



Metro | *Meeting minutes*

Meeting: Metro Cemetery Advisory Committee
Date/time: Thursday, June 27, 2013, 3:30 p.m.
Place: Room 370 A/B
Purpose: Quarterly meeting

Attendees

Cemetery Advisory Committee Members:

Verne Duncan, Hannah Allan, David Noble, Michelle Gregory, Laurel Smith, Bo Nevue

Metro Staff:

Rachel Fox, Howard Rasmussen, Emma Williams, Joel Morton, Josh Lipscomb, Brian Kennedy, Phyllis Cole

Absent

Merlene Drapela, Meg McCauley, Larry Potter, Terry McCall

Guests:

Dave Dahl, Milne Construction, and the Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation

Opening remarks

Chair Verne Duncan called the meeting to order and acknowledged the contributions and diligent work of Rachel Fox on behalf of the Metro Cemeteries program, and wished her the best of luck in her new position.

Chair Duncan noted that the Oregonian article did not fully capture the hard work done by Metro to turn around the operations of the 14 historic cemeteries, and that the news had already been reported the prior year. He acknowledged the conscientious work by Metro staff in raising the level of standards and care for the cemeteries.

Ms. Fox shared that the interim manager of the program will be Melisa McDonald, who has experience in both the death care industry and non-profits. She will manage the program over the summer, and the position will open for applications in October 2013.

Metro Cemetery Advisory Committee Annual Report

Vice-chair Hannah Allan discussed the need for the Committee to start working on the annual report to Metro's Chief Operating Officer, Martha Bennett. The report will cover the Committee's first year, and will note its observations, and provide recommendations for future focus on the trajectory of Metro's cemetery operations.

Update on Interment Right Reclamation project

Joel Morton, Metro Senior Attorney, reported in Kim Palmero's absence that good progress is being made. Ms. Fox indicated that the list of original historic purchasers will go to the Metro Council in July, and will be published after that in the Oregonian newspaper and posted at each cemetery. After the notice period, Metro will work with each original purchaser on a case-by-case basis.

Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation

Foundation President Rebecca Liu and Board Chair Mary Faulkner discussed the three-year strategic goals (see attached).

They also shared information on an upcoming event to kick off the Oregon Craft Beer Month at the Mission Theater on July 1, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Governor Barbara Roberts will be the special guest, and half of all food and drink proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Lone Fir. These funds will be used in the restoration of Bottler's Mausoleum.

Lone Fir Cremation Garden

Ms. Fox and Dave Dahl, President of Milne Construction, made a presentation about the Chestnut Grove Memorial Garden at Lone Fir Cemetery. They provided background and information on why a cremation garden was being installed at Lone Fir Cemetery and the societal trends in the death care industry.

Ms. Fox added that the suspension of sales in Lone Fir Cemetery has had a profound influence on the community that wishes to use the cemetery, and has also affected revenues received to offset operation costs. Design aspects, price points and maintenance of the garden were also discussed. Chair Duncan acknowledged Mr. Dahl's generous donation of over \$8,000 to the garden.

Actions agreed upon

Ms. Allan will continue her work compiling the first annual report of the Cemetery Advisory Committee, and will forward a draft to the Committee for feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Next meeting

September 2013, date and time TBD