

Minutes
Cemetery Board Meeting
January 25, 2010

ATTENDANCE

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

City Staff Present: Debbie Mahler

Guest: Lucinda from *A Sacred Moment*

ALLOCATING PLOTS

Lucinda presented to the Board a concern regarding green burial cemetery plots being sold to non-residents. She wanted the board to consider allocating a certain percentage of plots specifically to residents on the chance that there will be a large non-resident demand. After exploring the issue, the board decided not to pursue allocation.

PRESALE

The allocation of plots led to a discussion of pre-selling plots to residents prior to alerting the region at large about a new green burial section. With Cary Peterson making the motion, Rebecca Sundberg seconding, and the remaining Board members in unanimous agreement the Board decided to move ahead with this proposal. The Board will seek to run an article in the South Whidbey Record, post flyers, inform appropriate organizations, and include information on the City of Langley's website regarding a six-month long presale to Island residents of \$1000/plot (amount to be paid within one year) plus a \$400 maintenance fee (subject to change without notice) to be paid at the time of burial.

VOTE FOR GREEN BURIAL

The Board went over the Green Burial recommendations determined at the November meeting slightly modifying them based on the current meeting's discussions. The recommendations are as follows:

- Set aside the East portion of the cemetery across from the Ash Garden for the Green Burial area. This area includes 40'X80' providing 48 6'X10' Green Burial plots. This will also include some 4'X8' regular size plots left as well.
- Ask Public Works to survey the new section for the larger grave sizes.
- Plot the graves in rows of three, keeping the middle graves open until all surrounding graves on both sides are occupied. This allows the backhoe the room to get in and out.
- We will make the lower graves available first.
- We will initially charge \$1000.00 for each of these larger plots. The fee will increase to \$1200 after the six-month presale has concluded.
- An additional maintenance fee of \$400 (subject to change without notice) will be added to the cost at burial. We will determine the appropriate mix of

Biomass/soil per Green Burial standards. Biomass will be provided through the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Marilyn Strong proposed we vote on the above recommendations. Marilyn Helsel moved that we vote on the above recommendations with Cary Peterson seconding and the remaining members unanimously agreed in favor.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Board agreed to the need of further discussion of policy and procedure specifics regarding maintenance and personal grave markings for the Green Burial section. Cary Peterson suggested that we eventually create a brochure that will include policies and procedures/suggestions for Green Burial.

RECORDKEEPING

Marilyn Strong suggested better recordkeeping for inurnment. Since multiple cremains can be put in one 4x8 plot we do not have accurate records of whose cremains reside at the cemetery. We may only have the name of the person who initially bought the plot, and no record of any additional relatives when they are added. Marilyn moved that we charge \$50 per inurnment to encourage registration with City Hall to remedy this issue. Marilyn Helsel seconded this fee/registration resolution with unanimous support by the remaining board members.

PLAQUES

Do to a question from a Veteran's family; the Board discussed modifying the plaque size range for the granite rock in the Ash Garden. Marilyn Helsel made a motion, with Rebecca Sundberg seconding and the remaining members unanimously agreed to modify the plaque size to a range with a maximum of 8.5 inches by 5.5 inches, which is the size plaque that the government provides free of charge for Veterans. Marilyn Strong will call Lloyd Whanell to map the rock using this new specification.

Next meeting will occur on February 22, 2010. Paula Evander recorded the minutes for the meeting.