

**MINUTES**  
**CEMETERY BOARD**  
**September 21, 2009**

**ATTENDENCE**

**Board Members Present:** Marilyn Strong, Cary Peterson, Marilyn Helsel, Rebecca Sundberg, and Paula Evander

**City Council Present:** Rene Neff

**Public Present:** Donald Neil and Jason Neil

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Eagle Scout Jason Neil and Eagle Scout Master Donald Neil presented their revised bench proposal to the Board. Jason explained that the project would be to make and donate five benches total: one curved bench for the Ash Garden and four rectangular benches for the rest of the cemetery. He said that the benches would be made of a composite material made of recycled plastic and rice husks for the seat and cedar for the supports. A prototype was presented for the board to analyze. The board approved the design.

**MAINTENANCE**

Cary Peterson reported on the maintenance for the cemetery. She said that the City had let go of the person that was providing lawn maintenance for the cemetery (Heather of Heather's Endeavors) and that Tim and Brian from Public Works had taken over mowing and trimming tree limbs. Cary said that a tree had fallen from the Anderson's property and had cracked a monument. The board made no decision on the repairing of the monument. Cary also said that her mother had indicated a desire to donate a grove of birch trees for the Ash Garden.

The board acknowledged Marilyn Helsel for her work on poppy seed harvesting and the pulling of spent poppy plants. The board acknowledged how the work greatly improved the appearance of the Ash Garden.

The board continued their discussion regarding the soaker hose from the last meeting. Cary indicated she would reassess whether the current soaker hose was still viable and would create a proposal for a new water system by next Spring, if necessary.

Marilyn Strong indicated a need to call Lloyd Whanell regarding the spacing of names on the basalt columns in the Ash Garden, and agreed to call him.

**GREEN BURIALS**

Marilyn Strong agreed to bring information regarding green burial certification to the next meeting so the board could begin to enact necessary measures to gain certification for the Langley Woodmen Cemetery.

## **BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

There was a quick discussion about whether to invite a new person onto the Board since Mully Mullally has officially resigned. Mayor Paul Samuelson had suggested the possibility of Marilyn inviting Jenny Patty, the new Funeral Director at Visser. It was decided that we have a good size group at this point, so there is no need to invite a new member. Rene will convey this to Paul.

## **HONOR MY WISHES WORKSHOP**

Marilyn passed around some flyers regarding an event happening on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> which is a workshop for people wanting to help establish an Honor My Wishes presence on Whidbey Island. It will take place at Visser Funeral Home from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The cost is \$40, which pays for an Honor My Wishes binder and a box lunch and refreshments. The binder is a tool to help people write down their personal wishes for end-of-life care. It covers **Dignity** in health care choices, **Security** for legal and financial matters, and **Peace** regarding life's reflections and funeral plans at Life's End.

The next meeting will occur October 19, 2009. Paula Evander recorded the minutes for the meeting.