GRIDLEY-BIGGS CEMETERY DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

A regular meeting of the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery District Board of Directors was called to order at 8:30am by Chairman Joe Hughes, Roll call of the board:

Joseph P. Hughes, Chairman

Larry Hamman, Trustee

Larry Evans, Trustee,

Kurtis Upton, Grounds Superintendent

Angie Cote, District Manager

Art Cota

3. PUBLIC COMMENT OF ANY AGENDA ITEM - OPEN OR CLOSED:

1. Art Cota was made aware of a historical headstone that had been destroyed on June 23, 2023. The headstone of William Z. Holt, who passed away on or about January 10, 1879, at the age of 17. Per the Rules and Regulation set forth by the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery District Board of Directors, only the family of the interred have burial rights to such grave. Unfortunately the district has no records of family members or relatives of WIlliam Z. Holt. A genealogy search was conducted by members of the Church of Latter Day Saints in attempts to locate relatives of WIlliam Z. Holt with negative results. Cota and many other community members would like to see the headstone replaced with a replica of the original marker. After working with Diamond Memorial he received a quote to have that replaced. Cota is requesting action take place from the board to allow the replacement of the headstone for William Z. Holt as no family is known. Also to waive fees that would allow that stone to be installed.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. District Manager’s Monthly Reports:
2. Discuss estimate to replace the vandalized marker of William Z. Holt:

Angie and Art have been working to see this historical headstone replaced. With the assistance of community members we believe we should be able to collect enough donations to have it replaced. Art plans to also address the board of the Gridley Museum to see if they would be able to help in collecting the funds directly as the cemetery district cannot. It was estimated to cost around $2100.00 to have the stone remade.

1. Update on neighboring property eviction notice posted on August 10, 2023. Angie notified the board that the attorney representing the group of investors is not processing for eviction of all the homeless that have illegally taken up residence on the vacant farm ground. All the necessary steps have been taken to have a writ issued for removal. There are still many people out there, we estimate around 70 including men, women and children. According to the sheriff they have made multiple attempts to offer transitional housing to the people living out there. The ones who wanted the help have received it and have moved on, those who remain are not interested in the help.
2. Report on homeless ongoing criminal activity now affecting farm tenant, Nathan Reis. Angie received a complaint from Nathan that the homeless have been stealing his melons. They have a stand where they are selling them on highway 99 just south of Biggs. He has filed a report with the Sheriff and Ag commissioner. Within an hour of filing, law enforcement was out at the cemetery to take DNA samples from Reis’ fruit and the fruit being sold at the stand. They were a match. According to the Ag commissioner the amount to prosecute is $200 which the theft has exceeded. We are hopeful Reis is able to recover some of his losses.
3. Report on staff attendance at the PCA Annual training held last month and green burials. August 10, 2023 Angie and Kurtis attended a green burial training to see how they are doing green burial at Rough and Ready Cemetery District. Although it was very informative with the water tables in our cemetery being so high Kurtis does not believe this is something we would be able to do at Gridley-Biggs Cemetery District. In addition the Gridley Biggs Cemetery District is known for its well maintained appearance. The idea behind the green burial is to leave as little carbon foot print behind. We as staff do not think our customers would be happy to see their loved ones buried in unmaintained ground.
4. GSRMA 2023 on October 19-20, 2023 will be held at the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, California. This training is free to all members of GSRMA. The board is welcome to attend. Angie has registered herself for both days but the maintenance staff doesn't need to attend till Friday October 20th.
5. Report on the grounds, oleander trimming and clean up. Precision Hedging came out on September 1st to trim the Oleaders and Fotinias down. Staff came through and cleaned up behind him. The process took around 4 hours to complete and looks much better than before. As we continue to improve the appearance of the grounds we hope to pull the shrubs out as the are very costly to maintain. They tend to be a magnet for people to dispose their trash and paraphernalia in. Sharp containers and PPE has to be in order to protect staff when working in these shrubs.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

1. Internal audit with Matthews, Hutton & Warren engagement letter. Bob Gustafson sent and email to schedule our annual audit with their firm. After some discussion Larry Evans presented a motion to continue with Matthews, Hutton & Warren. Larry Hamman 2nd the motion. All ayes, motion passed.
2. Proposal to add infant/cremation burial plots at Section 5, Block 3C, Graves 1-100 and Section 2, Block 2 inf, Graves 1-30. Angie explained the burial plots for in-ground cremations have almost completely sold out. Looking at the grounds we would like to install 30 infant/cremation graves directly behind the office. Families will have the option to install standard 12”x24” flat headstones. In addition we would like to add 100 strictly cremation graves at the top of section 5. In order to maximize occupancy we will sell only cremation burial in section 5. To maintain a more uniform look families will get the next available space. Each spot will include the cost of a niche plaque which we will set in a small 12” x 12” concrete frame with one vase. After some more discussion Larry Hamman presented a motion to approve the plans as presented to add both Section 5, Block 3C, Graves 1-100 and Section 2, Block 2, Graves 1-30. Larry Evans 2nd the motion. All ayes, motion passed.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of August 9, 2023 Board meeting minutes and approval of the September 2023 check register: Upon a motion presented by Larry Hamman and 2nd by Larry Evans the minutes of the August 9, 2023 meeting and the check register including checks 19323 to 19339 were approved. All ayes, motion passed.

7. TRUSTEES DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS, AND COMMENTS: None

8. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the board, Joe Hughes presented a motion to adjourn at 9:44am; the motion was 2nd by Larry Hamman; all ayes, motion passed. The date of the next board meeting is set for Wednesday, October 18th, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Joe Hughes, Board Chairman Angie Coté, Dist. Mgr./Board Secretary