



**CEMETERY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**FIRE STATION 2 ADMINISTRATION/HQ**  
**528 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33311**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b>03/2023 through 02/2024</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mark Van Rees, Chair	P	3	1
Patricia Zeiler, Vice Chair	A	1	3
Scott Busa	P	4	0
Chelsea Krebs	P	3	1
Richard Kurtz	A	2	2
Fred Nesbitt	P	4	0
Dennis Ulmer	P	3	1
Michael Watson	P	3	1

City Staff

Stacy Spates, Parks and Recreation  
 Raymond Meyers, Parks and Recreation  
 Kimberly Cunningham-Mosley, Assistant City Attorney

Guests

Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Van Rees called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

**A. Roll Call**

Roll was called.

**B. City Ordinance No.C-09-05, Quorum Requirement**

It was determined a quorum was present.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2023**

**Motion** made by Mr. Bursa, seconded by Mr. Watson, to approve the meeting minutes for July 13, 2023. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (6-0)

## **B. General Price List Approval**

Chair Van Rees asked if there was any discussion regarding the revisions.

Mr. Nesbitt stated he had no doubt the City Commission would approve this but would likely not make another price increase until 2025 because 2024 is an election year. He noted they discussed restricting the new mausoleum sales to Fort Lauderdale residents.

Ms. Spates confirmed six internment rights is the maximum; however, private estates do not have the same restrictions. She added that City Commissioner brought up the idea of restricting only to Fort Lauderdale residents.

Mr. Ulmer recommended discussion of the topic during the workshop.

Mr. Busa said everything they discussed would impact non-residents.

Chair Van Rees explained an approval was needed due to the changes.

Assistant City Attorney Cunningham-Mosley noted they made revisions, and it was approved at the previous meeting.

Chair Van Rees confirmed this was the final version.

Ms. Spates added it would be on the September 19, 2023, City Commission agenda.

## **C. Evergreen Cemetery Alleyway Update**

Mr. Raymond Meyers introduced himself. He noted he first went to the Department of Sustainable Services to review land surveys. The City's Chief Surveyor determined the alleyway is a public right-of-way and did not belong to the Cemetery. He added it was assumed the right-of-way was used for public utilities and maintained through the Parks and Recreation Division. He reiterated it did not belong to the Evergreen Cemetery.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if there was a utility line buried underneath the right-of-way. Mr. Meyers replied that he had no idea.

Chair Van Rees stated the City Commission has the authority to close a right-of-way.

Mr. Meyers agreed and noted that no one was using the alleyway as a street, although it was initially part of 12<sup>th</sup> Street. He indicated a small area that is deeded to the property owner.

Mr. Busa asked for clarification about the City's Appraiser's website. Mr. Meyers explained the website indicated it was City property and did not belong to the Evergreen Cemetery.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bursa, seconded by Mr. Watson for discussion, to investigate additional properties on north end of Evergreen Cemetery that could be acquired from the City for use as cemetery property.

Mr. Busa said there are dozens of alleyways that have been given to the adjacent property owners when they are no longer needed.

Mr. Meyers said the term fee simple means unchangeable.

Chair Van Rees comments on a similar issue came up years ago, wherein the local restaurants closed it up, and the City required them to reopen it by removing the barriers.

Mr. Ulmer said he is not speaking for the neighborhood or association, but he does not believe Rio Vista would support it.

Mr. Busa pointed out the cemetery is in no association.

Mr. Ulmer stated he is against it.

Ms. Blair, Prototype-Inc., restated the motion.

In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed (4-2). Ms. Krebs and Mr. Ulmer voted in opposition.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Evergreen Cemetery Private Estate Approval**

Chair Van Rees stated all private estates must be approved by the Board and the Commission per 11.6 of Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Spates clarified that the private estate would not be going to Commission. She confirmed they have a third-party contract for purchase and installation for the private estate, as well as a cemetery contract for the purchase of the site.

Ms. Spates provided background on the private estate in discussion.

Mr. Busa asked if a private estate could exceed six internments.

Ms. Spates said the area is 20' x 20' but the structure itself cannot exceed 15' x 15'. She said private estates can have more than six internments. She said walk-ins have more and could include caskets and cremations.

Mr. Nesbitt inquired what a private estate sells for. Ms. Spates replied SCI is charging \$221,000 and the land costs are \$99,000. There are also other administrative fees.

Mr. Ulmer asked about the size. Chair Van Rees said it is like the Morse private estate.

Mr. Busa asked if there were private estate sites available for sale. Chair Van Rees replied yes.

Ms. Spates reminded the Board this was the first private estate sold under the City's management. She reiterated they all need to be designated and approved by the Commission.

**Motion** made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Watson, to approve the Case Private Estate proposal. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed (5-0). Mr. Busa abstained.

### **B. Reimbursement of CIPs for Sunset Irrigation & LMP Maintenance Yard**

Ms. Spates noted it was pre-approved and the projects were completed.

Chair Van Rees said two motions are needed.

**Motion** made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Ms. Krebs, to reimburse the City of Fort Lauderdale from the Perpetual Care Fund for Sunset Irrigation System in amount of \$645,760. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (6-0)

**Motion** made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Busa, to reimburse the City of Fort Lauderdale from the Perpetual Care Fund for the Lauderdale Memorial Park Maintenance Yard in the amount of \$89,351. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (6-0)

### **C. Communication to the Commission**

Mr. Ulmer asked if the Board should request the workshop now or not. Ms. Spates asked what they hope to accomplish with the workshop.

Chair Van Rees said they wanted to discuss availability and the fee structure for residents vs. non-residents.

Mr. Nesbitt said they wanted to give them a report on the Cemetery.

Mr. Ulmer mentioned the mausoleum and RFP.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no quorum present to conduct the business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED.**