

Missoula Cemetery Board Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2015
12:00pm
Missoula City Cemetery Office

Minutes

Present: Sharee Fraser, Marjorie Jacobs, Carol Gordon, Ron Regan, Lani Moore, Mary Ellen Stubb, Allan White - Parks Dept., Pat McHugh

Absent: Mary Lou Cordis

Approval of board minutes: August 2015 - approved unanimously as submitted.

Public comment. None.

Financials.

FY 16 revenues were reviewed. Mrs. Stubb gave the board interest totals for FY15. Mr. Regan noted the memorial fund expenditure for the book stapler. The stapler benefits the cemetery greatly by allowing all books to now be printed and stapled at the cemetery office instead of hauling them back and forth to the county.

FY16 expenditures were reviewed. Mr. McHugh asked why the irrigation line item was so greatly reduced. Mr. Regan said irrigation heads are being replaced and areas are being adjusted into part circles so we are not watering over the road. He explained that the \$5,000 irrigation line item in the budget was not a lot when each head costs \$48 and in the D section alone there were 110 heads replaced.

New or Continuing Items.

Screening Project. Mr. Allan White, park department manager, was present to give an update to the board on the back pit area. He assured the board numerous times that their concerns were being taken seriously. Ms. Gaukler, parks director, has instructed Chris Boza, the urban forester, to put together a plan that shows how the parks department intends to clean up the area. That plan will soon be presented to the cemetery board. Parks employees have been informed that they will clean up the area this fall.

Mr. White explained that some of the piles were reject material consisting of oversized logs, rocks, etc. The logs are being pulled out and taken to Eko Compost. The large rocks are being placed into piles for the street department. The remaining fill dirt is intended to be used for non-structural fill at Fort Missoula, however, fort construction does not start until spring. If the material cannot be used at the fort, then it will be hauled to the dump for cover. Mr. White stated that more fill dirt will be generated because he estimates another 3,000 yards remain in the original pile that still needs screened. He also estimates he currently has about 20,000 yards of screened material. He explained to the board how the parks charges themselves for the material so hauling this away depends on the need of the fort and money available in the parks budget.

Mr. White noted that the weeds growing over the large, screened pile have been treated so they will go away. A new pile came in from the Third Street road project and it needs screened and separated. Mr. Regan told the board there is too much woody debris in the dirt to spread as top soil in the cemetery. Mr. White explained that some of the larger wood items the board sees may be what he called root wads. These are being saved and used for stream bank restoration.

Mr. Regan said that Ms. Gaukler, parks director, had called and spoken with him about a plan for parks to clean the area. Mr. Regan also met with both Mr. White and Mr. Boza and toured the area. Mr. Regan told all three that the cemetery was not telling parks to move out of the area but they were telling them to clean up, organize, and do some housekeeping of the area. Some items needing removed are unmarked chemicals in

containers, barrels, jugs, tree grates, old concrete, etc. He said Ms. Gaukler expressed her appreciation for the board letting them use the site and promised to have a plan developed for the clean up of the area. Mr. Regan said this needs to include leaving a 10' buffer between fences for continued mowing, maintaining, and removal of items.

Mrs. Fraser expressed her appreciation to the parks for the update and moving forward to clean and organize the area. She specifically wants what can be seen from the road cleaned up because it is an eye sore. Mr. Regan explained that some of that belongs to the street department and they are regularly hauling stuff out and rotating those piles. Weeds do need controlled and mowed. Mrs. Fraser noted that a long standing item for her that especially needs addressed is the white tank. Mr. Regan said that belongs to the street department and is used to store oil for their chip seal projects.

Mrs. Fraser expressed her concern that agreement for use of the land was to be done in such a way that the land always remain in burial ready condition and that leaving toxic material and oil on the property is not burial condition. Mr. Regan said that eventually when the cemetery prepares the land for burials then at that time is when more cleaning and removing will be done.

The board thanked Mr. White for coming and Mrs. Fraser expressed her feeling of hope that finally someone listened and cared enough to clean the area.

The board continued discussion after Mr. White left. Discussion topics were about when the compost piles would be moved to the pit area and the possibility of the board conducting regular walk throughs of the area to make sure it is being cleaned and organized.

Informational Items.

Seasonal Tech Hiring Process. Mr. Regan said a replacement opening for a seasonal tech brought in 61 applications of which only 12 were qualified. Interviews were held this week, a candidate was chosen, and he was happy about the choice. The new hire will start in two weeks and work only a few months before the regular seasonal layoff.

Wind Damage Report. Mr. Regan said the cemetery had a lot of tree damage from the wind storm. It took cemetery staff four days to pick up the bulk and another week to fine tune the clean up. A couple trees were blown over. Mrs. Fraser voiced concern about stone damage. Mr. Regan said it was amazing how the trees laid down right between rows of stones with no damage to the stones. A few stones were knocked over but they were re-set with no damage.

Other comments not on the agenda.

Website. Mrs. Gordon said she reviewed the cemetery website and it looks great.

Entrance Gates. Mr. Regan asked the board to look at the new chain link front gates. He hopes to place signs with cemetery hours, flower rules, etc. back on display for the public.

Adjournment at 12:56 p.m. Next meeting will be October 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Stubb