

**ANTELOPE VALLEY CEMETERY DISTRICT
LANCASTER CEMETERY**

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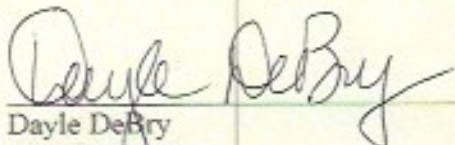
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES - GENERAL MEETING
ANTELOPE VALLEY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021, 2:00 P.M. via Zoom Conference
MINUTES**

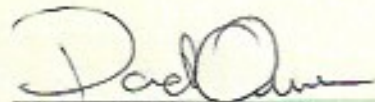
- 1. Call meeting to order** by Chairman Owens at 2:00 p.m. with Trustees Richard Cook, Trustee Cynthia Poole, Manager/Board Secretary Dayle DeBry and two members of the public, Darlene Simpson and Alex Conedy, in attendance.
- 2. No emergency items added to the agenda.**
- 3. Comments from members of the public.** Darlene Simpson, daughter of deceased, Audrey Conedy, regarding disposing of flowers after graveside service on May 3, 2021. E-mailed photos of flowers and price list for cost of flowers from Joshua Memorial Park (JMP). Flowers from funeral held four days prior on April 30, 2021 at JMP were not on grave after funeral as stated they would be by Office Asst. Was told they were thrown away because they were wilted. She saw them in the trash bin after they came back the next evening. How is this going to be rectified? They honored their mother with flowers. 1) Asking for a spray of white roses to be put at grave ½ of the original cost is \$595. 2) An apology. 3) Cemetery employees to be educated on clean-up policy/sensitivity training regarding grieving families.
Alex Conedy, son of deceased, Audrey Conedy: People can make mistakes but the cemetery employees showed no empathy, sympathy or professionalism. Flowers respect the grieving process. Family specifically asked Office Asst. if flowers would be placed on the grave with the grounds crew there as well. Flowers were missing and there were no other flowers in the trash bin. What is the cemetery policy on flowers? Someone needs to be fired.
D/O Apologized for what happened. AVCD is a public cemetery, not like JMP, a private facility, and payment with public funds cannot be decided at this meeting. A special meeting will have to be scheduled as soon as all Trustees can meet. D/D will contact all and schedule a Special Meeting as soon as possible. We (D/O) will contact you after the Special Meeting is held. A decision will be made then.
All Trustees and Manager apologized and gave their condolences to the family on the loss of their mother. Manager was out of town at the time of the incident.
- 4. Unfinished Business:** Office remodel. D/D will contact asbestos removal companies for three bids to begin removal process. Contact other entities for office operations while removal of asbestos is taking place.

5. **Minutes: ACTION: MSC R/C C/P to approve** Minutes from January 20, 2021. **MSC R/C C/P to approve** Minutes from February 17, 2021 Board meetings. **ACTION: MSC D/O R/C to approve Minutes** from March 17, 2021 Board meeting.
6. **Financial report: Anthony Bruneau**
 - A. Financial review - no new reports to approve per phone call from Anthony Bruneau (absent).
 - B. Nadia Dickinson – KESTRA. Absent. No news to submit from **D/D** or **Trustees**.
 - C. Warrant account request for \$32,000 sent 5/11/2021. See LAC Auditor/Controller fund info (PDF).
7. **Friends of the Lancaster Cemetery:** Memorial Day May 31 ceremony 9:00 a.m. and AV Marine Corps League Memorial Eve May 30 ceremony 6:00 p.m.
8. **Correspondence** was read and noted.
9. **Manager's Report**
 - A. AVCD Burials April/May 2021 are up substantially (see PDF). Los Angeles Co. funds up over 2020 are up (see PDF). Pre-need payment amount for April 2021 up over 2020 also.
 - B. Pine trees trimmed per City of Lancaster code enforcement- Katz at a cost of \$2,350. Semerenko cottonwood tree in History Section needs to be removed – diseased and a safety hazard. Beekeeper coming out this week to look at hive in Semerenko tree. A large branch from an elm tree in the Pioneer Section fell due to high winds over the weekend. Tree is diseased and a safety hazard. Chad's Chippers will remove the cottonwood tree, elm tree and debris, and a small pine that is dying at a cost of \$7,000 for all three trees. Cottonwood will be cut an angle at the base so a plaque may be installed with the story of the historic tree. Leak at A-11 water main in Pioneer Section since Monday, 5/17. Plumber cannot fix until 5/21 at a cost of \$1,000. Other bids were \$4,500, \$2,500 and \$2,200.
10. **New Business**
 - A. E-mail from Darlene Simpson, Audrey Conedy burial regarding flowers from funeral 5/3/2021. D/O will write a letter to the family. **D/D** will schedule a Special Meeting ASAP. No **ACTION** taken at this time. Also attached are e-mails sent to Office Assist. and statements from Grounds Crew regarding incident.
 - B. Cemetery restrictions – L.A. County/State/etc. **D/D** sent an e-mail to Donna Termeer and Chuck Bostwick asking for guidance on the COVID-19 rules at this time.
 - C. Co. of Los Angeles, Dept. of Public Works negotiated tax exchange L043-2020, discussion. **ACTION: MSC D/O C/P approve** the Annexation of Project L043-2020 to County Lighting Maintenance District 1687 to partially fund operation and maintenance of new street lighting within annexation area (Gorman area). (PDF).
11. **Old Business** – None.
12. **Option to Adjourn to Closed Session** not taken.

13. **Board comments:** D/O directed D/D to setup a Special Meeting with Closed Session. D/D will contact Trustees to setup a time/date for meeting.
14. Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 2:00** either at the District Office or via Zoom conference.
15. Adjourned general meeting at 2:54 p.m. by **Chairman Owens**.



Dayle DeBry
Board Secretary



David Owens
Chairman of the Board of Trustees