

Kern County Cemetery District

Shafter Memorial Park Office
18662 Santa Fe Way, Shafter, CA

Call to Order: Call to Order at 10:00am by Chairman Braun, Chairman Braun led flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call: In attendance was Barry Braun, Chairman of the Board (attended via phone); Belton Banks, Vice-Chair; Jerry Ezell, Secretary of the Board (absent due to illness).

Employees and Visitors: Timothy W. Unruh, District Manager; Eliza Caudillo, District.

Public Comment: None

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Manager Unruh reviewed the requirements that the district is imposing during this time. The State and Federal guidelines are vague as to how we should allow the services at the graveside. The County has issued a request for Funeral Homes in our area, but their request doesn't fit with the needs for the families.

The manager explained the current best practices and processes that we are requiring at this time during this outbreak. The district is allowing 10 immediate family members to be at the graveside and an additional 40 to be 20 feet away. They are expected to use the social distancing that has been designated by the Federal Government. We do not set up chairs, canopy or allow dirt or flower petals at the graveside. Music allowed is only the music brought by the mortuary. The grounds men are required to use latex gloves when completing the committal of the service which requires that they touch the casket and flowers. They will be sanitizing the lowering device after each service as well.

The offices are closed and all discussions with the family are with the use of telephones. All services are being scheduled by telephone and payment is with credit card or the mortuary is guaranteeing. The bathrooms are locked. Any in person discussion with the family is through the window to keep the social distance necessary.

Chairman Braun discussed his thoughts on the need to review an implementation of a virus policy that would be a part of our policy. He felt that this is a once in a lifetime issue and it may not be necessary. Manager Unruh thought that it might be appropriate to put a Disaster Policy in place to outline steps that should be considered in time of an emergency or disaster.

A resolution was presented that allows the manager to make the necessary changes that are being required by the City, County, State and Federal agencies. It allows the manager to adopt and/or implement any discretionary measures recommended by the City, County, State and Federal agencies for the containment of COVID-19. These measures are to be for the protection of the public and employees. The manager will be reporting to the Trustees changes at the next meeting.

Chairman Braun delegated the signature for this resolution to Vice-chairman Banks insofar as he was the only Trustee in attendance.

The motion was made by Trustee Banks and seconded by Trustee Braun to pass resolution 2019-20-1 that will allow the District Manager to adopt and/or implement any discretionary measures recommended by any City, County, State or Federal Department or Agency. These changes are to allow the manager to mitigate and/or abate the transmission of the Coronavirus (COVID-19); Roll call vote; Chairman Braun-aye, Vice-chairman Banks-aye, Trustee Ezell-absent, unanimous with 1 absent.

Trustee Reports

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 by Chairman Braun. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2020.

Signed,

Timothy W. Unruh
District Manager