

RAINIER CEMETERY DISTRICT

Special Meeting

Friday, January 5, 2024

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chair Monica Hackenberg at 5:00pm at the Cemetery office located at 24952 Alston Rd, Rainier, OR.

Directors present: Rick Fletcher, Scott Falconer and Jim McGlone

Directors absent: None.

Staff present: Misty Holsey, Matt Fieken, Scott Toussaint, and Cyndi Warren

Public present: See attached sign in sheet.

BOARD BUSINESS:

Board vacancy interviews

Delyla Laughlin and Sharon Hicks

Director Fletcher wanted to note that in the future the agenda for Special Meetings needs to be posted just a like a regular meeting and/or at the post office if the timeline is short. It was on the website.

Director Hackenberg stated that she did not know that and that she was kind of busy the last two days.

Director Hackenberg stated that she put a lot of notices out on email.

Delyla Laughlin chose left and was asked to go first.

Director Hackenberg asked for questions for Delyla.

Director Hackenberg asked what are your goals if you are on the board? What would like to see the board accomplish.

Delyla stated:

That she would like to see a budget that we can meet.

Not burying people in other people's plots; a plan put in place to prevent this from happening.

Would like to see the office have coverage, open and available all of the time; volunteers maybe?

I believe that I have good skills and could help the board in whatever ways they need.

Sharon Hicks –

Director Hackenberg stated same question for you.

Sharon stated:

I would like to see that things are done in a good way, legally.

Where everybody can get along.

I think that I haven't been to a lot of the meetings, but the meetings that I have been to, I have seen a lot of friction going on and I hate friction. Needs to be a unity and working together with the staff and not picking at each other all of the time.

Director Hackenberg asked Director Falconer if he had questions and he deferred to someone else as he is still thinking.

Director McGlone asked Delyla how long ago and why did you start getting involved in the cemeteries.

Delyla stated that she cannot remember how long ago it was, but she would drive by and see Kevin mowing and it didn't look like he was able to keep up with everything that was going on, so I asked if I could volunteer, so that I was first how I got involved and then I started coming to meetings about a year, year and half ago.

Director McGlone asked Sharon the same question.

Sharon stated that she started coming about October. I have been involved with the cemeteries for quite a few years; I have taken care of the cemetery out at Stewart Creek for a good 5 years before this crew took care of it. Driving my riding lawnmower and tractor up and taking care of it for quite a few years because it was looking bad and I called a few board members and was told that if I wanted it taken care of, I would have to do it myself.

Director Fletcher stated that he didn't have any questions, that he thought they answered well.

Director Hackenberg asked if you have been on a board before, do you know what a board does, their responsibilities?

Sharon stated that she does know what a board does; she did not serve on the board. I have worked at the school district, so I was with OSCA and attended quite a few school board meetings, so I was very active in that.

Director Fletcher asked that your resume stated that you worked with negotiations, so you worked with the board on that also, correct? Sharon stated that yes, she did.

Director Fletcher asked so you know what a board is supposed to do and not do? Sharon said yes.

Director Hackenberg asked Delyla the same question.

Delyla stated that she is currently a part of the Rainier Museum Board for about 4 years. She was a nurse and worked on many projects cohesively with different people. I just wanted to say one other thing about transparency, where we are upfront with each other, that would be great.

Director Falconer asked what do you mean by transparency.

Delyla said I mean being honest in what you are saying, not holding anything back that you don't want other people to know.

Director Hackenberg called for anymore questions. None.

Director Falconer asked for a discussion.

Director Hackenberg asked if we have a discussion.

Director Hackenberg thanked both for their interest and that it is important to have citizen interest and participation and that is the only way to accomplish all of those goals you talked about and for the most part those are the same goals for most of us at this table.

Director Falconer stated that you are both good candidates with good spirits. I would like to mention that we should represent Clatskanie as well as the southern part. I don't think it is critical but it is important.

Director Hackenberg stated that we have had that discussion before and that everybody is represented it is a whole district.

Sharon Hicks stated that she had a letter written for her that she wanted to give to the board.

Director Hackenberg stated that she also has a letter for Delyla that is included in her packet for the Commissioners and if anyone wanted to look at, they could.

Director Hackenberg asked to call for the vote.

Director Falconer asked who Kathi was and if she was the one who attended our meetings. Director Hackenberg stated yes, she is the head of our Citizens Review Committee.

Director Fletcher stated that he has said this before and he will say again that at the last County Commissioners when you (Monica) were appointed, Margaret Magruder asked Sharon at that time if there was another position open would she be willing to take it and she said yes. And Delyla wasn't in the running at that time and I was disappointed that Margaret didn't say anything at our last meeting, that she would support that and that is the reason why I still support Sharon, she was already interested in the board.

Director Hackenberg called for the vote again:

All in favor of Ms. Hicks – Rick Fletcher – Aye and Scott Falconer – Aye.

All opposed – Monica Hackenberg – No and Jim McGlone – No.

All in favor of Delyla Laughlin – Jim McGlone – yes and Monica Hackenberg – yes.

Director Hackenberg stated we are at an impasse and that she has drafted the letter to the County Commissioners, very similar to the last one. Asking them to do their reviews.

Cyndi asked if there was a motion made for that letter and Director Fletcher said no, but we should do that.

Director Fletcher made a motion that we present a letter to the County Commissioners because we can decide ourselves and Director Hackenberg seconded the motion; all in favor of those present.

Director Hackenberg stated she will try and deliver this letter on Monday morning in St. Helens and I will let everyone know if we can get on the agenda this week or the next week or the next week, so everyone will have to be notified.

Delyla asked if Monica had to be the one to deliver it and she said she didn't think so, but that it was the way it was done before and the way it was done before was the first time, so we will get it done as soon as we can.

Sharon asked how we will be notified? She stated that she wasn't notified about tonight's meeting.

Director Hackenberg asked Misty if she would put it on the website.

Director Hackenberg stated that she has the email she sent to Sharon and that she forwarded it to Margaret Magruder. Sharon's email was confirmed, but Sharon stated that she did not receive it.

Cyndi stated that she did have one more small piece of business, if you don't mind? Director Hackenberg said sure.

Cyndi stated that she would like to tender her resignation, giving 45 days' notice to terminate my contract with the Rainier Cemetery District as of tonight, January 5th through Friday, February 9th; we should have a meeting to discuss what this transition would look like at some point as soon as possible.

Director Falconer said that he appreciated all of the years you have given to the cemetery district and I am sorry to see you go.

Director Hackenberg showed Sharon that she had sent the email to her and apologized that she didn't get it.

Stacey Hicks, a member of the public, said a phone call would work too, then you are doubly covered. Director Hackenberg stated that on her way home from the meeting on Wednesday, there was in accident and fractured my foot.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26pm

Date: _____