

MINUTES
South Carolina Perpetual Care Cemetery
Board Meeting

2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 2013
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina

Thursday, March 21, 2013

1. Meeting Called to Order

J. W. Russ, Chair, of Conway, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Other members participating during the meeting included: Russel Floyd, Vice Chair, of Spartanburg; Roger Finch, of Honea Path; Jacquelyn Petty, of Union; and, Rick Riggins, of Lancaster.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Doris Cubitt, Administrator; Wendi Elrod, Program Assistant; Amy Holleman, Administrative Assistant; Sara McCartha, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel; and, Ernest Adams, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Tamala Randolph, of StoneMor; and, Kim Jaskula, of StoneMor.

A video of this meeting can be viewed at www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Cemetery. On the Board's home page, click 'Board Information' and follow the link to the video.

a. Public Notice

Mr. Russ announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Perpetual Care Cemetery Board office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. He noted a quorum was present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Introduction of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting

The Board members, staff, and all other persons attending the meeting introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Excused Absences

John Bartus, of Mauldin, was granted an excused absence.

MOTION

Mr. Floyd made a motion that the Board approve Mr. Bartus' absence. Mr. Riggins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Review of Statute and Regulations

Governor Haley's Executive Order to review all statutes, regulations, policies and procedures to identify possible over-regulation.

Ms. McCartha read Governor Haley's Executive Order. On February 12, 2013, Governor Haley issued Executive Order 2013-02 which created the Governor's Regulatory Review

Task Force. This tasked all cabinet agencies to review all statutes, rules, regulations, and policies, to identify burdens on SC businesses. On February 20, 2013, Governor Haley requested that all Boards and Commissions administered by LLR conduct regulation evaluations to assist the agency with its discharge of its duties. Specifically, all Boards and Commissions are asked to follow these guidelines. In evaluating statute, rules, regulations, and policies each agency should consider factors to include, but not limited to, their necessity, complexity, efficiency, effectiveness, redundancy, public complaints and comments, short and long term effects, impact on all effected persons, intended and un-intended and un-intended negative consequences.

As each Board or Commission completes its review the Advice Counsel assigned to that Board or Commission will prepare a summary to be submitted to a member of LLR senior management team. The senior management team will further review statute, rules, regulations, and policies to identify any additional suggestions.

The comments received from the public, feedback from the Boards and Commissions and senior management review will be will be compiled and edited for a conclusion to the agency's report which is due by May 15, 2013.

- Ms. McCartha asked Ms. Cubitt what are the top complaints from licensees. Ms. Cubitt stated that the top complaints are how high the license fees are. She stated that the current fee that the Board is charging is less than what is required in statute.
- Ms. McCartha asked what are some of the common complaints from the public? Ms. Cubitt stated some of the complaints that are received are burying some in the wrong place, moving remains without the proper permit, and poor maintenance to the cemetery or buildings.
- What slows down the process of servicing the licensees? She stated that would be short of staff. She stated that our staff of four works for three different boards. She stated we are utilizing online renewals, which seem to be working well.
- Ms. McCartha asked the Board members that are licensees about what they feel may be cumbersome to them? Mr. Floyd stated the nature of the business he believes the laws are doing its job. Mr. Russ complaint is the licensing fees but he understands that it needs to be that high to sustain the Board.

Ms. Randolph stated that StoneMor would like to speak on this matter at a later time since they didn't have sufficient notification to prepare for the meeting.

- Ms. McCartha stated that a common complaint she has heard is that the website isn't user friendly. Mr. Russ, Mr. Finch and Mr. Riggins stated that when they have been on the website they found it easy to navigate.

Ms. Cubitt stated that when we have customer service surveys come in the customer service is always great but they find the website hard to navigate.

5. Public Comments (No Vote May Be Taken)

Mr. Floyd just wanted to reiterate given the millions of dollars that Perpetual Care Cemeteries are either obligated to trust or fund, that this statute and its regs are critical to protect the public.

6. Adjournment

MOTION

Mr. Finch made a motion the Board adjourn. Mr. Floyd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The March 21, 2013, meeting of the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board is scheduled for May 15, 2013.