. Motion was made by Mr. Riggins and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Charles. The motion passed

Public Comments –

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

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

The next scheduled meeting for the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board is **May 8, 2025.**