

MARTINEZ CEMETERY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 2013
Martinez City Hall Board Room
525 Henrietta St.
6:00 p.m.
APPROVED September 11, 2013
MINUTES

I. Roll Call

Chairman Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners Wilson, Carpenter, Duncan and Zagotta.

Patty Lorick, Recreation Supervisor was present

II. Approval of Minutes, October 18, 2012

Commissioner Wilson asked that his name be changed in the minutes from Commissioner Carter to Commissioner Wilson. Supervisor Lorick will make the change.

Chairman Strickland made the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

No one from the public was present.

IV. Old Business

A. Report on St. Catherine's improvements and maintenance tasks (Commissioner Carpenter)

Commissioner Carpenter reported that Goats R Us was hired to clear the cemetery of weeds. They completed the job in four days at a cost of \$2800. The Commission was impressed with the efficiency and extent the goats cleared the weeds.

B. Cemetery Fund Balance

Supervisor Lorick reported that the current cemetery fund balance is \$33, 339.91. The balance of the Wainwright Memorial is \$2850 for a grand total of \$36, 189.91.

C. Listing projects for Alhambra Cemetery

Supervisor Lorick briefly described the seven project listed below and ask the commission to prioritize what projects should be completed first.

1. Brown retaining wall – Repair the wall on the back side of the Brown Mausoleum. Recent estimate was approximately \$14,000.
2. Wrought Iron Entrance Gate – Replace the worn chain link gate at the entrance with an upgraded wrought iron gate. The Clampers would like to create a rock or brick post.
3. Tree planting across the front – Dave Lusty, Park Supervisor would like to put 10 trees along the front fence line. There is discussion about planting deciduous trees to provide color in the fall. The Commissioner discussed the downside to liquid amber and asked if there were other trees without the spiky balls that could be planted. A Japanese Maple or Chinese Pistachio was suggested.
4. Pathway paving project – The paving project is similar to the paving projects presented in the past. The purpose is to provide an ADA accessible path and provide a berm where the water is washing away the hill.
5. Apron paving project – Paving of the apron will be taken care of as part of a City paving project. There is no cost to the Cemetery Fund. This item no longer needs to be considered.
6. Chinese Funerary Oven – This work will be done by the E Vitus Clampers. Plans have been provided to the Clampers.
7. Purchase a picnic bench for clean-ups and meetings. The price of a picnic bench of an ADA accessible bench is around \$1000 plus another \$500 for shipping. Dave Lusty feels he can build a bench using a frame and local wood. This would save us a lot of money in shipping costs.

After discussing all the items, Chairman Strickland made a motion to:

1. Repair Brown retaining wall
2. Purchase a wrought iron front gate. The Commission prefers an electric gate but want to look at design and costs.
3. Have the picnic table built
4. Plant trees in the fall.

The first three items should not go beyond \$26,000 and the Commission would like to see designs and prices before October. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Cemetery Tours

Supervisor Lorick reported that five cemetery tours had been held for the public since October. In the next three weeks, Recreation staff will offer one tour to the Rotary Club and six tours for 3rd grade classes.

V. New Business

A. Recent cemetery clean-ups days and maintenance by Parks

Approximately fifty members of the Mormon Church in Concord held a clean-up day at the Alhambra Cemetery. They did a beautiful job. The Cemetery had never looked better. Commissioner Duncan suggested a thank you note be sent from the Commission. Supervisor Lorick will make sure that note is written.

The Parks Department has removed three dangerous trees, including a large oak that split in half and fell across eighteen graves. They have also done some extensive pruning.

B. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m. The Commissioners asked that Supervisor Lorick schedule another meeting once the design and pricing for the gate is ready for review. Commissioner Wilson reported that the next cemetery clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 12.

VI. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Commissioner Carpenter noted that the pine tree in the front corner of the cemetery needs to be removed. It is growing into the guide wires and lifting up the sidewalk. There is an acacia tree in the back that should be removed while it is still small and young.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Duncan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.