

Minutes of Fairmont Cemetery Board Meeting
City of San Angelo, Texas
Fairmount Cemetery Office
1120 West Avenue N
9:30 A.M. – January 17, 2024

After posting the required legal notice, Fairmount Cemetery Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Members present were: Kam Stribling, President, Donna Crisp, Vice President, Eva Choate, Susan Mertz, Amy Deadman, Ann West, Angela Williams, Cora McGowan, Kay Rork and Beverly Stribling, Recording Secretary. Members absent were: Jackie Martin, Tina Bean, Martha Visney and Rebecca White. Also absent was ex-officio member Courtney Mahaffey.

Additional attendees were Jeremy Walker, Fairmount Cemetery Manager and invited guests, Brian Gross and Lorelei Day from COSA 's Public Relations Dept.

The meeting was called to order by President Kam Stribling at 9:33 a.m.

Kam called for Public Comment:

Steve Milton and Charles Westbrook reminded the Board that the celebration of San Jacinto Day was coming up on April 12, 2024. They said that the celebration in Fairmount was endorsed by and attended by members of the Daughters of the Republic, the Sons of the Republic and the Tom Green County Historical Commission. They were both concerned that our current flag policy of allowing only sanctioned USA flags in the cemetery would impair the celebration to the point of necessitating the cancellation of the event. They said that during the celebration, they might fly as many as 12 different Republic of Texas flags, none of which would meet our policy standards.

Minutes of the December meeting were distributed. Kam called for approval. Donna Crisp moved and Beverly Stribling seconded their approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Brian Gross and Lorelei Day presented ideas for ways to promote Fairmount Cemetery, its history and sales of its graves and columbaria niches. Brian suggested advertising Historic Fairmount Cemetery's history. Ideas which resulted from his meeting with the Board's committee (Ann West, Susan Mertz, Cora McGowan) and from other members of the Board were:

That we create a new video to run on the City's channel.

Market the columbaria niches letting buyers know what is available and how many are available.

To personalize videos, we should feature Board members in them

Focus on the specific areas of Fairmount such as The Gridiron, Greek Orthodox, veterans and Pleasantview

We should air a Stones and Bones explanation/feature with school children in it and consider sharing the curriculum through the COSA website.

Jeremy Walker, Fairmount manager, reported on income and expenses (see attached). He reiterated that our damage policy is to repair the headstones we break while all other damage to headstones is the responsibility of the families. Kam appointed Angela Williams to write a policy for us to present to the legal department for approval. The policy should address assessing responsibility for damage, parameters for repair and our policy regarding replacement.

Susan Mertz reported that past minutes and records of Fairmount Board Meetings are now being kept at ASU's West Texas Collection. She is hoping that students at ASU can qualify for grants to research histories of people buried at Fairmount and the Starks Funeral Home records. She suggested we look into the use of QR codes on monuments and markers.

Kam reported that the Friends of Fairmount Board would be meeting February 7 in the board room at First Financial Bank at 12:00 noon. Ed Yale has expressed an interest in serving on their board.

Kam asked for future agenda items. Suggestions were:

San Jacinto celebration flags, a markers damage policy report from Angela, cemetery benches, and the fence.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Stribling, Recording Secretary