

**City of Jacksonville
Cemetery Commission
Meeting Notes**

**Regular Meeting, June 20, 2022 - Rescheduled from June 6, 2022
New City Hall**

1) Meeting was called to order by Chair Siedlecki at 3:01 p.m.

Those in attendance were Chair Siedlecki, members Athanas, Anderson, Borland, Jorgensen, and City Council Liaison Selbe. Absent was I.O.O.F representative Carr. Also attending Tony Thompson, Public Works Operation Manager and Brett Barton, Public Works.

2) Chair welcomed those attending, introduced Tony Thompson and Brett Barton to Commission members. Commission members introduced themselves and the sections they represent. Guest in attendance, Jim Finses also introduced himself to the Commission.

3) Public comment was made by Mr. Finses who said that he and his wife would be reducing the number of hours they have been working, 53 in the month of May, in the Catholic section. He hopes others will step up and volunteer. He also asked if the debris piles up in the far corner of the cemetery could be cleaned up more often as they are unsightly. Lastly he ask if the City could apply for a grant to have trees removed for pruned within the cemetery grounds as work is needed.

Chair Siedlecki thanked Mr. Finses for the work he and his wife have been doing in the cemetery and more recently in the Catholic section which has never looked so well taken care of.

Tony Thompson said he would look into more timely removal of the debris piles in the future. Scott Selbe said that the city did not have a Grant Writer on Staff but there were resources available.

4) Follow-up items from the March 7, 2022 meeting

a) Chair Siedlecki encouraged members to visit the restored cross in the Catholic section if they have not already seen the beautiful work that has been accomplished. He also mentioned the very nice dedication service that took place following the completion of the project.

b) The eleven Story Boards have all been installed in the IOOF, Masonic and City sections and have been very popular with visitors to the cemetery. Masonic representative Borland expressed interest in the Masonic Lodge sponsoring a future Story Board in their section.

c) Chair announced that work on the Love block in the Masonic section has been completed. It was a total restoration project with the retaining walls, stairs, urns all being removed, the ground leveled and everything that was removed reset and leveled. Two large headstones and a monument were also reset. The work was accomplished by volunteers with the FOJHC at no cost.

d) Chair thanked the volunteers, City employees and Masonic section volunteers for all that they did in helping to prepare the cemetery for the Memorial Day Holiday. With the strange weather pattern in May and June, the city being short staffed, no help available from Community Justice we did the best we could. While not being able to get to all areas of the cemetery things looked pretty good.

e) Chair asked if there were any additional thoughts or ideas with regard to the area that the cemetery will expand into. Nothing forthcoming Chair recapped some of the items previously discussed such as no curbing, no fencing, perhaps flat or low headstones only.

5) Action/Discussion Items

a) Chair announced that the FOJHC had purchased and placed a headstone for Frederick Grob in the Independent Order (German) of Red Men section. Mr. Grob was the only known Civil War Era Veteran to not have a headstone in our cemetery.

b) An unauthorized advertisement type sign was removed from the cemetery grounds.

c) The FOJHC volunteers cleaned a total of 66 headstones in the Jewish section on May 21 and June 18, 2022.

d) Chair reviewed requests on file: A request from Mark Portrait for a memorial bench. Chair wrote him on March 15, 2022 for additional details with no response to date. Masonic Rep. Borland stated that he thinks they would be interested in adding some benches in their section. A request for curbing in plot 5 block 84 in the 2005 City Annex by Kevin Schroeder has been approved.

Request from Mrs. Salvadori for artificial grass, pavers and/ rocks. Chair wrote suggesting concrete curbing and explained other suggests would not be approved.

6) Other

Chair brought up the need to look into tree removal and/or heavy pruning as there are more and more large limbs and branches falling to the ground even with the mildest of wind. This posing a safety risk to visitors, volunteers and workers. A couple weeks ago a large Ponderosa Pine came down and blocked the entrance road to the cemetery. Chair asked City Council Liaison Selbe to bring up at the next City Council meeting and see about setting aside some funding to start this project.

7) Next Commission meeting will be on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Location to be announced, New City Hall or under the Pavilion in the Cemetery grounds.

8) Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.