

**City of Jacksonville
Cemetery Commission
Meeting Notes**

Regular Meeting, April 8, 2019

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 Athnas, Carr, Carter, Visser, Sexton Shields, Liaison Bowen. Also attending was Jim Simpson who is the alternate Commission Member for the IOOF. Absent was Levin

2) Chair welcomed those present and Simpson was introduced.

3) No public comment

4) Follow-up items from the January 7, 2019 meeting items:

a) Additional safety reflectors have been added to both large entrance gates, both sides.

b) Both of the large metal boards next the gates require a second coat of black paint and the small man-gate at the entrance to the adjoining parking lot needs two coats. This will be accomplished when the weather permits.

c) Richard has seen that cemetery exit signs have been added around the cemetery grounds to help guide visitors and those attending funerals out of the cemetery.

d) The Cemetery Kiosk project by the FOJHC is off and running. Concrete foundation was poured on April 1, and construction of pavilion should commence in a week or two. Work on map and block signs will follow. City section will be done first and when time and funds permit we will move into other sections. Major memorial donation will cover the cost of the pavilion.

e) Richard reported about all the fencing that had been destroyed by a fallen tree in the IOOF section. He mentioned that the damaged wire had been removed. The problem now is that no one in this country makes the double-loop wiring and it must be ordered from China which will take several months to get. Commission members agreed it is perhaps time to consider other wire fencing designs to replace it.

f) Richard also reported that the majority of the road grading and drainage issues in the cemetery have been taken care of. A few minor projects still to be completed.

g) FOJHC restoration work on the Hanna plots in the Catholic section have begun. The sandstone pieces for the inner walls, replacing dry stacked rocks and boulders, has been ordered. Estimate around \$3,000 in materials which the Friends will cover along with labor. Plan is to have it completed by fall.

5) Action/Discussion items:

- a) Logtown Cemetery Association (located just outside of Jacksonville on 238) will be celebrating their 80th anniversary. A reception is planned for May 19 at 4:00 p.m. at the Jacksonville Library, all are invited.
- b) Sexton Shields brought up his ongoing concerns with the rather large number of people who show up in the cemetery searching for Morels. It seems the numbers increase each year. Problems with people just parking on the roadways and blocking other traffic, parking along the roadways on grave sites, those who bring their children and allowing them to run about, stepping on curbing and climbing on other cemetery fixtures, walking across grave sites and just a general lack of respect for the cemetery and who rest in it and those who care for it. Commission members agreed that perhaps the time has come to put a stop to allowing people to roam the grounds looking for morels , some of whom are doing it for profit.
- c) Richard advised that the poles to place the Cemetery Rules and Regulations sign back at the cemetery entrance have been ordered. The sign which at one time was on the gate was removed when the gates were restored but will not be placed back on the gate. It the wait time for the poles is too long, we may place the sign in a temporary spot.
- d) The FOJHC Marker Cleaning workshops resume in April then June-September, third Saturday of the month.
- e) We have Ashland Middle School, 40 students per day coming on April 29, May 2 and 3. A talk on the following subjects will take place: History of the Cemetery, Why the Pioneers Came West, Victorian Mourning Customs, then a walking tour to approximately nine grave sites of some of our early Pioneer families. The students will then contribute an hour or so in helping tidy up the cemetery before a lunch break and and assignment by their teacher.
- f) & g) Cemetery Community Clean-up Day scheduled for May 18. Richard has arranged for Jackson County Community Justice to help on May 3, 6, 20 and 21. Chair requested section representatives for any help they can provide. IOOF Rep Carr advised Richard that Odd Fellows would pay for Community Justice to clean-up their section if Mr. Shields could make the necessary arrangements.
- h) FOJHC will host annual Meet & Greet over Memorial Day weekend and order and place flags on all the Veterans grave sites.
- i) Just before meeting received a request for a headstone (large boulder with inscription plate) to be placed in the Jewish section. Chair commented it was the most complete and detailed request he has received and wished all were like that. Written approval will be sent to requestor.

6) Other:

Richard advised that a cemetery address, 400 WE Street must be placed on the gate. Believe he said it was required by the County? It is of a modern design with white background with black lettering. Chair commented that he opposed putting any signs on the gate as everything was done, including the approval of HARC, to keep the entrance gates and arch historically correct. After much discussion the Commission agreed that an alternate location be found. Suggestions included on the sign at the entrance to the cemetery which already give the name and sections, or a boulder next to the gate, or on the existing stone fixture on the right hand side as you approach the gate.

IOOF Commission Representative KC Carr was asking about their organization purchasing property in the eleven acres that was purchased and set aside for future cemetery expansion. He said that a request for information has been sent in the past but with no results. He said they would like to set some money aside as they are running out of space.

Chair Siedlecki thanked all for attending and for their support.

Next Meeting: Adjourn

The next meeting will be on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. at New City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dirk J. Siedlecki, Chair