



Cemetery Commission Meeting Agenda

September 23, 2021, 4:30 PM

MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM AND
IN PERSON AT 645 PINE ST FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM

When: Sep 23, 2021 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Cemetery Commission

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Webinar ID: 853 0593 1084

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Approval of Minutes from 7/15/2021 Meeting
- III. Public Forum
- IV. Lakeview Office Repair – report from previous meeting and discussion
- V. Green Burial Subcommittee Update
- VI. Staff/Director Items
- VII. Commissioner Items
- VIII. Adjournment



Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021, 4:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Rita Church, Jennifer Diaz, Nancy Kirby, Alexandra Millar, Mary Wesley

Staff Present: Cindi Wight – BPRW Director, Holli Bushnell – Cemetery Staff

Public Present: Jason Stuffle – Old East Enders/Greenmount Volunteer

Meeting was called to order at 4:38pm by Jennifer Diaz

I. Approval of the Agenda

Nancy Kirby moved to approve the agenda, Diaz seconded, all were in favor

II. Approval of Minutes from 7/15/2021

Kirby moved to approve the minutes, Diaz seconded, all were in favor

III. Public Forum

Public forum was opened at 4:39pm

Jason Stuffle, a member/leader of the Old East Enders volunteer group, reports that he trained a couple of volunteers to clean stones over the last weekend and is happy to report that they'll be back again this fall and later this spring. He also reported on the state of Greenmount. The loop road at Greenmount are extremely treacherous and needs some leveling. The grass has only been mown twice by the city this year, and to clean stones he has to weed whack around them first. There are trees down that were not removed promptly by the trees team. Stuffle is hoping to figure out how to improve regular maintenance at Greenmount. He states that it's used in the neighborhood as a park, not just a cemetery, and he wants to have a better plan in place for next year. He asked if BPRW can mow Greenmount when they're mowing Schmanska Park. Finally, Stuffle reported that he has been working VOCA (Vermont Old Cemeteries Association), hoping to do a work day to do repairs on monuments that are split or damaged next summer.

Kirby added that the tree blocking the path was chopped up but not removed – it was left on the ground next to a monument and some was thrown over the side of the embankment. There is still debris there and it's obstructing monuments. Kirby asked if a fence could be installed behind the cemetery if dumping is going to continue. Cindi Wight confirmed that wood should be removed going forward. Kirby reiterated her worry that others will dump things that aren't supposed to be there down the embankment.

Public forum was closed at 4:50pm

IV. Green Burial Subcommittee update

Mary Wesley reported that the subcommittee hasn't reconvened, but will be meeting again soon. The next meeting, hopefully in October, will pick back up where they left off after the first meeting. Over the last month, two students have prepared a report and the subcommittee will review it at this next meeting. Additionally, Martha Dallas has asked to join the subcommittee. Martha is a



celebrant and participates in end of life/after death work. Overall, the subcommittee is working towards clarifying questions and looking to identify short and long term goals/steps.

Alexandra Millar added that in the first meeting, the subcommittee introduced themselves, share their interests in the subject matter, and brainstormed a few ideas. The subcommittee decided to lean on what the students produced to determine our next steps. They will be looking at different options as a group before going forward.

V. Lakeview Office Repair Review

Holli Bushnell provided the committee with a recap of the details of the report by Jay White provided to the commission at the last meeting.

Diaz asked to add insulation in the meeting room.

Cindi Wight provided the commission with a status update. Staff will be meeting with Jay at the end of the month. There is approximately \$100,000 allocated towards this project, and the plan is to focus on protecting the building. \$100,000 is not a lot of money, so we'll need to get more funds. Wight also reports that White also checked out the chapel and just sent a report on the work that needs to be done there. We'll be reviewing that report at a future meeting.

VI. Staff/Director Items

Bushnell updated the commission on a few upcoming events. Queen City Ghostwalk will be returning to Lakeview for 8 dates in the month of October. These dates are split into 2 different tours – the traditional Lakeview tour, and a new event called Fright By Flashlight which is specifically for families and younger attendees. Thea Lewis informed Bushnell that she'll be giving a brief talk at the beginning of her tours on how to be respectful of the cemetery.

Veterans Day has been proposed as the interment dates for the War of 1812 Veterans that are set to be interred in the recently installed crypt at the cemetery entrance. More details will be provided on this when they are forthcoming. Finally, Bushnell was contacted by Sean Moran, an actor living locally with longstanding ties to the community. He offered to help raise funds for the Lakeview office repair by putting on a performance of *Nunsense*.

VII. Commissioner Items

Wesley reports that Millar signed the two of them up to attend the "New Life for Old Cemeteries" conference. It will be a virtual event featuring other cemeteries that have taken steps to hybridize with other park spaces and showcasing and highlighting climate positive practices. They will likely report about it at the November meeting.

Rita Church reports that Lakeview looked great over Labor Day. One comment she heard from visitors was that there were no garbage barrels. Rita asked if Wight could look into when those might be coming. Millar asked what happened to the old metal drum trash bins and wondered if we're moving away from using those to collect plant matter. All agreed that providing signage to indicate compost areas would be helpful to get people to put their compost in the right location.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 by Diaz