

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NORTH COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT  
As of May 22, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the *North County Cemetery District* was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Disney at 5:32 p.m., at the Oak Hill Memorial Park office. Present were Trustees, Steven Lochridge, Michael Ott, and Colleen Lukoff. Trustee Carole Berwick was absent. A quorum was present. Also present were NCCD Administration Manager Kelly Swales and General Manager Edward Serna.

The meeting began with the Salute to the U.S. Flag and the recognition of visitors.

NCCD Operations Supervisor of Oak Hill Memorial Park, Steve Romo, Maintenance Staff member, Spencer Shumate and Administration Assistants Laura Jones and Gabriel Rivera attended the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were numerous residents of Escondido and San Marcos.

Trustee Ott disclosed that he subscribes to the social media platform, called Nextdoor. He indicated that he had been following the Nextdoor communication regarding the Oak Hill Memorial Park and requested the board place item G on the agenda associated with this communication. On behalf of the board, Mr. Ott welcomed members of the public and explained that they will be allowed to address the trustees when item G comes up on the agenda.

Public input for non-agenda items; No action will be taken on non-agenda items. Speakers are limited to three minutes each. No members of the public spoke on non-agenda items.

**Minutes**

A motion was presented by Trustee Ott, seconded by Trustee Lukoff, to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023, Regular Board meeting.

The motion passes with 4 Aye votes.

Ayes:	4	Trustees Disney, Ott, Lochridge and Lukoff.
Nays:	0	
Abstained:	0	
Absent:	1	Trustee Berwick
Recused	0	

**District Orders and Certificates**

The Board ratified all certificates for April 2023. District orders/Warrants and signed checks as needed.

## **Correspondence**

The district received correspondence from the public in the form of a social media post and comments on ‘Nextdoor’ initiated by Escondido resident, Diane Morgan.

The General Manager (GM) summarized the Nextdoor correspondence. The section of the Oakhill Memorial Park that was the primary focus of the Nextdoor complaint was section 17. The GM explained that when Diane Morgan called the office on Monday, May 15, 2023, this section was already in the process of being mowed and maintained. The GM indicated that the grass was fertilized about 4 weeks ago and that it had been growing rapidly. The GM further explained that the staff had been experiencing challenges maintaining all 60 acres of the cemetery due to weather and other issues. Additionally, a professional pest control company was working to eradicate the gopher problem on a weekly basis. The GM indicated the staff has also been experiencing additional challenges associated with graves flooding and caving in due to excessive precipitation.

The GM also mentioned that a private security company performs roaming patrols on the weekend to stop people from breaking the rules. The GM indicated that in addition to the use of roaming patrols, the cemetery has signage prohibiting loitering and the use of alcohol on the grounds.

Eleven members of the public addressed their concerns to the Board. These concerns primarily pertained to the condition of the cemetery. Comments included complaints about the grass being overgrown, gopher mounds, sunken graves, and not enough toilet paper in the public restroom. Many members of the public also expressed concerns about loud music, use of alcohol, public urination, and pop-up canopies, especially on weekends.

After considerable discussion, a motion was presented by Trustee Ott, seconded by Trustee Lochridge to formalize a Citizen’s volunteer committee, introduce a suggestions box mechanism, get maintenance staff involved with feedback and have the GM enroll and use social media to stay informed.

The motion passes with 4 Aye votes.

Ayes:	4	Trustees Disney, Ott, Lochridge and Lukoff.
Nays:	0	
Abstained:	0	
Absent:	1	Trustee Berwick
Recused	0	

## **Financial Report**

The board reviewed the Financial Report for the month of April 2023, during the May 22, 2023, meeting. Positive sale trends continue for the fiscal year.

**Investment Report**

The district had three Bonds that matured in April 2023.

Activity for the month of April 2023 in the following accounts:

OH Endowment - there was a Laclede Corp bond 3.40% redeemed \$100,000 these funds were reinvested in Canadian Imperial Bank 5.25% Mty 12/30/2027

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**Continuing Business**

Mike Jefferson was not available by phone to provide an update on the Land Conservancy Project. No updates were presented to the board.

The regular Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for June 26, 2023, is now scheduled for Monday June 19, 2023 due to Trustee availability.

**New Business:**

The district received the 2023 ballot for the SDRMA Board of Directors Election. After a discussion from the Board, the Board submitted their vote for the three incumbents.

A motion was presented by Trustee Ott, seconded by Trustee Lochridge, to submit the district’s vote in support of Robert Swan, Jesse Claypool and Sandy Seifert-Raffelson.

The motion passes with 4 Aye votes.

Ayes:	4	Trustees Disney, Ott, Lochridge, and Lukoff.
Nays:	0	
Abstained:	0	
Absent:	1	Trustee Berwick
Recused	0	

The General Manager will be handling the organization of Memorial Day events at both cemeteries.

**Managers’ Report**

The GM will continue to work on drafting new policies to be presented to the board for review at a future date.

The GM shared the name of a new hire to the board and discussed the retirement of one staff member.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm. The next Regular Board of Trustees meeting was rescheduled for Monday June 19, 2023, and will begin at 5:30pm. It will be held at the district office, 2640 Glenridge road, Escondido, CA.