

Fairmount Cemetery Board of Directors Minutes
Regular Meeting, June 18th, 2014

The Fairmount Cemetery Board of Directors met Wednesday, June 18th, 2014 at the Fairmount Cemetery office. Members present were Angela Williams, Beverly Stribling, Eva Choate, Jackie Martin, Ann West, Mary Jane Steadman, Kay Rork, Susan Mertz, Donna Crisp and Katie Johnson. Oscar Mota, Rick Stinnett, and Sydney Wegner from the Standard Times were also present.

Jackie Martin called the meeting to order at 9:30am. There was no public comment. Minutes of the May 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Rick Stinnett, executor of Mary Petty's estate, was in attendance to discuss a missing marker issue on Mary's gravesite. Rick began by giving an overview of events leading up to Mary Petty's death and prepaid funeral arrangements that had been made by the deceased. Mary's husband passed away in 1976, at which time, Mary purchased "2 burial spaces and 2 headstones." This exact verbiage was handwritten on the deed given to Mrs. Petty by the cemetery office. Rick presented a copy of the city deed, which confirms this purchase. However, the purchase price listed for 2 headstones is \$90; which would not cover the cost of 2 headstones even in 1976. In 2004, Mary prepaid all of her own funeral expenses to Johnson's Funeral Home according to her records. She told Rick he would only have to pay for a minister; the rest was taken care of. Rick presented a handwritten note dated September 8, 2014 that Mary had written stating the marker was paid for even if the prices increased. Mary's funeral took place on February 7th, 2014. A few months later, Rick went to go visit her grave. He assumed the headstone would be there. Upon inquiring about the headstone, he was told further research would need to be conducted as the cemetery has never been in the monument selling business. Perhaps the \$90 fee was to cover marker survey fees instead of 2 actual headstones and the wrong verbiage had been used. Rick was advised to bring the matter before the board. After his presentation, the board asked Mr. Stinnett a few questions. Did Johnson's Funeral Home have any record of a headstone purchase? Rick said they had the same documentation as he did. Did Birk Monument, who supplied the headstone for her husband's gravesite, have any record of 2 headstones being purchased, either by Mary Petty personally or through the cemetery? They did not have any records. Rick stated that he has subsequently ordered a headstone for Mrs. Petty but out of principle, would like the cemetery to acknowledge a mistake had been made and that they did indeed owe Mrs. Petty a marker. The board thanked Mr. Stinnett for bringing the matter to their attention and told him the board would consider his request.

Oscar Mota reviewed the financial reports for May 2014. Oscar stated that as of the end of May, the cemetery was \$12,333.00 ahead of budget according to the city blue book page. During the month of May, the cemetery had 4 regular funerals and 2 cremains funerals. Oscar also sold 3 containers and 6 spaces during the month. During the month, 7 additional dead juniper trees were removed bringing the total to 181 dead trees removed so far. Oscar stated that all water spigots throughout the cemetery now have locks on them. Signs also have been posted advising the public that watering with cemetery water is prohibited. Repair to 42 sunken graves due to heavy rains in May has been made. Finally, Oscar reported that the funeral homes have paid up their Accounts Payable to the cemetery and these figures will be represented as income in June.

Oscar met with the city budget committee to present his 2014-2015 budget. He has estimated revenue of \$367,432.00 as compared to \$344,282.00 for the current year. Built into the budget is an increase in funerals, lot sales and container sales. He stated the meeting went well and his budget numbers were well received.

Donna Crisp reported on the progress for the revision of the columbaria design. She stated that David Knapp is redrawing the design with the committee's new requests. One side of the columbaria will contain 2 sizes of niches and the backside will just contain the 8"x8" sizes. Once the drawing is complete, the board will receive a copy.

Ann West reported for Friends of Fairmount. Ann reported that 2000 membership brochures have been mailed out. Susan Mertz and Linda Berry spoke with Steve Gill, with SAISD, about expanding the Stones and Bones project to additional schools in the coming year. The project was approved by SAISD and the project will expand to a total of 4-5 schools next year. Angelo Catholic School is also interested in participating in the program. Ann West also reported that she was very well received at the Goodfellow Volunteer fair and was told she could receive 10-15 volunteers to help with maintenance upkeep at the cemetery office to include sanding, repainting etc. More follow-up on logistics including supervision by city employees will be needed.

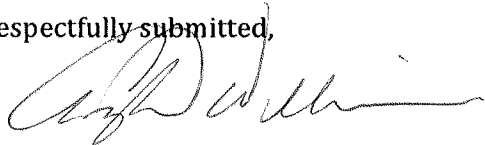
The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 to allow the board to go into Executive Session to discuss the Mary Petty marker issue.

The regular session of the cemetery board meeting was reconvened at 10:50am. After review of documents provided by Mr. Stinnett, a motion was made by Mary Jane Steadman to have Birk Monument reimburse Mr. Stinnett the full amount he paid for Mrs. Petty's headstone. In turn, the cemetery, acting in good faith, based on the wording of the deed given to Mrs. Petty at the time of purchase, and the lack of evidence to the contrary, would purchase a like headstone to be placed at Mrs. Petty's gravesite. Katie Johnson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Nominations were made to replace Bitsy Stone on the Fairmount Board. Eva Horton would contact the person nominated for acceptance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela D. Williams', written in a cursive style.

Angela D. Williams, Secretary
