



City of Plymouth

Cemetery Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

City of Plymouth
201 S. Main
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Hess called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees Don Hess, Pat Grzywacz, Harold Read, and Arne Giummo

Excused: Trustee Barb Solterman

Also present: Department of Municipal Services staff and City Commission Liaison Linda Filipczak

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Andy Zazula of 1365 W. Ann Arbor Trail mentioned he's a member of "find a grave" website, where burial location, family history, pictures of grave sites, etc., can be found. There is also a GPS feature to help locate graves. He also asked if the City can have an intern or someone to help the office keep records. Gerlach explained it's been tricky to find the correct GIS software and in addition the labor. Zazula explained he coordinated the work detail crews to clean up cemetery grounds.

Bob Bake of 1303 Park Place inquired if any current board member have family members buried at Riverside Cemetery. Grzywacz confirmed she does. Bake thought new board members should have family members laid to rest at Riverside.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

Giummo offered a motion, seconded by Hess, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Grzywacz offered a motion, seconded by Hess, to approve the agenda for May 23, 2022.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Grzywacz offered a motion, seconded by Giummo, to recommend Hess as Chairman.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

6. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Grzywacz asked about the poor road conditions within the Cemetery and asked if grant dollars would be available for improvements. Gerlach stated grants could be researched. He explained that the recent estimate to cap the roadways was \$525,000. He also explained that the Hilltop Development proposed at the adjacent former Courthouse Grill site was a potential opportunity to have the roadways resurfaced. Andy Zazula inquired about receiving any COVID dollars from the State. Gerlach believed if any money was still available that it wouldn't be much.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Cemetery rates

The Board discussed the proposed changes including price increases for graves, opening and closing of graves, crypts and niches, and the impact of Saturday funerals.

Hess asked if the proposed rate increases would cover costs. Gerlach explained that the fees do not cover costs, which is why we have two tiers of rates for resident and non-resident status.

Giummo asked how many graves are available. Gerlach explained there is quite a bit of capacity remaining in Blocks K, O, M, and L.

Guimmo offered a motion, seconded by Read, to approve changes to the cemetery rates, as presented.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

b) Cemetery rules

The Board discussed the proposed changes which include:

- Change "mother and baby" to "parent and baby" under Interments or Disinterments subsection #2
- Add language to Interments or Disinterments subsection #6 for the number of cremains and full-body entombments for niches and crypts
- Add "bronze" under Definitions #7 to monument material

The Board discussed the pros and cons of plastic, silk, and fresh flowers. Grzywacz was interested in having niches and crypt decorations removed after a certain time. Hess explained it would be hard to enforce.

Grzywacz offered a motion, seconded by Read, to approve changes to the cemetery rules, as presented.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 3-1

c) Mausoleum Niche Options

The Board was presented with three options to consider the dwindling supply of niches. The Board discussed and preferred option #2.

Hess offered a motion, seconded by Grzywacz, to approve Option #2: the pursuit of retrofitting existing crypts in the Riverside Garden Mausoleum to be converted into niches for sale to the public.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 4-0

9. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

a) Lawn contractor update

Gerlach explained that a new contractor was brought on after the previous contractor quit at the beginning of the season and the new contractor is meeting expectations.

b) Cemetery walk through

Board members and staff walked through the cemetery grounds.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Read offered a motion, seconded by Grzywacz, to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

There was a voice vote.

MOTION PASSED 4-0