

ARLINGTON CEMETERY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairperson Florence Dahl-Bigaouette

Members Present: Chairperson Dahl-Bigaouette, Burdorf, Councilmember Borchert, Goblirsch,
Pomplun, Wiemann

Members Absent: Glieden

Also Present: Mayor Czech, Supt. Thomes

Motion by Borchert, seconded by Wiemann, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2006 meeting as corrected.

Pomplun gave a summary of the costs associated with the cemetery project for this year, which included landscaping, signage and pedestrian gate (totaling \$4,188.56). She stated that any money that was not used (budgeted for) would be carried over to next year's budget. Pomplun inquired with Redwood Falls Nursery about them doing the trimming yearly at no charge. Redwood does do trimming at no charge 1 time; basically they install the product and come back the following year to trim what needs trimming free, after that they charge by the hour. She added that if Redwood is to come back yearly to trim, the Cemetery Board would have to add this cost to their annual budget.

Pomplun commented that Administrator Krueger had asked her to relay his thoughts about the old entrance during the 5-year planning discussion. He would like to see the old entrance left up as a maintenance entrance only (put a gate across it) and direct all traffic to the new entrance. Thomes suggested leaving it open as another entry to the cemetery. Bigaouette commented that she recollected that long ago it had been decided to leave the old entrance open. Goblirsch added that the old entrance has significant historic value and should not be removed, plus it is still in good condition.

Goblirsch stated that Les Winter had contacted him to see if he could place a 2x4 cement strip (wash-ground level) between his (Winter) and his son's headstones for the purpose of placing some type of secured holder for putting flowers in. Mayor Czech added that Mr. Winter would place a bolt or shaft through the cement pad to insure that neither end would sink. Thomes commented that if this is permitted he would prefer to see 1 long cement wash without any spaces in it because grass will come up between the spaces. Goblirsch commented that he would be for allowing this as long as the vase/holder would be secured to the wash. Bigaouette questioned if this would set precedence. It was agreed that it would and if it is approved all future requests would have to meet the same criteria (ground level so as not to interfere with mowing and no wider than the existing washes).

Motion Wiemann, seconded by Goblirsch, and passed by unanimous vote to grant permission to Les Winter to install a concrete wash between his headstone and his son's headstone, which is to be no wider than the existing washes, no higher than ground level and the vase/holder must be secured to the wash itself.

Bigaouette spoke briefly on the complaints she had received regarding damage to property at the cemetery. Pomplun reported that they had not heard any complaints in the City Office. She added that she was given a list of items (and by whose grave they were placed) that Supt. Thomes had personally removed 3 weeks after Memorial Day. The items were placed outside next to the little shed so the public could come and retrieve their items easily. Thomes commented on the number of dead arrangements in coffee cans covered with tin foil that he removed.

Bigaouette spoke briefly on the white cross near the old entrance that was used to place wreaths on during Memorial Day ceremonies. She commented that it really is not needed anymore as all ceremonies are held at the Veteran's Memorial in Memorial Park now. It was agreed to leave the white cross where it is until such time as the space is needed for something else.

Bigaouette questioned what if anything should be done about putting up a speed limit sign. Pomplun commented that it is in the Rules of Operation of how fast vehicles are allowed to travel within the cemetery and that she was opposed to a sign being put up. The other members agreed.

Pomplun gave an update on the "reserved" lots. She explained that the deadline to pay for reserved lots had expired, which a few lots did not get paid for and were now available to the public. She added that the individuals who had not paid for their reserved lots had indicated that they were still interested in the lots, but for unknown reasons (sensitive subject matter, family issues, etc.) did not make the financial commitment to purchase said lots. Pomplun commented that the office staff feels that since there appears to be some mixed feelings about these lots and no real sense of urgency from the public to purchase the lots, that they would contact these individuals to give them 1 last courtesy call to pay for said lot(s) if another party came in and expressed an interest. She stated that they would be told either the lot is paid for immediately or it will be sold to the other party.

Discussion was held on the amount of "wasted space" and the number of burial lots lost when the entrance was put in and the landscaping was done within the cemetery. Goblirsch commented that the 2 paths (caraways approximately 10 ft. wide) in the older section of the cemetery were essentially wasted space and could be converted into burial lots. Bigaouette commented that these 2 caraways were part of the original plat and they would have to be re-platted and numbered. Mayor Czech suggested using this area for cremations only. Borchert commented that this would be a difficult area to sell. Pomplun commented that a couple had come in the day before looking at lots in the older section of the cemetery near her grandfather. Apparently there were a couple of lots not claimed by the family and she would be interested in them. They were told that some research would have to be done, but the City would do what it could to help.

Discussion resumed from the previous meeting on the 5-year planning process. The Board reviewed the 2nd Phase of landscaping (essentially trees around the perimeter) from Redwood Nursery. Thomes commented that the adjoining properties already have trees or natural screens established; the Cemetery Board should consider this when they are deciding what types of trees/shrubs they want to put in. He added that there are underground lines/wires that could interfere with future landscaping. Thomes also commented that the actual boundaries of the cemetery need to be determined (surveyed). It was suggested that the Board should walk the cemetery in order to put things into perspective (look at neighboring properties). Borchert and Goblirsch suggested making next year's project (Phase 2 of landscaping) be to put in the Sienna Glen Maples and Greenspire Linden trees so they can get established as they take so long to mature. According to Redwood's estimate this would cost approximately \$2,200 without labor (staying within the \$4,000 budget range).

Brief discussion was also held on above ground structures for cremations only. Pomplun will go to Hamburg and take pictures of the structure that Emanuel Lutheran Church has and bring them to the next meeting. It was noted that Oakland Cemetery in Hutchinson also has an above ground structure.

The next regular meeting is July 26, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers like normal. Once the minutes are approved everyone will go out to the cemetery to review boundaries.

Mayor Czech commented that the new cemetery entrance will be featured in an upcoming edition of the Arlington Enterprise.

Motion by Pomplun, seconded by Burdorf, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Secretary Vicki L. Pomplun