

**City of Langley  
Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2011  
City Hall  
11:00 am**

Board Members present: Cary Peterson, Marilyn Helsel, R. James Enslow, Debbie Mahler, Marilyn Strong  
Community Members present: Lynn Hays

1. A new meeting time for the Board was discussed per a request by mayor Paul Samuelson that we not meet on the same Monday as the city council meetings, as this makes it difficult for Debbie Mahler's schedule. Possible times that he said were free at city hall are the 1st Tuesday afternoon, Weds or Thurs. anytime; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. or Tues. done by 2:00 pm, Weds. done by 3 pm; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. afternoon done by 5pm, Wed. or Thurs. anytime; 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. Tues., Thurs. anytime, Weds done by 3 pm.

After discussion it appeared that the fourth Mondays at 11:00 was our best bet, but wanted to call Rene Neff, as she was not present today because of her work schedule. Cary Peterson called her while we were in session and put her on speakerphone so that we could share with her our difficulties in finding another time, given everyone's differing schedules. It was decided to try the fourth Monday at 11:00 and Renie would try to rearrange her work schedule to be here next month.

2. The Board happily received the news that Marilyn Helsel has agreed to serve for another three years. We are grateful for the many years she has already served.

3. We reviewed the basic revisions we have negotiated with the city via the Public works dept. (Challis Stringer) to make the 2011 budget more sustainable to catch Cary Peterson up on what has been happening in the past few months while she was traveling. Basically we determined that a fee for service approach is not feasible, as it would cost us far more to do it that way, according to Challis. Debbie will bring in a financial report and a copy of the budget to February's meeting so we can review the specifics again.

Generally Public works will continue to mark the graves and be responsible for road maintenance. Debbie will continue to handle all calls related to selling graves, coordinate with Challis on marking of graves, and pay the water bill. The city will no longer be responsible to do the mowing, pick up the trash, or haul debris from the cemetery. The Cemetery Board needs to cover these jobs with a combination of volunteers and paid contractor (for mowing). The city can ask for bids for the mowing. (Cathy Waymire-Rooks was mentioned as a person who might be interested.) Cary will research options. The contractor needs to fulfill State requirements and understand that we want a conservative maintenance

practice on the mowing, which Cary needs to clearly convey – perhaps to put down clearly in writing what she knows about mowing - enough but not too much, and differences depending upon the time of the year and the weather (so that we can keep costs within our budget.) Regarding the trash R. James suggested we look into the cost of Island Disposal picking up on a monthly basis. It was also suggested that we reinstate compost bins to help with debris. Cary and R. James will monitor the trash needs in the next month and call Island Disposal to determine cost options. Marilyn S. has been in contact with Ray Hayman of the Friends and Challis regarding the mower. It has been stored in a dry place and maintained by the city.. Now that Cary is back, they would be happy to have it moved to a place where the Friends can once again take over the maintenance.

4. After some discussion the Board voted in favor of raising the cost of regular graves to \$750 per grave. It was decided not to charge for marking a grave as previously discussed, but to charge more per grave to help cover the higher cost of running the cemetery. Debbie will take this to the City Council for confirmation.

5. Lynn Hays reported that she came to the meeting primarily because she saw the columbarium on the agenda and wanted to be part of that conversation. We filled her in on where things are at and where we last left the conversation. It has fallen to the bottom of priority because of the latest budget crisis. The next step is to order a sample of the type of niche we are thinking of using so we can get a sense of what we are talking about. We need to check with Rene, as she was taking the lead on that. Marilyn S. was also going to call the place in the San Juan Islands that is using these niches to see how they like them, but has not yet taken the time to do so. Lynn said that when we are ready to pick up the conversation again that we need to find a new mason that might work with us, and that she definitely wants to be included in the bringing the columbarium into form.

She also made a plea again for us to look in our gardens to see if there are any plantings that we might contribute to the Ash garden.

6. Cary reported that her group that owns the property across from the cemetery is taking steps to bring in a water line so that houses may be built, and that the cemetery will have to share in the cost of that because it will benefit. She will keep us apprised of their progress.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at City Hall.