



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The **Clay Street Cemetery Commission** convened at 5:00 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Chair Aldean Kilbourn presiding and with the following members in attendance:

Members Present:                   George Dalton, Seat A  
  Frank Turney, Seat D  
  Julie Jones, Seat E (arrived at 5:22 p.m.)  
  Karen Erickson, Seat F  
  David Erickson, Seat G

Absent:                               Michael Gibson, Seat B

Also Present:                       Emily Braniff, Deputy City Clerk  
  Jeff Jacobson, Director of Public Works  
  John Voytilla, Citizen

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Ms. Erickson**, seconded by **Mr. Dalton**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda.

**Mr. Turney** stated he had the following items to add to the agenda: the leaves in the Elks Section, the broken James Stewart bench, the grass on the headstones, Mary Pedro, an update on Private John White, and dirt.

**Chair Kilbourn** called for objection to APPROVING the Agenda, as Amended and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

### CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

John Voytilla stated the new stones at the cemetery look nice, and he asked where all of the old wooden headboards were. **Chair Kilbourn** replied there are about seven or eight of them that have been restored and replaced at the cemetery.

Hearing no more requests for comments, **Chair Kilbourn** declared Public Testimony closed.

### COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

**Chair Kilbourn** spoke to the need to have benches placed at the cemetery for people to sit on while they visit.

**Ms. Erickson**, seconded by **Mr. Erickson**, moved that Public Works research the cost of placing benches at the cemetery.

**Chair Kilbourn** called for objection, and hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Chair Kilbourn** thanked Ms. Jones for planting flowers in the boxes at the cemetery.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) New Markers from Chair Kilbourn's Research

**Chair Kilbourn** stated there are so many unmarked graves; she stated that it makes it difficult to make sense of where everything is.

b) Update on David Inman's Eagle Scout Project

*Mr. Inman had not yet arrived at the meeting when this item came up on the agenda; the item was discussed at the end of Unfinished Business.*

c) Leaves on Graves in the Elks Section

**Mr. Turney** stated the leaves need to get picked up before the snow falls so the grass does not rot under them. Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson stated he is aware of the issue but that he will wait to dispatch his staff until all the leaves have fallen.

d) James Stewart Broken Bench

**Mr. Turney** asked Mr. Jacobson to pick up the pieces to the Jimmy Stewart bench and place them in the shed for storage. Mr. Jacobson stated he would have his staff attend to the bench.

e) Grass Clippings Covering Headstones in the Cemetery

**Mr. Turney** stated there are lawn clippings all over the headstones. Mr. Jacobson stated the employee performing the work has been instructed to slow down when caring for the cemetery.

f) Mary Pedro

**Mr. Turney** expressed his concern that the Fanano, Italy visitors do not come to visit Mary Pedro's grave. Mr. Jacobson stated the Commission cannot do anything to force the visitors to visit her grave. **Mr. Turney** stated he is going to write a letter to the News Miner to bring attention to the fact that Mary Pedro is not being honored by the Italian visitors.

g) Update on Private John White

**Mr. Erickson** stated he would continue to look into the VA refurbishing Private John White's grave marker. **Mr. Turney** spoke to the importance of Private John White's headstone being replaced.

h) Dirt

**Mr. Turney** requested that Public Works place tarps on the two dirt piles at the cemetery. Mr. Jacobson stated the dirt will not expire, but if a tarp is placed over the piles, the cemetery would look like a junk yard.

**Chair Kilbourn** thanked Mr. Jacobson for having dirt delivered to the cemetery. She stated the dirt was placed there for Coleman but that the weather got too bad for him to work. She stated he will be using it at a future date.

*David Inman arrived to speak to the progress of his Eagle Scout Project at the cemetery.*

Mr. Inman stated he has listed most of the graves and that he has one more row to do before they can grid it on the computer. He stated he is working in all four sections and that he has uncovered several markers that seemed to have been buried in the grass. **Chair Kilbourn** and **Mr. Turney** thanked Mr. Inman for all of the work he has been doing at the cemetery.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a) Cemetery Records done by CETA Project and the Downtown Association

**Ms. Erickson** spoke to missing records of the cemetery, and she asked for suggestions as to how to find more information. She shared old photos of the cemetery perimeters.

- b) 1932 Clay Street Cemetery Map

**Ms. Erickson** spoke to the importance of locating missing "Box #10" which contained cemetery records.

- c) Discussion on whether Public Works has any Historic Records of the Cemetery

Mr. Jacobson stated that Public Works does not have any historic records at its facility.

### NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Regular Meeting of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission is scheduled for October 4, 2017.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Ms. Jones**, seconded by **Mr. Dalton**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

**Chair Kilbourn** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Chair Kilbourn** declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



Aldean Kilbourn, Chair



Emily Braniff, Deputy Clerk

Transcribed by: EB