

**City of Jacksonville  
Cemetery Commission  
Meeting Notes**

**Regular Meeting, October 4, 2021**

**Under the Kiosk Pavilion in the Cemetery Grounds**

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

Those in attendance were Chair Siedlecki, members Anderson, Borland, Jorgensen and Cemetery Sexton Shields. Absent were Athanas, Carr and City Council Liaison Selbe. It was determined and later confirmed, that the Agenda, which also serves as a reminder of the meeting date and time, was not sent out from City Hall explaining the absence of those noted.

2) Chair welcomed those attending and noted that item d) under 5) Action/Discussion Items was deleted from the Agenda as it was being addressed by the Jacksonville Planning Department and no action was required by the Commission. Chair also noted the addition of an item to the Agenda by Sexton Shields to be discussed later in the meeting.

**3) Public Comment**

John Howell, a Jacksonville resident briefed the Commission on the work in progress of the restoration of the metal framed cross that sits on top of the altar in the Catholic section. He explained that he has been working with representatives of the church and a youth group who are doing the work. He said that reclaimed wood was going to be inserted inside the metal frame. Chair suggested that most people he had talked with wanted to see a crucifix included in the restoration work. Howell said that some sort of outline, carving or such was being looked at.

**4) Follow-up items from the June 21, 2021 Commission Meeting**

a) Chair recapped and explained that all the work by volunteers have greatly helped in maintaining the cemetery grounds this year. The Adopt-A-Block program, other volunteer groups and the contracted services that the Jewish section brought on has made a tremendous difference.

b) The Story Board project by a volunteer group has made great progress. Eleven stories have been written and being finalized. They hope to have them in place before the end of the year.

c) Chair confirmed that at this time there appears to be no interest in other section owners in purchasing additional property in the City's eleven acre expansion area.

**5) Action/Discussion Items**

- a) Chair and Cemetery Sexton advised those present about Max Woody's departure and thanked him for his support to the Commission and the Cemetery and wish him well.
- b) Two groups of volunteers will be coming to the cemetery on October 23, to help clean-up the grounds. One a youth groups is Medford's 8th ward and the other is Scout Packs/Troops.
- c) Mixed feelings and ideas about using bark pieces or mulch as ground cover. Some feel it holds moisture and should not create a potential fire risk with hire danger being low hanging branches and tree limbs. Agreement that the bark pieces and or mulch is a problem when raking or blowing leaves and such off grave sites.
- d) Sexton Shields advised Commission with the move of the Fire Department that more equipment and material will be temporarily be placed around the Cemetery Maintenance shop.
- e) Jacksonville resident Chris Anderson is turning wood from fallen trees in the cemetery into decorative wooden bowls which he is selling with proceeds going to the Friends of Jacksonville's Historic Cemetery.
- f) see Public Comment
- g) Volunteers with the FOJHC have completed major restoration work of the Bybee block, City Section, the Chavner Block in the Catholic Section. The FOJHC also contracted with Nolan Briggs who rebuilt the brick surrounds at two grave sites, one in the City and Jewish sections.
- h) Volunteers have also started work on the Reed block in the City section which the Commission walked to for an onsite visit.

**6) Nothing further**

**7) Monday, March 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at New City Hall**

**8) Meeting adjourned approximately 5:35 p.m.**