

Missoula Cemetery Board Meeting
Thursday, March 7, 2013
1:30pm
Ruth Bennett Memorial Chapel
Missoula Cemetery

Minutes

Present: Sharee Fraser, Marjorie Jacobs, Carol Gordon, Douglas Waters, Ron Regan, Mary Ellen Stubb

Absent: Mary Lou Cordis, Pat McHugh

1. Approval of board minutes: January 2013 - Unanimously approved as submitted.
2. Items involving guests: None.
3. Public comment: None.
4. Financials:
 - a. Revenues: FY13 - reviewed. Mr. Waters stated the Niche Wall Fund is important for future improvements.
 - b. Expenditures: FY13 - Mr. Regan noted the 220 line item will take a hit with fertilizer purchase. The overage in the landscaping line item was used for 30 trees to be placed in a new area. Irrigation has been completed and once trees are planted then this section can open for sale. Caras Nursery provided trees and will assist with planting. Mr. Waters stated if money runs tight on this project then the Memorial Fund will help cover costs.
5. Motions needed. (*Quorum is needed*) None.
6. New or Continuing Items for Discussion:
 - a. FY14 Budget: Mr. Waters stated the new budget is identical to FY13. No changes.
 - b. FY14 CIP: Compressor and utility cart (\$60k) will be requested.
 - c. FY14 Service modification: Fertilizer mod will be requested again this year.
 - d. Ordinance:

Mr. Waters distributed his proposed revisions to the Right to Inter verbage in the cemetery. Bottom line: the cemetery must have a legal document stating who is in charge and who can make decisions. Without that document nothing can happen. Mr. Waters clarified there is no grave ownership but only the right to inter. He asked the board to review the changes noted in red and call him prior to next month's meeting with any changes or concerns. The current proposal has been reviewed with the city attorney. Mr. Waters requested the board to vote on this at the next meeting. He will be sending the current information to the absent board members with the same instructions. With the board approval these changes could be instituted for immediate enforcement as an administrative rule and then later adopted into the ordinance.

Next month monument information will be presented for board review along with some items that were removed from the 2005 ordinance that have been determined necessary to place back into the new ordinance.

Mrs. Fraser voiced concern because she assumed authority over her family graves but doesn't have any documents proving ownership. Mr. Waters stated people need a legal document saying someone has the power to make decisions.

Mrs. Jacobs voiced concern giving the example of her children possibly wanting to be buried with their grandparents, however, all the family members are deceased and she doesn't have any documentation that places her in power. The proposed ordinance change would mean this could not happen. She said she could not believe that she would be the only one with these types of wishes and concerns. Mr. Regan said graves were originally purchased for one person and per grave and never meant for additional burials. Mr. Waters said according to the city attorney there is nothing wrong with saying no to a family that does not have the proper documentation. Mr. Regan's voiced concern about following a family's request and then later someone else shows up with the right documentation which puts the cemetery at fault.

Mr. Waters said the Right to Inter document will be redesigned to include designation for who will use the grave and who will have authority over decisions. This is a chain reaction but will legally make the cemetery stronger. Mr. Waters said he and the attorney have tried to give people numerous options to prove who they are legally through the proposed changes.

7. Informational Items *(These items require NO immediate board action but are strictly informational item).* Mr. Regan announced the retirement of Carl Voss at the end of March. Jason Keely was promoted to lead technician. Through the advertising process Adam Hubel was hired full time. Daniel Fernandez will return in a temporary position in April. The open seasonal position will be advertised. Mr. Waters noted administration had worked well with the cemetery to maintain full staffing. The cemetery will work with administration to cover the retirement payout.
8. Adjournment at 2:30pm. Next meeting will be April 4, 2013. (Note: Mrs. Jacobs will not be at the April meeting.)

**To conserve costs, please bring your agenda and any pertinent documents with you to meetings.