



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2021
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: Kristina Heredia, Seat D (telephonic)
Julie Jones, Seat E (telephonic)
Karen Erickson, Seat F (telephonic)
Jeff Jacobson, PW Director & Ex-Officio Member (telephonic)

Absent: George Dalton, Seat A
Michael Gibson, Seat B
Victoria Dowling, Seat G

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Rochelle Rodak, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020.

Ms. Erickson, seconded by **Ms. Jones**, moved to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020.

Chair Kilbourn, seconded by **Ms. Erickson**, moved to AMEND the minutes by adding the name “Brian Beal” where the minutes noted “a friend of Frank Turney.”

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Erickson, seconded by **Ms. Jones**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

Ms. Erickson, seconded by **Ms. Jones**, moved to AMEND the agenda by adding Frank Turney’s Memorial to the Open Agenda.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the agenda, as Amended, and all members voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

Chair Kilbourn stated the Pioneer Igloo #4 Foundation has not been holding meetings, and that is why she has not received a response on the request for assistance in purchasing monuments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 2020 Bed Tax Grant Application

Ms. Jones shared that the grant application presentation with the Hotel Motel Discretionary Fund Commission went very well. She stated that it was held both via Zoom and in Council Chambers, and she had attended in person. **Ms. Jones** indicated that her testimony went longer than the allotted time and that she was disappointed she was unable to wrap it up with a bow. The recommended amount to be awarded to the Commission is \$7,567.00, pending approval by the City Council on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Ms. Erickson thanked Ms. Jones for her work in the application and presentation process.

Chair Kilbourn expressed her appreciation for Ms. Jones.

Ms. Jones thanked the City Clerk for aligning the Festival Fairbanks and the Clay Street Cemetery Commission testimonies back to back. She stated that she was not aware if it was intentional, however, it is helpful because she also presents for the Festival Fairbanks application. **Ms. Jones** continued by saying she enjoys the process and the opportunity to meet the other non-profit groups and the people that are doing great things for Fairbanks.

Mr. Jacobson noted that Yukon Quest was absent from the award list and asked if they had missed the application deadline, failed to meet guidelines or declined to apply.

Ms. Jones stated that she believed it was due to a missed deadline because of new management.

City Clerk Snider responded that they could have missed the deadline, or they could be one of the organizations that have opted to save their funds from 2020 to be used in events in 2021. Due to the pandemic many of them were not able to hold their events and because that the City has made a special allowance to allow those organizations to hold on to those funds to be used in 2021.

Chair Kilbourn clarified that if the grant funds were awarded, the Commission could begin planning for monuments that may take until the following year to be installed. She asked for clarification in regard to the availability of the grant funds.

Ms. Jones stated that the Commission has applied for the funds, but they have not yet been awarded. She continued to say that it is very unusual for the City Council not to approve the recommendation of the Hotel Motel Discretionary Fund Committee, and once the City Council approves the award it will be deposited into the Clay Street Cemetery Commission account. The Commission would have until December of 2021 to spend those funds.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Bed Tax Grant Funds for Monument Repair

Ms. Erickson stated that she would like to see some of the grant funds used to repair some of the existing markers. She mentioned the obelisk located in the third or fourth row of the north-east section of the cemetery that has been separated from its base for many years. **Ms. Erickson**

continued by giving suggestions to the use of Ms. Jones' adhesive or other repair work, indicating that she would like to see that marker restored. She noted that the marker belonged to a Mr. Sam Agazaroff, a Teamster who was bringing a load of cord wood in on the Old Steese Highway when his horse bolted, threw him from the wagon, and he was crushed to death.

Chair Kilbourn stated that she believed the marker to have been written in Russian and thought he may be on the list to receive an entirely new marker. She continued by confirming Ms. Erickson's concern for the several markers that are broken completely from their base. **Chair Kilbourn** stated it was her understanding that the Commission had done a thorough walkthrough and taken notes on markers that needed to be fixed, and those on the North side are scheduled to be completed this summer.

Ms. Erickson stated that she had not been aware of that plan and appreciated the information and discussion. **Chair Kilbourn** shared she had walked the north side of the cemetery with Mr. Dalton and Janet Richardson in the later part of the summer to make comparisons and write notes. **Ms. Jones** asked Chair Kilbourn to supply the Commission with a copy of the list of planned repairs for the next meeting so that a record could be kept tracking the accomplishment of goals.

Chair Kilbourn stated that it was a possibility. She also mentioned a concern for the 8-12 flat, unmarked concrete markers or bases with no information on them and the desire to provide those with new markers that could be attached directly to the existing concrete.

Ms. Jones clarified her request by stating that it would be helpful to have a list of the monuments that need repaired due to chips or being broken but will survive. She stated that her intent is to keep an ongoing record of repaired monuments so that if a Commission member misses a meeting the minutes will reflect the progress of the repairs made. **Chair Kilbourn** affirmed that could be done.

Ms. Erickson indicated that the expense should not be too high and asked if Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson would walk the grounds with the Commission members later this summer to see if some of those repairs might be done by the City. **Mr. Jacobson** stated that with guidance this would be possible. **Ms. Erickson** suggested that a tour of the cemetery with Mr. Jacobson be added to the May 2021 agenda. **Mr. Jacobson** confirmed that would be a great idea and that the more Public Works can do to help reduce the cost, the better. **Chair Kilbourn** agreed that would be a great idea and asked Deputy Clerk Rodak to note the meeting to be held in May will be at the Clay Street Cemetery.

OPEN AGENDA

a) Frank Turney's Memorial

Mr. Jacobson stated that he had already scheduled an appointment with Ms. Jones to decide on where to place Mr. Turney's memorial. He stated they scheduled to meet on May 6; however, it would make sense to move that to the regular meeting on May 5, 2021 that will be at the cemetery. **Ms. Erickson** stated that this was a great idea. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that it should be noted to meet at the shed where Frank Turney's plaque will be mounted at 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2021 for the regularly scheduled meeting.

b) Research and Stories for Those Interred at the Cemetery

Ms. Jones stated that she had not finished the research on the individual she had been assigned by Chair Kilbourn and wanted to give a gentle reminder to the other members to keep this project in mind.

Ms. Erickson stated that she has still be unable to find any new information for the individual she had been assigned. She continued by stating that there was nothing to write except the basic facts of his death. **Chair Kilbourn** suggested checking newspapers for more information.

Ms. Erickson stated that she had checked the newspaper; however, she did not think it was germane to write that the man had stayed at the Nordale Hotel. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that many of these types of histories read in that manner. **Ms. Erickson** indicated that she did not see any value in that information and would not be participating in that type of writing.

Chair Kilbourn explained that there had been a request for information regarding an individual interred at the cemetery, and the Commission was able to provide a picture of the hotel that the person had stayed at to the requesting relative. She went on to share that the person requesting the information had been extremely excited to see where his relative had stayed in the 1910s. **Chair Kilbourn** stated that she felt this information was of real interest to a lot of people.

Ms. Erickson stated that if there were pictures attached to the research she was conducting she would save that; however, the research she has done has given minimal results with the individual being casually mentioned with six or seven other individuals listed. She restated that she did not consider this necessary information.

Ms. Jones suggested that Ms. Erickson report back that there was not substantial information and perhaps move on to another name. She continued by suggesting that Chair Kilbourn retain that name for another person to provide the written commentary. **Ms. Jones** ended by saying that it was the Commission's intention to do this project and wanted to provide the gentle reminder for the members to keep it in mind.

Ms. Erickson asked for clarification regarding the Rotary request for information. **Chair Kilbourn** clarified that the Rotary had been given as an example; however, this project was for the Clay Street Cemetery Commission to provide a brochure or a notebook for tourists to find information about the people buried at the cemetery.

Ms. Heredia stated that she had been unable to locate any additional information on the name she had been provided other than that provided from Chair Kilbourn. She mentioned that she had received suggestions to contact Ron with the Tanana Historical Society.

Ms. Jones suggested members use a subscription service through newspapers.com and spoke to the entertainment she has received from reading those articles.

Ms. Erickson suggested FamilySearch.org, which is a free website.

c) Technical Request

Ms. Jones stated that with every conference call meeting the Commission had held, she has had no trouble hearing the members, but the Clerk is very quiet and hard to hear. Others confirmed they also have a hard time hearing the Clerk.

Deputy Clerk Rodak stated that she would speak up and move closer to the microphone in the future.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Regular Meeting of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Ms. Erickson indicated that she will not be in town during that time and that she could participate by phone; however, it may be best if the Commission ensure a quorum is in attendance in the event of her absence.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Erickson, seconded by **Ms. Jones**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting. **Chair Kilbourn** declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:27 p.m.



Aldean Kilbourn, Chair



Rochelle Rodak, Deputy Clerk II

Transcribed by: RR