

Martinez Cemetery Commission

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery

Carquinez Scenic Road

10:00 am

MINUTES

I. Roll Call

Chair Strickland called the Regular meeting of the Martinez Cemetery Commission to order at 10:04am, in the Alhambra Cemetery.

Present: Chairman Strickland, Commissioner Wilson, and Commissioner Zagotta

Excused: Commissioner Duncan and Commissioner Carpenter

City Staff present: Recreation Coordinator Barbara Patchin

Presentations:

Joseph Palmer presented the Cemetery Commission with his Potter's Field Restoration Project. Project Members that were present; Judy Palmer, Chris, Warren and Karen Yee. Information attached; Mr. Palmer stated that recreation supervisor Ms. Lorick had approached him 2 years ago in regards of restoring the Chinese oven (burner). So they had a private tour with their clients, charging \$15 a person and raised \$400.00. They have had 5 to 6 clean-ups. In his research of Potters Field he believes that there are 1700 body's in potter's field. In regards to the Burner Mr. Palmer is researching, they have a sketch done by Dr. MacDonald. Commissioner Strickland, when you have a plan, will you bring it back to the commission. Mr. Palmer discussed the cutting of the trees, that there are some widow makers that should come down and he was working with Patty to find an arborist. Commissioner Zagotta, expressed concern over them cutting the larger limbs, that it could be a liability to the City. Commissioner Zagotta felt that they should stick with their original task of rebuilding the Chinese oven/burner. Mr. Palmer also discussed the excavating the bottom of the hill maybe tier it, and straighten the markers. Mr. Palmer and Ms Lorick have discussed asking East Bay Regional to donate mulch. The commission asked Mr. Palmer if he has kept track of time spent, and taking pictures to document what they had completed. They are posting of a face book page on the Martinez Historical Web Site. Commissioner Strickland said that there is money for an Arborist.

Mr. Palmer has also done some research at the Records office and Assessors; he believes that there are more burials on the North side of the fence, including a mass grave. His theory is the majority of the Chinese are buried on this side of the fence.

He referenced two dump sites one at the top of the hill and one down below. Commissioner Strickland asked if he thought of looking into x-ray. The commission complemented Mr. Palmer on all of his hard work. He will show Commissioner Wilson areas which need to be cleaned up at the annual cemetery clean-up with the clampers.

II. Public Comment

No one from the public was present

III. Approval of Minutes, April 16, 2015

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Zagotta, Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. Yes – Commissioner Zagotta, Commissioner Carter, Chair Strickland.

IV. Commissioner and Staff Comments

Chair Strickland, asked if the interest shown on the print out was for the year or month? On the Tavan Trust.

Comments on the tree cutting at St. Catherines and how it is a lot of money.

He finds the City Website hard to locate items, and he has spoken with Councilwoman AnaMarie Avila Farias about it. She said that the web site is being worked on. Even if on the web site you won't be able to find it. Great that cemetery info. Is going on web site.

Commissioner Carter will discuss the tree cutting with the clammers. (Listen to tape.) The Clammers have been coming to the cemetery for 30 years.

Cemetery Clean-up Start a 9 end at 2. Would like cemetery opened early for the clean-up
Commissioner Zagotta asked if Clammers could investigate the pile at the top of the hill.

Staff told of the upcoming cemetery tours, and the day of the dead event on Oct. 31, 2015.

Chair Strickland asked about Community Service, for the students at the local schools. Postcards will be going out. Include Briones, Vincente, New Leaf in the mailings.

New Business

Commissioner Zagotta made a motion to recommend to the City Council/Alhambra Cemetery Board to allocate up to \$1000 for erosion control waddles and to replace the plexiglass on the Decendent's Locator Kiosk. Seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Yes, Commissioner Zagotta, Commissioner Wilson, Chair Strickland.

Chair Strickland

Names Project, isn't clear that they walked thru the cemetery to double ck. that the markers were correct , cross checked, cards & booklets in our dept. web site shows references of where information came from. Listen to tape

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Zagotta made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20am. Commissioner Wilson Seconded. Yes, Commissioner Zagotta, Commissioner Wilson, Chair Strickland