

*Santa Margarita Cemetery District
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REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Opening

The regular meeting of the Santa Margarita Board of Trustees was held at the Santa Margarita Senior Center.

Closed Session

There was no closed session.

Open Session

1. Call to order at 8:57a.m. Trustee Cabrera, Trustee Peterman, Caitie Garcia, Reggie Cousineau, Mona Lancaster, Linda Bishop and Becky Johnson were present.
2. No closed session occurred.
3. Public communication

Mona Lancaster expressed concern for the water leak, covered headstones and sinking headstones due to ground squirrel holes, exposed hole near pine tree, and drip line that is loose. Concern was also expressed by Caitie for the mature oak trees having gone through a drought and now having rain, they should be watered. Caitie would like more access to information on those interned in the cemetery, appreciation for the Wreaths Across America program and wanted to know why wreaths have not been picked up. The stone boots on the Kretchmer grave were stolen. Caitie and Mona want to increase the board size from 3 to 5, and hiring other maintenance person.

4. **Board response**

Chuck Elisarraras will be doing the pump and new water lines project, including assessing the existing pump's viability, the possible need for an additional pump, mapping and installing new water lines. Wreaths get picked up the weekend after Epiphany, in respect for families. Drip lines and headstones will be addressed. Ground squirrel bait will be researched by Dan. Linda would like to hire Hermie and have Dan for burials. Public commented on using half of Dan's salary to pay Hermie. Linda agreed, Gil did not. Board agreed with digitizing cemetery plot records. Becky was asked to research that. An arborist would need to be consulted about the oak trees.

5. **Action Items**

- 5.1 There was no meeting in December
- 5.2 Monthly expenses were approved by Peterman/Cabrera
- 5.3 No deposits in December 2025

6. **Business**

- 6.1 No funerals or plots sold
- 6.2 Facilities Report

- 6.2.1 The newly fenced section will need to be surveyed and mapped for approximately 20 full burial plots and a section reserved for cremations.

6.2.2 Pozo 4-H family is researching owls native to our area. They will construct two owl boxes and install them in the undeveloped area of the cemetery.

6.2.3 There is a low area in the new section that had standing water during the storms. The board would like to have fill dirt moved and that area leveled, possibly by Danny Lacy.

7 New Business

7.1 There are currently three candidates, Ramona "Monie" Gentry, Don Melon, and Linda Bishop, interested in serving on the cemetery board. Supervisor Heather Moreno will be interviewing each candidate and will appoint a new board member. Linda said David Church is interested in being on the board and feels he would be a good board member; she would step down if he were on the board. She would like to change the cemetery bylaws to have 5 board members, not 3, and allow people who do not live within the cemetery district to be able to serve on the board. Gil said he does not think the CAPC bylaws would allow for the change. CAPC bylaws will be researched.

8 Linda requested the board meetings start later; she does not like getting up early. Gil and Linda agreed to move the meeting start time to 10am during the colder months. Linda said she plans to stay on the board and will resign when she feels the cemetery is running properly and by protocol.

9 Meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

10 Next month's board meeting will be held on February 3, 2026, at 11 a.m.