

City of Jacksonville
Cemetery Commission
Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting, January 6, 2020
New Jacksonville City Hall

1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Siedlecki at 4:35 p.m.

Those in attendance were Chair Siedlecki, members Visser, Athnas, Anderson, Carr, Cemetery Sexton Richard Shields, Jacksonville Operations Manager Max Woody and City Council Liaison Bowen. Absent was member Levin.

2) Chair welcomed and wished all a Happy New Year and brief introductions were made. Copies of the new FOJHC Civil War and Civil War Era brochure were made available as well as copies of the FOJHC January 2020 Newsletter being passed around.

3) No visitors in the audience therefore no public comment.

4) Follow-up items from the October 7, 2019 Commission Meeting

a) Photographs, before and after, of the restoration work on the Jacob Roudebush plot in the City Section were shared with the members. Liaison Bowen took copies to share with City Council.

b) Chair passed out copies of the "draft" letter that he prepared in regards to Morel hunters within the cemetery grounds. Members reviewed the letter and member Visser suggested adding something to address those who pick for profit. All in agreement that we should address that matter as well. Since meeting I have added the following: **Picking for Commercial use is prohibited** and shared the revised letter with the Commission and City representatives. Plan is to have letter placed in Jacksonville Review, posted around town and within cemetery grounds. City employee Eric Villarreal previously suggested posting signs within the cemetery grounds regarding the new rules which all agreed was a good suggestion.

c) A discussion was held regarding the need for help in caring for the cemetery grounds by individual section owners. Member Athnas representing the Improved Order of Red Men said that the closest Red Men organization is now in Corning and she is basically a one person show. She said she has asked for help in the past with no results but would try again by writing and requesting some assistance with caring for their section. Member Anderson who is new representative for the Catholic Section said that they plan to mow the large unused portion of their section as well as weed whacking other areas. Member Visser with the Jewish section commented that there was money available in their cemetery fund and that if the City has a crew from Community Justice clean their section they will reimburse the City. This same suggestion was offered by IOOF representative KC Carr who pointed out that this was done last year as well. Since member Levin was absent we were unable to receive any feedback from the Masonic Section but I will follow-up with them.

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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

Action/Discussion Items

- a) Chair reported on behalf of the FOJHC that the Fitt's Block in the Masonic Section will be a major restoration project in 2020. Demo of the block was started last fall 2019. Pictures of the block were shared with members.
- b) Chair reported that all the sectional Interpretive Panels are being replaced as a result of them starting to fail. They were placed back in 2004 with a 10 year life span which has been exceeded. The replacement panels are in production and will be placed in the spring. This is being paid for by the FOJHC.
- c) A new Cemetery map is being worked on and will be a part of the FOJHC Cemetery Kiosk project. Benchmark Maps of Medford is working on the design and layout.
- d) A mailbox has been added on the sign post (Rules & Regulations sign) just inside the cemetery gate containing copies of our Cemetery Rules & Regulations brochure. In addition to this new location, brochures are available at City Hall, the Cemetery Interpretive Center, by the restroom bulletin board and are provided when a plot is sold.
- e) We received a request from Karale Farschon on November 19, 2019 to place pavers on Block 119 plot 5 in the City Section. In fact this was already done before seeking approval from the Commission. Advised Ms. Farschon that the adjoining grave site would have to be covered with pavers and that they would have to be raised to be level with the existing curbing. They were given until June 1, 2020 to comply.
- f) A discussion was held with regard to the ongoing problem of gophers and digger squirrels and the damage they are doing. The grave sites and human remains being dug up, monuments being put at risk of falling over, holes and mounds of hard soil posing risk of injury to visitors, city workers and volunteers. A number of possible solutions were suggested such as closing the cemetery grounds while aggressive action is take, such as was done in Grants Pass. This would prevent possible injury to pets and also prevent people from opening traps and allowing caught rodents to escape.
- g) A similar discussion was held with regard to our problem with Star Thistle and Sweet Peas taking over much of the cemetery grounds. Spraying and the possible use of steam were discussed.
- 6) Chair thanked our City Liaison Bowen for being a part of the Commission and wished her well as Mike McClain will be joining us at our next meeting.
- 7) Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020 at 4:30 same location.
- 8) Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dirk J. Siedlecki