

**Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Indian Trail Meeting Hall, 113 E. Moore Street**  
**September 25, 2024, 2:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Larry Ashley, Jason Robbins, Lynne Geiman, Tish Hatem, David Miller, Andrew Parks

**Staff Liaison:** Allayna Dail

**Board of Aldermen Liaison:** Marc Spencer

**Absent:** Musette Steck, Tom Stanley, Jessie Labell

**Guests:** None

**A. Call to Order** -quorum determined. Meeting was called to order by Chaiman Ashley at 2:05 PM

**B. Welcome-** Chair welcomed David Miller to the Board

a. Public Comment: -None

**C. Old Business-**

a) Minutes- motion to approve 7/24/24 minutes by Andy, seconded by Tish. All ayes. Motion carried.

b) Aldermen Actions

- i. Aldermen approved the Cemetery Committee's Mission Statement
- ii. Aldermen were advised that Veteran Boards at Northwood should be removed as they were very outdated and in poor condition. Signs have been removed.
- iii. Aldermen were advised that the committee wants to replace signage in Northwood Cemetery.
- iv. Loss of ETJ status will not have an impact on Cemetery Committee ordinance regarding board membership qualifications for applicants.

c) Public Services

- i. Fence has been completed along Fodale and Mitchell. Discussion about using current survey and shoot a line for a fence in the back to protect the cemetery as well as for a possible columbarium area.

**D. New Business**

a) John Smith Cemetery

- i. Gravestone damage- Andy updated committee on damages from mowing.
- ii. Larry and Andy discussed the area with unmarked graves in the rear of the cemetery. Granite 6x6 graves markers will not be mowed as they will be slightly elevated in the soil. Area will be weed wacked by John Smith board.
- iii. Question was raised about an agreement with the city and John Smith Cemetery. If formal agreement doesn't exist, should there be one?

b) Northwood Cemetery

- i. From our \$5000 budget, we need to start replacing signs. Large sign outside gate should be smaller and in compliance with new city sign standardization. Lane signs need to be replaced, perhaps taller and with new poles. Noted that roads were paved about 12 years ago.

c) Discussion of Modifications to the Cemetery Ordinance – things to consider:

Trees need an arborist. Tree roots are pulling up roots and disturbing stones.

Much standing water in Northwood after storms. Larry will draft a message to the Board of Aldermen that the cemeteries be considered in city drainage plans.

Revise fee structure.

No whirly -jigs, lights and the like on graves.

Part of ordinance should allow for the right to go on grave site to take down dangerous tree and prune shrubs as needed.

All shrubs should have shallow as opposed to deep roots.

No Palm trees allowed to be planted.

Allowance for future columbarium – 75% of people are now looking to cremation.

There should be an employee to do cemetery inspections (footings, disposal of flowers, flattening of excess soil). Larry will send Aldermen an email concerning the need for a cemetery supervisor/inspector.

d) Future meeting schedule – There will be a meeting on 10/23, 11/20, but no December meeting.

**Comments:** No additional comments by Board, Staff or Aldermen Liaison

**Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn made by Lynne, Seconded by Tish. All ayes.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:40

Next meeting 10/23/24/24

Minutes taken by Lynne Geiman, Recording Secretary