CEMETERY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2023 - 8:00 AM

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chairman Joel Day. Day thanked everyone for attending.

Present were members Mayor Day, Kelly Herron, Richard Geib, Ron McAbier, Mitch Pace, Tim Halter, and Troy Pallotto.

Excused: Jim Exley and Mark Wideman

Approval of the June 8th, 2023, meeting minutes:
1st: Tim Halter
2nd: Troy Pallotto
The motion was approved unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Kelly Herron reported that there was a car accident on Fair Avenue that took out a pole and a section of fence at the Fair Avenue Cemetery across the street from Sacred Heart Church. Herron has been working with the driver's insurance company, Commonwealth Insurance, and met with Circle L Fence recently for an estimate on the repairs. He is still waiting for the official estimate but said the repairs will be around $2,000.

Superintendent Herron had a conversation with Rich Geib recently regarding loose bricks in the pillars at Evergreen Cemetery. Herron had his crew epoxy the bricks to hold them in place until more permanent repairs can be made in the spring.

Leaf season is upon us, and the Superintendent is hoping the leaves fall while he still has help available. The cemetery crew will also be assisting the Zoning & Building Code Administrator with mowing a couple of properties near Fair Avenue Cemetery that received high grass citations.

Service Director Ron McAbier reported that he spoke with Randy Kamban about planting more trees at Schoenbrunn Meadow Cemetery next year. Superintendent Herron noted that the deer have damaged several of the new trees and said that a more deer-resistant tree may be needed. Troy Pallotto said that there's a new deer repellant tape on the market that may help.

OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Herron said that he applied for a $3,000 Ohio Department of Commerce grant in May to help with the cost of demolition of the old caretaker's building at East Avenue Cemetery. He received word that our application was denied but will apply again next year. The next deadline is May 24, 2024.

Herron is also working to apply for a grant through the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for the historical marker at the Donahey family burial site. He has asked Tom Adamich for help with the historical research on the Donahey stone. Mayor Day suggested that Jon Baker at the Times Reporter be contacted as well for any historical information that the newspaper can provide. The board members discussed how the grant application may be worded to include the implementation of the plans for the caretaker's building area. Grant applications are due December 12th.

Two plaques have been ordered for the brick pillars at Schoenbrunn Meadow Cemetery commemorating the opening date of the cemetery and the 2021 board members.

The funds for the demolition of the caretakers' building have been included in the Cemetery Department's budget requests for next year.

Lot sales continue to be average, with sales coming in mostly on an as-needed basis.

Rich Geib told the board that Linn Hert Geib Funeral Home is at 70% cremation this year, which is in line with the forecasted numbers for cremations. The board members discussed burial space options as the number of cremations continues to increase over the number of traditional burials. Superintendent Herron noted that he is seeing that many people still want in-ground burials for cremations, and it may be possible to create a section with smaller plots for urns. It was mentioned that once the caretaker's building is down at East Avenue, Phase 2 of the Cemetery's Master Plan includes additional columbarium space at that site and something similar could be done at Fair Avenue when the time comes.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m. on a motion by Ron McAbier and second by Tim Halter.

Jami Bailey, Administrative Assistant

10/12/23