



MARTINEZ CEMETERY COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2016

City Hall, 525 Henrietta St.

10:00 am

Minutes

APPROVED APRIL 27, 2017

I. Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

Commissioner s Present: Harlan Strickland, Chairman; Gina Zagotta, Carolyn Duncan, Pete Carpenter. Carter Wilson was excused.

II. Approval of Minutes, April 14, 2016

Commissioner Duncan made the motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed with all ayes. Chairman Strickland aye; Commissioner Duncan aye; Commissioner Carpenter aye; Commissioner Zagotta aye.

III. Public Comment

No one from the public commented.

IV. Old Business

A. Cemetery Fund Balances

Supervisor Lorick reported that there was \$2850 in the Wainwright Memorial and \$8,183.29 in the Cemetery Account for a total of \$11,032.29

B. St. Catherine's Cemetery Update – Commissioner Pete Carpenter

Commissioner Carpenter reported that St. Catherine's hired Goats R Us in June for \$2800 to mow their cemetery. The goats ate for three days. He reported that the Rankin Park fire came to a small edge of the cemetery. Later this summer a vagrant set a small fire that was extinguished by East Bay Regional Parks and ConFire. St. Catherine's Cemetery has not had vandalism or a break-in since then.

C. Deer Valley High School Living History Project

Recreation Coordinator Barbara Patchin, gave a brief history on the Deer Valley High School Living History Project. She then reported that two students from Deer Valley High School gave moving monologues. Each student picked a woman buried in the Cemetery. Their assignment was to find a moment in the decedent's life that would allow the audience to feel the emotion of an event in their person's life. Both

students did an excellent job of capturing the hardships of the lives of two women living and working in the late 1800's.

D. Historic American Land Survey – Project Completed by UC Berkeley Students

Supervisor Lorick passed out the report completed by the four students from UC Berkeley's History of Landscape class. The report was completed for the Northern California Historic American Lands Survey. The record will be kept by the Library of Congress and the National Park Service. The report is just a snap shot in time of the Potter's Field.

E. Alhambra Cemetery Listing on the City Website

Last week the City of Martinez launched the Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery section of the website. This tab includes a brief history of the cemetery, names of all the decedents. It also has links to the Martinez Historical Society's Virtual Cemetery Tour, Billion Graves and the Civil War dead buried in the Cemetery. The records were culled from multiple sources and includes all the information we have on that decedent. Approximately 5500 people are now listed. This number is approximately 1000 more than previously listed. Supervisor Lorick reported that she personally walked the Cemetery to make sure that names on "mortuary markers," the small tin plates with punch metal letters or paper inserts, were also listed.

V. New Business

A. Rules for Volunteer Groups working in the Cemetery

Commissioner Duncan asked Supervisor Lorick to repeat the City Attorney's guidelines for volunteer groups working in the cemetery. Lorick explained that groups need to provide a certificate of insurance with an endorsement, a written plan of the work they want to accomplish and a waiver.

Commissioner Duncan said the time had come to develop a list of rules for volunteer groups. Not one group should be targeted. The reason being that the cemetery faced numerous challenges including vagrants, vandalism, erosion problems and active burials. These rules should be formalized. People are doing work with the best of intentions but are knowingly or unknowingly causing damage. A list of rules would keep everyone out of trouble.

She went on to say that in her opinion, she felt strongly that the Alhambra Cemetery is a natural setting cemetery. It should remain historical and that we should not allow anyone to right stones. She does not want outside groups cutting trees or digging up graves. Anything more than raking leaves needs City approval.

Commissioner Strickland asked Supervisor Lorick and Coordinator Patchin what process the Main Street Martinez completed to hold the Main Street Clean-up. Coordinator Patchin explained the process and gave Chair Strickland a copy of the permit. Supervisor Lorick said the application would be too onerous for a group

interested in working in the Cemetery to complete. She suggested developing a one or two-page form for the Commissioners approval.

B. Martinez Historical Society Cemetery Committee Role and Potter's Field Preservation and Restoration Plan

Joseph Palmer wants to see the Commission develop a plan. The Commission should have an idea of what we are preserving. His group wants be part of the discussion. He agreed that there should be rules for volunteer groups, general guidelines.

He wants to right the head stones, take care of the vegetation and third, restore the Chinese Funerary Burner.

C. October Cemetery Clean-up with E Clampus Vitus

The Cemetery cleanup will be Saturday, October 8. Judie Palmer asked if the family members of the Glaros and the researcher from the Napa Historical Society could attend the Cemetery Clean-up. The Glaros group may be interested in replacing Nikolas's marker.

D. Ground Penetrating Radar – Harlan Strickland

Chair Strickland presented information on ground penetrating radar (GPR). GPR is a geophysical method that uses radar pulses to image items found below the surface of the ground. GPR is a nondestructive method that won't require digging into graves, remove grave stones, etc. Chairman Strickland feels that GPR could be used as a tool to find unmarked graves.

E. Commissioner and Staff Comments

No comments were made.

F. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm to a meeting day to be determined April 2017.

Commissioner Duncan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Zagotta seconded the motion.

Submitted by Minutes Clerk

Patty Lorick