



Minutes Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee January 21, 2009

Minutes of the Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting held on January 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m., Tempe Public Library – Conference Room, 2nd Floor, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

Members Present:

Jim Mack, Chair
Sandi Hutson, Vice-Chair
Brad Olsen
Katherine Schmidt
Patty Tolson-Gonzalez
Eduarda Yates

Members Absent:

Fr. John Bonavitacola

City Staff Present:

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor - Parks & Recreation
Cynthia Yanez, Executive Assistant - Parks & Recreation
Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager, Parks Services – Parks & Recreation

Meeting convened at 4:01.

Jim Mack called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting were accepted.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Maintenance Updates

Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager, reported on on-going cemetery maintenance.

1. The cemetery will be treated for weed control.
2. Next week the pine trees will be evaluated by an arborist company.
3. There are at least two pines that have been targeted for replacement.
4. Monthly irrigation will resume this month.

5. Several cleanup projects have been performed through a community service program.
6. Staff are working on evaluating and repairing the sprinkler lines in the cemetery as some of them were damaged during the construction.
7. The oleanders continue to be evaluated to determine if they show any signs of the Oleander Leaf Scorch (OLS) which is caused by the oleander strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium that colonizes the xylem (water conducting) tissue of oleander.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The oleanders between Sections G & 14 will be removed and replaced by plants/shrubs that are less labor intensive and low water users.
- Some of the olive trees have deadwood that needs to be removed.
- The gate on the Memorial Gardens has been fixed.

Agenda Item 4 – West Property Wall Update

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, provided information and pictures of the portion of the wall that has been erected by T-Mobile.

1. T-Mobile's wall has been built and spans about 1/2 - 1/3 of the west perimeter.
2. Staff is working on the installation of the remainder of the wall.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- If wall niches are installed, they will be separate from the block wall.
- Staff may look at installing decomposed granite along the wall to provide a buffer from the sprinkler heads that will be used to water the grass.
- The buffer is needed so that the pressure of the water from the sprinkler heads does not start to erode the wall.
- Masonry paint will be used on the wall.
- There is no connection between the main entry feature and the west perimeter wall, however, boulders have been placed so that vehicles cannot drive into the cemetery.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Art Project Status

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, spoke about the status of the art feature that was planned for the cemetery.

1. The art project has been placed on hold.
2. There has not been a timeframe set for when the project will resume.

General Discussion by the Committee:

- The planter at the center of the Memorial Gardens is not very attractive as it is now.
- Staff would like to hold off on make any changes to the site until they have a better idea of when the project might go forward.

Agenda Item 6 – Community Service Hours Update

Sam Thompson, Deputy Manager, shared information about the community service plan that has been implemented with Maricopa County.

1. The City of Tempe has partnered with the Maricopa County Adult Probation Office to provide opportunities for community service hours to be served by those in the Community Restitution Program.
2. Each Saturday and Sunday there are about 30 community service volunteers that work 4 hours on each day to perform clean up tasks in the cemetery.
3. They have done everything from installing boulders, landscape installation and other necessary tasks.
4. Currently, the City does not pay any fees for this pilot program.

Agenda Item 7 – Landscape Plans

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, reviewed recent discussion of the cemetery landscaping.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, reviewed items that will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

1. The next agenda will include, but is not limited to, cemetery sales report, new pricing effective February 1, proposed purchase agreements and plans for advertising.
2. Staff will also work to plan a work day for those that are interested.

Agenda Item 9 – Chair/Board Member Comments

1. Most of the board agreed that a Saturday would work best for the work day.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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Reviewed by: Shawn Wagner, Recreation Supervisor, (480) 350-5299