

South Carolina Perpetual Care Cemetery Board
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:00am in Upstate Conference Room
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building
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 Chairperson, of Florence
Jeff Riggins, of Lancaster
Felicia Smith-Charles, of Florence
Mark Plyler, of Columbia

SCDLLR Staff Present

Mary League, Esq. Advice Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Alexis Bell, Esq. Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Matalie Mickens, Board Executive
Otis Richardson, Administrative Coordinator
Renee Young, Lead Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement
Tori Smith, Investigator, Division of Legal Services and Enforcement

PUBLIC

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Nathan Batchelor-Everstory Partners
Alton Ward- Everstory Partners
Robin Alla- Greenhaven
Justin Wilson- Argent Trust Company
Esther Bateman- SCI
Thomas Corn- SCI
Andrew Cone- SCI

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Adopting of the Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Smith-Charles moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggins, which carried unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Staff

The board members and staff attending the meeting introduced themselves, with the addition of the new board member, Mr. Mark Plyler.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSCENCES

MOTION: Ms. Smith-Charles moved to approve the absence of Ms. Turner and Mr. Floyd. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggins, which carried unanimously.

Approval of the May 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Riggins moved to approve the May 8, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith-Charles, which carried unanimously.

Vice Chairperson's Remarks

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 September 18, 2025. There are 23 Cemeteries with less than 10 acres and 94 Cemeteries with more than 10 acres, for a total of 117.

Ms. Mickens also introduced a new staff member, Otis Richardson as point of contact for Board members.

Financial Report: As of March 31, 2025 the cash balance is -\$418,925

B. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report

Ms. Young reported that the Office of Investigation and Enforcement received 8 complaints, with no active investigations, and closed 5 cases between January 01, 2025 and September 4, 2025. This report is for information only.

C. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report

Ms. Young presented the IRC report for the Board's approval.

MOTION: Mr. Riggins moved to approve the IRC report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith-Charles, which carried unanimously.

D. Office of Disciplinary (ODC) Counsel

Ms. Bell informed the Board that as of September 15, 2025, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) has 11 open cases; and they have 3 cases pending hearings or agreements. ODC closed 2 cases since the last report May 2, 2025. This report is for information only.

Application Hearing

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

Approval of Transfer of Irrevocable Care and Maintenance Trust & Merchandise

1. Carolina Memorial Park, Funerals & Cremations- N. Charleston
2. Elmwood Cemetery- Columbia
3. Greenville Memorial Gardens- Piedmont
4. Hillcrest Memorial Park- Pickens
5. Oconee Memorial Park- Seneca
6. Pineview Memorial Park- N. Augusta
7. Southland Memorial Gardens- W. Columbia
8. Sunset Memorial Gardens - Graniteville
9. Woodlawn Memorial Park- Greenville

MOTION: Ms. Smith-Charles moved to go into executive session for legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggins, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Smith-Charles moved to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggins, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Riggins moved to approve the amended and restated SCI Care and Maintenance Trust and Merchandise Master Trust, and to approve the transfer of the trusts for the named cemeteries to Argent Trust Company, upon verification of proof of transfer of trust funds from Truist Bank to Argent. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith-Charles, which carried unanimously.

Disciplinary Hearing

a. Evidentiary Hearing

1. 2022-51

The Respondents were sworn in and testified.

MOTION: Mr. Riggins moved to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith-Charles, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Riggins moved to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith-Charles, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to issue a public reprimand; to suspend the license and during the period of suspension, the Cemetery must honor current contracts but shall not enter into any new contracts, make any new sales, or make any withdrawals from the merchandise fund or from the care and maintenance trust fund. The suspension will be lifted and the license

reinstated once acceptable AUP's are submitted to the board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggins, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment-

Mr. Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

MOTION: Ms. Smith-Charles moved to adjourn the September 18, 2025 Perpetual Care Cemetery Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riggins, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:04p.m.

The next scheduled meeting for the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board is **March 5, 2026.**