

CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMISSION

January 25, 2024

The adjourned regular meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Commission held on the 25th day of January, 2024, was called to order at 3:00 p.m. with CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS WILLIAMS, FORD AND ROCKWOOD

Also Present: COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY CLERK SALLIS

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER FORD MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONER LONG. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN, COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAMS, FORD AND ROCKWOOD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LONG

Deputy City Clerk Sallis administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed COMMISSIONER ROCKWOOD and welcome was expressed by all.

APPVL OF COMMISSIONER FORD MOVED, SECONDED COMMISSIONER
AGENDA WILLIAMS, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN, COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAMS, FORD AND ROCKWOOD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LONG

CORRESP None

PBLC APRN None

CONSENT None

REG ITEMS: COMMISSIONER FORD noted one correction to the minutes of May 18, 2023, bottom of page 1, regarding 2023-24 fiscal year budget which should read to approve the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget, not 2023-2034.

MINUTES
MAY 18 '23

COMMISSIONER FORD MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS, to approve the minutes of the adjourned regular meeting held May 18, 2023 as corrected. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN, COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAMS AND FORD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LONG
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER ROCKWOOD

CHAIR &
V CHAIR

COMMISSIONER FORD MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROCKWOOD, to appoint CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN as Chair and VICE CHAIRWOMAN WILLIAMS as Vice Chair for the ensuing year of 2024. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN, COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAMS, FORD AND ROCKWOOD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LONG

PET CMTRY Manager Sallis explained City Attorney John Pinkney's findings regarding establishment of a pet cemetery in Needles Riverview which was: "The applicable state code sections do not provide guidance on whether a city can establish a pet cemetery at a cemetery for humans. The law applicable to "cemetery districts" however only allows animals to be buried at a pet cemetery. While it is our understanding that the Needles cemetery is not a cemetery district, the statutes dealing with cemetery districts provide some indication that the legislature intended that pet cemeteries be established only for pet remains. We did find that the Palm Springs cemetery district was working on setting up a pet cemetery but it may have been on a property or parcel separate and apart from the human cemetery it operates." Manager Sallis noted that there is also an Assembly Bill, No. 528, which would authorize a public or private cemetery to designate a separate, clearly marked section of the cemetery where deceased pets could be buried with their deceased owners. This Bill is processing through the State Legislative processes but has not yet been signed into law. Staff will monitor AB528 and, if and when it becomes law, will resubmit for Commission consideration the required rules and regulations for human and pet burials.

CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN explained that with such a large area within our cemetery, she would like to see a section set aside for pets only.

2024-2025FY
BUDGET

Manager Sallis explained that she is looking for Commission input for consideration during the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget preparation. COMMISSIONER ROCKWOOD spoke on the lowering device at the cemetery and either not having one or operational issues with it; and the Pioneer Cemetery which is beautiful but being destroyed. She felt there needs to be no off-road vehicles signs posted around the perimeter. COMMISSIONER FORD pointed out that Toro, El Centro, has a zero turn mower with grass catcher.

Commission items for 2024-2025 fiscal year budget consideration include: leave in tree trimming of the 22 trees onsite; possibility of electric substation lease of cemetery property; and pet and/or human/pet cemetery funding of \$10,000.

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COM RQSTS:None

CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN declared the adjourned regular meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Commission held on the 25th day of January, 2024, adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Chairwoman

Community Services Manager