

Missoula Cemetery Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 7, 2017  
12:00pm  
Missoula City Cemetery Office

**Minutes**

**Present:** Kim Seeberger, Paul Filicetti, Mary Lou Cordis, Pat McHugh, Ron Regan, Mary Ellen Stubb, Lani Moore, Susan Aaberg (City Attorney), Sam Dolan (Guest)

**Absent:** None

**Public comment.** None

**Approval of board minutes:** August 2017 - Unanimously approved as submitted.

**Financials.** Revenues and expenditures were reviewed. Mr. Regan stated Garden City Compost (formally Eko Compost) is now charging fifty dollars per load of branches. The cemetery will need to add a line item in the 345 expenditures account for composting of branches. This will be done in the FY19 budget.

**New or Continuing Items.**

**FY18 BUDGET:** The cemetery is waiting for the final budget documents from finance.

**ORDINANCE / FEES:** After much discussion, the cemetery board prepared a memorandum for Missoula City Council.

**MEMORANDUM**

*To: Mayor Engen, City Council, Dale Bickell, Leigh Griffing and Steve Johnson*

*From: Missoula City Cemetery Board of Trustees*

*CC: Jim Nugent, City Attorney*

*Date: September 7, 2017*

*Re: Amendments to Missoula City Cemetery ordinance and fees.*

*The Missoula City Cemetery Board of Trustees, after much deliberation and careful consideration of Council concerns, wish to **table our proposal to sell monuments.** Tabling this proposal means removing Monument Sales from the proposed Cemetery Fee Schedule. The Cemetery Ordinance does not contain language for selling monuments so no change is required to that document.*

*We continue to believe selling monuments at the cemetery is a necessary and worthwhile service for the public who use our cemetery. For the next year, we intend to monitor the public requests for this service and gather more data. We will return with that data and a cost analysis for your review and consideration.*

*We remain fully committed to the necessity for the cemetery to re-instate the setting of all foundations and monuments by cemetery staff. **Quality control over monument placement is core to the daily operations of the cemetery.** We have presented to Council the documentation and photos that support the necessity for reinstating this service.*

*The Missoula City Cemetery Board consists of volunteers vested in the perpetuity of the cemetery and evolution of cemetery services to meet the future needs of the public.*

*We ask for your careful consideration and approval to move forward and allow the cemetery to re-instate the service to set all monuments and initiate a new service to clean monuments.*

*Thank you.*

*Kim Seeberger, Chair*

*Paul Filicetti, Co-Chair*

**NEW COLUMBARIUM PLAZA:** Mr. Regan gave an update on the progress of the concrete being poured for the Plaza. There are currently 17 niches on hold. The niches cannot be sold and families are unable to inter their loved ones until the cemetery fees are approved. A sample template for the new walls showing the surname across the top and complete dates was reviewed. Mr. Regan stated the board will need to set a policy for the template used on the new walls.

**STORIES AND STONES:** Mrs. Stubb stated there are 20 stories being presented including a new story on Nels C. Peterson and The Missoula City Band and a new storyteller for Mary Gleim. There was discussion regarding the potluck for the storytellers and the timeline of events.

**CHIP SEALING STREETS:** Mr. Regan stated the need to chip seal the cemetery streets East of Russell to the back of the cemetery. The Street Department charge for the material is \$15,000. In the past these materials were provided in exchange for cemetery land use by the Street Department. Mrs. Seeberger questioned why this is changing and said she will request a meeting with City Administration for clarification.

**LAND USE:** The board had discussion about cemetery land. Mrs. Seeberger will meet with City Administration regarding cemetery land use by other departments.

**CIVIL WAR STONE CLEANING:** Mr. Dolan introduced himself as a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He stated this group is the legal successor of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). Mr. Dolan would like to clean the stones for these veterans. Mr. Regan asked if that would include stones purchased by other individuals. Mr. Dolan said he would like to clean them all, but he would start with the government issued stones located in the GAR sections of the cemetery. Mrs. Seeberger asked Mr. Dolan if he has ever cleaned stones. Mr. Dolan said no but he has done research on the process used by the government and would use D2, the same chemical used in Arlington National Cemetery. Ms. Aaberg stated liability to the cemetery is a concern. After much discussion Mr. Dolan stated he will do research to see if the Auxiliary of the Sons could take responsibility for the stones. He will check with the Washington based chapter to gather more information. Mr. Regan asked the board if the cemetery staff could help with research of the GAR stones to see what information is available. The board agreed with the direction being taken for research.

#### **Informational Items.**

**BOARD VACANCY:** Mr. Dolan expressed interest in the board vacancy. Mrs. Stubb will send him the information to apply.

**FILMING IN CEMETERY:** Mr. Regan stated the filming crew came again on August 25th. There was discussion regarding filming. The City Attorney will work with the cemetery regarding a policy for filming.

**Adjournment** at 1:33pm. Next meeting will be October 5, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Lani Moore, Administrative Assistant II

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Thank you.

  
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Kim Seeberger, Chair

  
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Paul Filicetti, Co-Chair