

Minutes
Cemetery Board Meeting
March 15, 2010

ATTENDANCE

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

City Staff Present: Debbie Mahler

City Council Present: Rene Neff

Absent: Rebecca Sundberg

KEY TO CITY

Langley Mayor Paul Samuelson presented a key to the city to each of the Cemetery Board members. He spoke in praise of our volunteer commitment.

PLATTING

Public Works Director Challis Stringer presented a platting lay out for the Green Burial section. The layout decision was made to create the most plots possible while taking into consideration the use of the backhoe. Plots would start in the NE corner ending in the SW corner. This will create 80 plots total. To do this, plot assignment would not occur until time of burial. However, one may be sold a deed to reserve a non-assigned plot prior to that time.

VANDALISM

The Board discussed past vandalism of gravestones and current graffiti type vandalism in the cemetery. Challis reported that the graffiti was removed. She will notify the board of any future occurrences.

TREES

Challis expressed concern regarding the limbing up of trees in the cemetery for the safety of public works maintenance. Cary Peterson indicated she would look into this concern.

GREEN BURIAL PUBLICITY

The Board discussed the March 10, 2010 article in the South Whidbey Record regarding the new Green Burial section of the cemetery. The Board was pleased with the article. Also discussed, was the immediate pick up by Channel 13 news and the segment they aired the day following the article.

BIOMASS

Challis informed the board that the Waste Water Treatment Plant may not be able to produce the biomass needed for the maintenance of the green burial plots. What they have is composted aged bio-mulch made from 1/3 chips, 1/3 grass & leaves, and 1/3 bio solids. Marilyn Strong indicated she would call Brian Flowers at Moles in Ferndale to see if this would suffice for what they call "biomass".

CLEANING PARTY

Cary Peterson gave a report regarding the successful cleaning party in the cemetery held over the weekend. She reported that additional work needed to be done, specifically to paper and mulch in the poppy area of the Ash Garden and to add bark chips to the new path in same poppy area. Cary will ask Valerie Eastman about plants to put by the trellis in the Ash Garden.

WEBSITE

The Board discussed updating the website to include rules and regulations, articles, and the brochure. Cary volunteered to work on these updates. Rene said she would ask Lynn Hays to send the brochure document to Cary.

BENCHES

Marilyn Helsel reported on a conversation with Eagle Scout Jason's dad regarding the bench project. The benches will be ready in the next couple of weeks. Jason will want Board members to participate in the placement of these benches. Marilyn agreed to suggest to Jason that he should contact the record regarding the benches. Also, a woman named Cheryl Shaul, who has put in a request to place a memorial bench in the cemetery, has contacted us. The same person who made the bench that sits out in front of City Hall made her bench. She is happy to buy a burial plot to place it as a memorial to her loved one, but wanted to know if we would like to use it in an area that would be most useful for the overall pattern language of the cemetery. The board agreed that we could use one more bench. Marilyn Strong will call her back to let her know.

Cary pointed out that Bob Waters has recently added a bench to the cemetery as well. It sits adjacent to the small bench in the area of the granite boulder that will eventually hold memorial plaques. The Board agreed this was fine.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Debbie provided a financial report to the board. The report ended in February with a deficit but she indicated that two green burial plots had been sold in the last week so that the deficit has been remedied.

The Board agreed that a review of the percentage put into the operating fund and policies for the use of the improvement fund be discussed at the next meeting.

SITE VISIT

The board visited the cemetery to discuss the platting suggested by Challis earlier in the meeting. The board agreed that two graves in the NE corner should be removed from availability for aesthetic purposes if the columbarium placement is to be adjacent to that corner. If the columbarium will be placed elsewhere on the cemetery property then those graves will be made available at that time.

The Board discussed the six graves around the shore pine marked unavailable by Challis. The Board agreed to ask for two of the six graves to be made available since the tree will not grow to the extent predicted by Challis.

The Board discussed making the two graves by the sequoia tree available first before the sequoia becomes large enough to make those graves unavailable. Cary will discuss these tree issues with Challis.

BASALT COLUMNS

Marilyn Strong will call Lloyd Whanell regarding the spacing of names on the basalt columns. (Again.)

Next meeting will occur on April 19, 2010. Paula Evander recorded the minutes for the meeting.