



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2, 2020
HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE (459-6769) AND
IN 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, and via teleconference with Chair Aldean Kilbourn (Seat C) presiding (telephonically) and with the following members in attendance:

Members Present: George Dalton, Seat A (telephonic)
 Kristina Heredia, Seat D (telephonic)
 Julie Jones, Seat E (telephonic)
 Karen Erickson, Seat F (telephonic)
 Victoria Dowling, Seat G (telephonic)
 Jeff Jacobson, PW Director & Ex-Officio Member (telephonic)

Absent: Michael Gibson, Seat B
 Julie Jones, Seat E

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2020

Ms. Erickson, seconded by **Ms. Dowling**, moved to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2020.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the meeting minutes, and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kilbourn called for changes to the agenda and heard none.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

Chair Kilbourn stated that she had received a call from a friend of Frank Turney, Brian Beal, he is a member of VFW, and he expressed a desire to help with the cemetery. **Chair Kilbourn** informed him that there would not be any work completed until after the snow melts. **Chair Kilbourn** also requested that if his name is discovered to please pass that information along to her.

Chair Kilbourn stated that she had not received a response to her letter sent to the Pioneer Igloo #4 Foundation.

EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chair Kilbourn stated that she has not received an update regarding Frank Turney's memorial. Frank's son, Nathan, is currently in isolation. **Chair Kilbourn** reflected upon the previous discussion for the memorial plaque and stated that it will be installed on the shed when weather is better. **Ms. Erickson** requested that the minutes reflect that the plaque was discussed and that the commission include Nathan in the plans regarding the plans for a memorial. **Chair Kilbourn** indicated that she is communicating often with Nathan in this matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) 2020 Bed Tax Grant Application

Chair Kilbourn received an email from Ms. Jones indicating she would be ready to give the Bed Tax Grant Presentation on December 15. Clerk Snider explained the process for this year's presentations, which includes a practice meeting to verify connectivity to Zoom on December 10 at 5:30 p.m. She stated this is to prepare for the live presentation on December 15 at 5:30 p.m. also via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Letter to Pioneer Igloo #4 Foundation

Chair Kilbourn stated that she sent a letter asking if they would give \$1,000 towards the purchase of up to five monuments for Pioneers that they can verify who are currently without markers. There has not been a response. **Ms. Erickson** stated that the Pioneers have not been meeting recently, and she is unsure if they would be willing to make a formal response without a meeting. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that it is stalled until there is a response from the Pioneers.

Chair Kilbourn went on to state the monument company was in possession of the order, but they had not yet sent a confirmation receipt to verify correctness.

OPEN AGENDA

Ms. Erickson wished to discuss the item in the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting referencing Joanie Skilbred's biography write-ups on the rotary members who are interred in the Clay Street Cemetery. **Ms. Erickson** suggested that the commission look into contacting the Rotary for more information. She was not sure if there would be an application process to obtain member information.

Chair Kilbourn clarified that there was a misunderstanding and explained that the suggestion was made at **Chair Kilbourn's** desire to provide visitors of the cemetery information about the people buried on the grounds, and it did not involve the Rotary. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that Joanie Skilbred had provided biographies in the past about individuals interred at the cemetery, which had been read at the Rotary meetings. The suggestion was about doing more of these biographies about the residents of the cemetery. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that she would like each member of

the commission to conduct research and provide a short, 250-300-word biography on an individual buried at the cemetery. She stated that she had wanted to, but did not, send out examples because no one, except for Mr. Gibson, had requested a sample or expressed interest in participating. Mr. Gibson was unable to participate currently due to his pending surgery.

Ms. Erickson stated that the names she had previously received from the Chair had no information that she could locate. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that she was able to get issues of the Nenana Daily Tribune from 1919 and 1920, which she's been scanning, date by date, looking for names that coincide with those in the Clay Street Cemetery that died in Nenana. She went on to state that while there is not a lot of information, they have found a little with the help of Janet Richardson. **Ms. Erickson** expressed interest in receiving more names to research. **Chair Kilbourn** asked if the other members were interested in participating in the project. **Mr. Dalton** indicated he would be interested in doing the research, and **Ms. Dowling** stated she would be willing to do the writing if the facts were given to her. **Ms. Heredia** stated she would be willing to write but was concerned about her lack of historical knowledge. **Ms. Erickson** requested that Chair Kilbourn provide an example so that they could better understand her vision for the project. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that she would send the example and names of the interred to the other members.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Regular Meeting of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

Ms. Heredia stated that she would be available as long as the meeting was held remotely; however, she will be returning from out of state and required to quarantine during that time if a physical meeting was required. **Chair Kilbourn** indicated that would not be an issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kilbourn, seconded by **Ms. Heredia**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting. **Chair Kilbourn** declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:16 p.m.



Aldean Kilbourn, Chair



D. Danyelle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: RR