

**GREENWOOD CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015 AT 4:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, ROOM 205, 151 MARTIN**

I. CALL TO ORDER

George Stern, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Pamela DeWeese
Darlene Gehringer (arrived at 4:12 pm)
Linda Peterson
Laura Schreiner (arrived at 4:16 pm)
George Stern
Barbara Thurber
Kevin Desmond
Absent: None

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SPACE AVAILABILITY

(Recommendation Checklist Item #8)

City Clerk Pierce pulled up a map of the cemetery to allow for discussion.

Mr. Stern said he would like to apologize to the Board for statements made at the last meeting. Mr. Stern read a statement to the Board.

Mr. Valentine addressed Mr. Stern's statement. He explained the purpose of the meeting today was to address the specific issue of space availability.

Ms. Gehringer commented that she believed the contractor was going to identify unsold graves and the contractor has instead identified new graves. She is not in favor of identifying new graves and believes the Board's priorities should be elsewhere.

Mr. Valentine explained how the Advisory Committee wanted to address space issues and address the interest list, and therefore the contractor offered them the option of new graves in the cemetery.

Mr. Desmond commented that one of the basic tasks of the Board is to address the demand for space in the cemetery, so this issue should be at the top of their list. The contractor is presenting this idea for the Board to discuss. He stated it is not commonplace to have dedicated pathways through a cemetery.

Ms. DeWeese commented that the Board should consider the validity of the plan itself, regardless of individual opinions of the contractor. She said the Board should consider if the additional graves violates the historical nature of the cemetery.

Ms. Schreiner commented that the Board should see this as an opportunity. The contractor was not asked about it, so he didn't bring it forward until now.

Ms. Peterson asked about probing for previous burials. Ms. Pierce explained that probing took place in the greenspace and not the existing + graves.

Ms. DeWeese commented that she wants to be sure that the historical records accurately reflect where the graves actually exist, and ground-penetrating radar would be the way to do that. Ms. Gehringer agreed.

Mr. Valentine explained that the Board needs to discuss the next steps to move forward. Discussion followed. Mr. Stern suggested coordinating with the Historic District Commission.

Ms. Pierce addressed Ms. Deweese's questions regarding the location of Potter's Field. Ms. DeWeese would like the Board to look into putting a marker to identify Potters' Field.

Mr. Valentine stated it would be helpful if the Board could come up with a few questions for the Historic District Commission to answer. Mr. Stern would like to inquire about removing the paths in sections B and C. Ms. Pierce suggested they address sections K and L, also.

Mr. Stern said the question is, if the Board were to consider a proposal from the contractor to remove paths from sections B,C, K and L, should approval be sought from the Historic District Commission.

Mr. Stern then stated there are people on the Board that are uncomfortable with recommending to the Commission that the contractor make certain plots available for sale without a condition that they are pre-examined. A quote for the cost of ground-penetrating radar should be obtained before going to the Commission.

Mr. Desmond left at 5:01 pm.

Ms. Thurber expressed that she was surprised at the large amount of new plots available.

Ms. Gehringer suggested that ground penetrating radar be used on the entire cemetery.

Mr. Valentine said staff can be directed to get quotes for ground-penetrating radar.

Mr. Stern would like to discuss more opportunities to collaborate with the Historic District Commission.

Mr. Valentine suggested that the Board have a specific question to take to the Historic District Commission. He also suggested that, if any member of the Board wishes to attend a meeting of the Historic District Commission, that they address the Historic District Commission as individuals and not members of the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board.

Linda Buchanan, 1280 Suffield, had a question about the map with the new graves. Ms. Arcome addressed her question and explained the map in more detail and provided additional information about new graves and elements of the cemetery that are considered when new graves are mapped.

There was a discussion about the interest list. Ms. Arcome explained that Elmwood is only authorized to sell graves post-mortem. There was a follow-up discussion about the purpose of the interest list.

Ms. Gehringer ~~suggested~~ asked that reclamation and the interest list be on the next agenda. Mr. Stern suggested the contract with Elmwood be discussed, due to the report given to the Board from Elmwood.

Mr. Valentine explained that he directed the contractor to produce the report so the Board may explore new opportunities for addressing various concerns.

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| IV. NEW BUSINESS |
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| V. CONTRACTOR REPORT |
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| VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA |
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| VII. ADJOURN |
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The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

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