

City of Jacksonville
Cemetery Commission
Meeting Notes

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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

Regular Meeting, June 21, 2021

Under the Kiosk Pavilion in the Cemetery Grounds

1) Call to Order

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

Those in attendance were Chair Siedlecki, members Athanas, Anderson, Borland, Carr, Jorgensen, City Council Liaison Selbe, Cemetery Sexton Shields and Jacksonville Operations Manager Max Woody. It was noted that this was first time in a long time, when we had a meeting with a representative from each section in attendance.

2) Chair welcomed everyone to first in person meeting since Covid restrictions relaxed some. Introductions were made as we have some new representatives on the Commission. Scott Selbe, our new City Council Liaison, Art Borland, new for the Masonic section and Pete Jorgensen representing the Jewish section.

Chair acknowledged and thanked Johan Visser for his many years of dedicated service on the Commission while representing the Jewish section. He will be missed.

3) Public Comment

Mr. Eric Rogers, a Jacksonville resident and a volunteer with the Friends of Jacksonville's Historic Cemetery, commented on how successful the new Adopt-A-Block program was and how volunteers take pride and a sense of ownership in the blocks they are caring for.

4) Follow-up items from the January 6, 2020 Commission Meeting.

- a) The Fitt's block, located in the Masonic section has been completely restored by the FOJHC. A contractor was hired for the brick work and paid by the FOJHC.
- b) The FOJHC ordered and paid for eight Interpretive Panels, one in each section and a welcome panel due to aging.
- c) Chair showed off the new Cemetery Kiosk map located under the pavilion where meeting was held. The map along with the individual number block signs has been a big help to visitors trying to located a gravesite.
- d) While all agreed that some progress has been made in dealing with digger squirrels, it is temporary. The gophers in many ways are just as bad or worse with mounds of dirt piles throughout the cemetery grounds. Dry Ice, bubble gum, traps and some off the shelf products were mentioned. Problem is that they are expensive and meant for a smaller piece of property. Chair cautioned the need to protect pets that residents walk in the cemetery. Previous meetings the idea was suggested of closing the cemetery for a set period of time if a workable solution was introduced.

5) Action/Discussion items

- a) The March 27. 2021 Community Clean-up Day focused on the IOOF section with 36

volunteers contributing 92 hours of labor.

- b) The Mary 21, 2021 Community Clean-up Day in the Catholic and German Order of Red Men saw 18 volunteers providing 65 hours of labor.
 - c) The FOJHC's new Adopt-A-Block program has been a big success with 185 volunteers signing on to care for a block or blocks in all sections of the cemetery. This has been a big help in caring for the grounds.
 - d) Pete Jorgensen briefed the Commission on the landscaping company that the Temple Emek Shalom has contracted with to provide care for the Jewish section. Monthly service April - November weeding, trimming grasses, pruning shrubs, dead branch removal, soil leveling, raking leaves and general clean-up. Bartlett Tree Care was also hired to prune and remove some trees. Pete also mentioned that Sari Telpner will be helping him and serve on the commissioner as well. Pete can be contacted at gp.pete.jorg@gmail.com 541 227-9316 and Sari at sari.telpner@gmail.com or 541 482-4095.
 - e) Individual block numbered signs, like the ones placed in the City Section in 2019, have been added to the IOOF, Masonic, and Independent and Improved Orders of Red Men sections. This is part of the Cemetery Kiosk project. At this time there are no plans to add them to the Jewish or Catholic sections. The Jewish section being smaller in size and easy to negotiate and the Catholic section using an Alpha and numeric system, different from a standard block number.
 - f) We have had a request from volunteers to look into placing Story Boards at some locations in the cemetery giving the history of the individuals buried in that block. They will be short, no more than a page providing historical information of the early Pioneers for our visitors to read and enjoy. They are working on a design to hold/mount the story board on. Everyone seemed pleased with the idea.
 - g) The FOJHC plan to resume their History Saturday program in July with two programs, two in August and one in September.
 - h) Following the meeting an email was sent to all the Commission members asking them to check with their organizations to see if there is any interest in perhaps purchasing additional space in the eleven acre cemetery expansion area.
- 6) Other
- 1) Advised Commission that the FOJHC are in the process of restoring the Bybee block located in the City Section. There are also two plots, one in the Jewish section and one in the City that the FOJHC will be contracting to have the brick surrounds restored. Currently looking at a start time in early September.
 - 2) Chair passed out copies of the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Position Paper on their recommendations concerning the use of Confederate Flags in Historic Cemeteries.
 - 7) Next Commission Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 4, at 4:30 p.m. in New City Hall
 - 8) Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dirk J. Siedlecki