

**MARTINEZ CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday March 17, 2010**

**APPROVED December 8, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Martinez Cemetery Commission was called to order by Chair Harlan Strickland Wierschem, at 1:30 P.M. in the Board Room, City Hall, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Chair, Harlan Stickland, Vice Chair Rita Weiler-Williams, Commissioner Carter Wilson  
Absent: Louise Fisher, Gina Zagotta  
Staff: Recreation Manager, Michelle Wierschem, Staff, Robin Agostino  
Public: Pete Carpenter

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Commissioner Strickland, second by Commissioner Wilson, the minutes were for the meeting of September 9, 2009 approved.

**New Business**

**Staff report:** *Patty Lorick, Recreation Supervisor.* The commission reviewed the information on the recent interment of Thomas Griffin and Elizabeth Girgich.

**Cemetery Trust and Status:** Chair Strickland and the Commission reviewed the trust account for the Tavan and Haussman Chair Stickland has questions about the trust and the interest from the Tavan and Haussman Trust. The commission asked staff to include the City's Finance Director, Cathy Spinella, for the next meeting of the commission to answer questions on the trusts accounts.

**Rent a goat:** A discussion was held on having goats in the cemetery to radiate the weeds. Ms. Wierschem explained Risk Management, needs to be contacted before the goats can be in the cemetery. She explained the Rent a Goat Company will need to have all of the necessary insurance certificates submitted to the city. Commissioner Weiler-Williams presented an idea of a landscaper to be hired to do bi-monthly upkeep of the cemetery. Ms Wierschem directed Chair Stickland to make some inquires on the using goats or a landscaper and report back to her. Ms. Wierschem will meet with, City's Risk Management and City's Public Works Director, Bob Cellini to see if it is feasible and addresses concerns with using a Rent a Goat Company. Commissioner Weiler-Williams presented a motion to have Chair Strickland to contact the goat company or a landscaper and work with a budget of \$3,500 for clean up of weeds and vegetation prior to the May 22, 2010 cemetery cleanup. A motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion approved. Commissioner Wilson will be contacting the Clampers to have them focus in on mostly weed abatement.

**Staffing Levels:** Ms. Wierschem informed to the commission, Karen Majors Assistant City Manager, Community Development Director, will be retiring on June 1, 2010 and her position will not be filled. Ms. Wierschem explained that in the last calendar year the city has had their Deputy Director retire, Assistant City Manager, and Finance Director position vacated and these positions will not be filled. Ms. Wierschem explained that staff is limited with the level of support.

**Story Boards:** Commissioner noted the story boards looked that they had been repaired, and wondered if someone has been repairing the boards.

**Cemetery Clean up:** Commissioner Weiler-Williams will be contacting a local Girl and Boy Scout troops interested in the upcoming cleanup.

**Old Business**

Planning for the Cleanup

**Future Agenda Items**

Ground Cover

**Public Comment**

Pete Carpenter, St. Catherine's Cemetery caretaker, explained St. Catherine's Cemetery will be having goats do their weed control again this year in conjunction with East Bay Regional Parks weed control project. Mr. Carpenter said the church is expecting to pay approximately \$2,000 for this year's goat cleanup.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM to the next regular meeting on August 11, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Agostino, Minutes Clerk