

**TOWN OF SILVER CITY
MINUTES OF THE CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 26, 2022 - 2:00 p.m.**

REMOTE GOtOMEETING IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NM OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Present: Twana Sparks, Chair
Linda Nuñez
Donna Sebastian
Tom Hester
Paul Baca

Others Present: Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Peter Pena, Public Works Director

Call to Order - Chair Sparks called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Chair Sparks did a roll call Twana Sparks, Linda Nuñez, Donna Sebastian, Tom Hester, and Peter Pena were all present. Others not present Alex Brown and Lucian Farmer.

Changes to the Agenda – Chair Sparks stated that Tina Sublasky advised Clerk Sedillo that election of officers should done at this meeting. Chair Sparks moved to add election of officers, seconded by Paul Baca. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

- **October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting** – Chair Sparks asked for a motion to approve the minutes for October 20, 2021. Tom Hester moved to approve minutes from October 20, 2021, Paul Baca seconded. Motion carried.

Public Input – None

Reports:

A. Public Works Representative:

- 1). **Maintenance and Drainage Updates** – Peter Pena stated they have had several complaints on the drainage at the cemetery and are addressing several drainage issues. Mr. Pena advised they are about fifty percent complete with the drainage in the old section and will continue until it is totally complete. He was able to get a Purchase Order and are working with Stantec on developing a drainage study for the old section. Chair Sparks stated she had been calling Stantec for three weeks and finally got a report for this meeting. Chair Sparks asked about sidewalks, curb and gutters. Mr. Pena stated it would probably be just curb and gutter which will prevent the water from eroding. Chair Sparks also asked about anti erosion grass or other plants. Mr. Pena advised grass and plants take a lot of maintenance and he does not have the staff to take care if it. He would use decorative gravel and spray to keep the weeds down. Paul Baca asked about the copings in the new section. Mr. Pena stated he had to contact the families and give them a couple of days and if not, Mr. Pena will have them removed and keep the materials for the families that want to pick them up.

B. Chair:

1). Maintenance and drainage updates – Chair Sparks stated she is constantly being confronted about fixing grave sites at the cemetery. She advises them they are working on the issues. Chair Sparks advised Mr. Pena that she got a call from a citizen who donated about twenty-five trees to be planted at the cemetery. He gave them to the workers at the cemetery and found out they were put in a shed and died. Mr. Pena advised it was Dr. Rodriguez that donated them and it was in the winter. The trees were about six inches tall, they tried to plant them in some planters and water them but it didn't work. Mr. Pena stated that larger more mature trees would be better.

2). WILL course about cemeteries in Grant County – Chair Sparks stated the WILL (Western Institute of Lifelong Learning) would like to have a course that focuses on the history of the cemeteries in Grant County. There will be a panel on April 13, 2022 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am to discuss all the cemeteries in Grant County as well as a field trip.

Unfinished Business:

A. Research of Natural Burial – Donna Sebastian read a report on rules and regulations on alternative burials in the State of New Mexico and Silver City. Chair Sparks stated her and Donna could work on some language that could be included the cemetery rules that says regarding Green Burial and Natural Burial as defined by the Cemetery Board and be sent to the Funeral Homes to inform people what is allowable in the Cemeteries. Paul Baca also advised the Funeral Homes have to disclose by FTC rules that they provide vaults. The vaults can be purchased at the cemetery or the Funeral Homes. The price of the vaults run from Eleven Hundred Dollars (1,100.00) to Thirty-Five Hundred Dollars (3,500.00). Chair Sparks asked for a motion to table the discussion until such time as the committee of two can come up with possible language changes. Ms. Nuñez motioned and seconded by Paul Baca. Motion Carried.

New Business

A. Elections of Officers – Chair Sparks stated the floor was open for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Linda Nuñez moved to leave Twana Sparks as Chair and Paul Baca as Vice Chair seconded by Paul Baca. Motion Carried

B. Discuss the agenda items for the meeting scheduled for April 27, 2022. Chair Sparks advised to continue the Rules and Regulations of Green and Natural Burials.

Adjournment -- Chair Sparks asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nuñez moved to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Hester seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

/s/ _____
Twana Sparks, Chair

Attest:

/s/ _____
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk