

**City of Jacksonville
Cemetery Commission
Meeting Notes**

Regular Meeting, March 7, 2022

New City Hall

1) Meeting was called to order by Chair Siedlecki at 4:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were Chair Siedlecki, members Athanas, Anderson, Borland, Jorgensen, Cemetery Sexton Shields and City Council Liaison Selbe. Absent was I.O.O.F representative Carr who was called to Eugene on business.

2) Chair welcomed those attending, including four guests, Jim Finses, Kurt Elliott, Gillian Walton and Eric Rogers, all residents of Jacksonville and volunteers in the cemetery. Commission members introduced themselves along with guests. Chair announced Tony Thompson as the new Public Works Operations Manager and that he was on vacation and unable to attend.

3) No public comment was made.

4) Follow-up items from October 4, 2021 Commission Meeting

a) Restoration work on the cross that sits on top of the alter in the Catholic sections has been completed and looks wonderful. There will be a dedication service by Father Kent later this month. After the meeting I was advised that it would be on March 31, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

b) Restoration of the entire Reed family block in the City section was completed in October 2021. Work was accomplished by volunteers and paid for by the FOJHC.

c) Chair showed Commission one of the eleven Story Boards to be placed in the spring. The stand are in process of being made. All approved of how the story boards turned out.

5) Action/Discussion Items

a) Chair passed out copies of the FOJHC end of the year report for their information.

b) Morel hunters are back, notices posted and to be on alert for possible problems with individuals.

c) Chair/Sexton made commission members aware of tree loss and damage as a result of December storms. Only one headstone knocked off base with no damage to stone.

d) New storage shed for the FOJHC to be installed on March 14. It will be installed on new concrete pad installed by the City next to the Cemetery Maintenance Shop.

e) Chair reviewed planned cemetery events and activities for 2022. They include monthly marker cleaning workshops, April - September, History Saturday programs May - September, Cemetery guided tours, July 12, Porsche Car Club of Bend, Meet the Pioneers Living History Tours in October. Restoration work is being planned, the Love block in the Masonic section is first on the list.

f) Jewish section has contracted with same landscaping company as last year. They did a great job and were very respectful. Masonic plans to attend spring clean-up. No other comments.

g) Chair mentioned FOJHC has two Community Clean-up Days scheduled: March 26 and May 20, both from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

h) Started discussion on expansion property. No section reps expressed interest in purchasing additional land to expand their sections. Suggested that with eleven acres on top of our existing 30 plus acres we need to keep maintenance and upkeep in mind. Some thoughts were to not allow curbing, fencing or other decorative cemetery fixtures to be placed. One suggestion was perhaps to just allow flat markers to be placed. Future staffing to care for the cemetery grounds will be necessary. To provide for the needs of those purchasing plots or wanting their remains placed in the Jacksonville Cemetery a Scattering Garden, Burial Niches and such should be included in the plans as the customary coffin burials are no longer in demand. Chair noted he would look into perhaps getting help from a school or other resource for use of an Intern. A couple Public meetings on the subject was also suggested.

6) Other

No response from Cammy Davis with regard to her October 2021 request for a fence.

Cemetery Sexton, Chair and I.O.O.F rep Carr approved request for curbing around Block 7 in the IOOF section. To date no work has been started.

Sexton Shields briefed Commission on some vandalism at the Cemetery entrance gate. He was able to clean it up and notified the Police Department.

Chair passed out article on headstone that fell on woman in Staten Island, New York and killing her. Reinforces the need to be alert and secure what we find.

7) Next meeting scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022 at 4:30 at New City Hall

8) Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.