



Minutes Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee April 16, 2008

Minutes of the Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting held on April 16, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Tempe Public Library – Board Room, 2nd Floor, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

Members Present:

Jim Mack, Chair
Fr. John Bonavitacola
Sandi Hutson
Brad Olsen
Katherine Schmidt
Patty Tolson-Gonzalez
Eduarda Yates

Members Absent:

Lois Love-Rizzo
Carol McKnight, Vice-Chair (excused)

City Staff Present:

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor - Parks & Recreation
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant - Parks & Recreation
Jerry Santee, Parks & Golf Supervisor – Parks & Recreation

Meeting convened at 4:00.

Jim Mack called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2008

The minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting were accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Maintenance Updates

Jerry Santee, Parks & Golf Supervisor, provided an update on maintenance activities in the cemetery.

1. Asphalt has been added to the turn in the roadway between Sections A & G.
2. Pre-emergent will be applied in the desert section.
3. There are 3 or 4 pine trees in the desert section that will need to be replaced.
4. Several of the Aleppo Pines have blight.
5. These trees will need to be replaced as they die.
6. They may be replaced with a species that is less susceptible to blight.
7. The watering schedule was reduced during the expansion of the cemetery.
8. The irrigation is back on schedule.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Deep watering and nitrogen are supposed to help with the blight.
- Pine trees seem to grow quickly in the first 4-5 years after installation.
- Staff needs to consider the cost of having to remove and replace the trees as well as the length of time that it will take them to mature.
- Staff was asked to look into replacing the road on the east side of Section 14 that was removed by Mr. Szjaina.
- Staff was also asked to clean up the east side of the cemetery near the roll off dumpster.
- There are two full time staff budgeted for the cemetery.
- One full time staff member is on-site.
- Crews from the stadium are rotated in and out of the cemetery as needed.
- The condition and maintenance of the oleanders is inconsistent.
- The entry gate for the Memorial Gardens needs to be repaired.
- The Section #18 sign is damaged.

Agenda Item 4 – West Property Boundary Wall

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, updated the committee on the status of the request to erect a wall between the Section 23 and T-Mobile and the west side of the cemetery.

1. Staff is working with T-Mobile on the design plan for a wall that will be erected between their property and the cemetery.
2. They have been having problems with theft.
3. The City has asked them to design the wall so that it can be extended by the City as a part of the future phase plans for the cemetery.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The oleanders will remain on the property owner's side of the wall.
- It will be painted to match the entry way.
- Although the original plans called for wrought iron to be included in the cemetery walls, the cost of including wrought iron will have to be considered.
- Staff will determine the distance between the proposed wall and the existing graves along the west edge of the cemetery.

Agenda Item 5 – Sales Update

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, shared sales information with the committee.

1. Thus far there have been 8 companion plots and 46 single plots sold.

2. These sales have included 7 at-need casket burials and 1 cremains burial.
3. There have been 38 spaces sold in the Memorial Gardens since it was renovated.
4. These sales, along with pre-need arrangements, have exceeded \$160,000.

Agenda Item 6 – Cemetery Brochure

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, will send out the new brochures to the committee as soon as they are received.

Agenda Item 7 – Memorial Gardens Art Feature

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, provided an update on the status of the proposed public art feature for the cemetery.

1. The Public Arts Commission awarded \$100,000 for the creation of a public art feature to be placed in the center of the Memorial Gardens.
2. A call to artists has been issued.
3. The proposals received will be reviewed on May 19, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- Katherine Schmidt, Patty Tolson-Gonzalez and Eduarda Yates volunteered to take part in the review.

Agenda Item 8 – Work Day

1. The workday will be scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2008 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
2. Participating committee members may want bring gloves, rakes and water bottles.
3. Other items, such as garbage bags and landscaping equipment will be provided.
4. Staff will work with the volunteer coordinator to invite additional volunteers.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items**Agenda Item 7 – Chair/Board Member Comments**

1. The next meeting will be held June 18, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

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