

City of Jacksonville
Cemetery Commission

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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting, December 12, 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, City Council Liaison Selbe and Cemetery Sexton Richard Shields. Absent were Jorgensen, representative from the Jewish section who was out of town as well as KC Carr, representative of the IOOF section. Alternate for the IOOF section Jim Simpson was suppose to attend in place of Carr but did not show.
- 2) Chair Siedlecki announced the passing of Judith Visser, wife of Johan Visser, former long time representative for the Jewish section on Jacksonville's Cemetery Commission. The Commission members introduced themselves and well as the sections they represent. Guests introduced themselves, Jim Finses, Eric Rogers and Gillian Walton, all are Jacksonville residents and long time dedicated cemetery volunteers.
- 3) Public comment made by Mr. Finses was to thank Tony Thompson for having the brush pile in the cemetery cleaned up last summer and is requesting that another clean-up and removal is in order as the pile has reappeared with all the recent pruning. Richard said that he would pass along and get it handled. Mr. Rogers questioned the amount of money that appears in the budget for the cemetery but is not being spent, rather rolled over. This came up during our discussion on tree pruning and removal. Ms Walton suggested that perhaps a brief write-up on behavior in the cemetery might be noted in the Jacksonville Review. This came up during our discussion on events on and around Halloween.
- 4) Follow-up items from our September 19, 2022 meeting
 - a) Case closed as curbing approved and has been installed, plot 5 block 84 2005 city annex.
 - b) Confirmed with Richard Shields nothing further from Mr. Portrait with regard to his March 11, 2022 request to place a bench. Commission chair requested add details and no response. Case now closed
 - c) Community clean up day on October 29, 2022 a big success with 40 volunteers contributing 96 hours an filling one large city trailer and 116 trash bags.
 - d) FOJHC's annual fund raiser Meet the Pioneers on October 7 and 8 huge success, tickets sold out in less than two week and approximately \$6,500 raised for restoration work and educational programs.
 - e) Chair Siedlecki and City Liaison Selbe, had some discussion with City Administrator with regard to tree pruning and or removal within the cemetery grounds. All in agreement that work has to be accomplished, big question is how to pay for it. More important is having an assessment done to determine exactly what the bill of work is, how many trees are hazardous and need immediate attention, how many need to removed but have some

time, how many trees just need heavy pruning, this information will provide us with a more accurate idea of costs involved and also allow a budget to be prepared with funds set aside for tree work the next 3-5 years. Chair mentioned a grant program from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries that provides some funding for tree removal that we will look at. Chair will work on trying to find someone with experience and background to work on the assessment. Masonic Rep Art Borland commented that they had some members with equipment and experience in tree removal that might be able to assist in their section. Advised Art to have them check out the Masonic section to see what needs to be done and then meet with Cemetery Sexton who has final say on what kind of work can be accomplished in the cemetery and by whom.

- f) The city has placed money in the budget to have a survey done on the eleven acres set aside for expansion of the cemetery. Once the survey is completed then initial work can begin. Chair said he would revisit the subject of trying to find an intern/s that may be interested in the project. This pursuit was delay due to Covid.
- 5) a) Volunteers with the FOJHC are nearing completion of a total restoration of the Pape/Prim block 273 in the Masonic section. Chair showed photos of white marble tiles that were discovered while digging at the entrance to the block. A period style fence and gate will be installed and replacing the one stolen in 1958. Funds covering the costs for this project along with the fence and gate are being funded by the FOJHC.
- b) The FOJHC are currently looking at other projects for 2023.
 - c) Community Clean-up Days will be held in March, May and October 2023. Exact dates and times will be forth coming.
 - d) We have several grave sites in the City section where rock and other types of ground covered have been placed with permission from this commission. There was also a bench placed without approval. Notices will be placed requesting that these items be removed or the city will remove them at charge the owners.
- 6) Other
- a) Chair happy to report no damage done in the cemetery during the Halloween holiday. We do have pictures of a family, adults and several children who entered the Ish block and decorated it with balloons, pumpkins and took photos of one another. People should not being entering private property (Ish block is fenced and has a gate) and walking all over grave sites. Chair reported that he removed a number of inappropriate decorations during the days leading up to Halloween. Chair reminded Commission that there are R&R's put in place in 2014 with regard to photos and video in the cemetery grounds.
- 7) Next Commission meeting is set for Monday, March 13, 2023
- 8) Meeting adjourned approximately 5:45 p.m.