



# County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

## Committee Members:

Cemetery Director, Vacant	Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, BOS Representative
Bonnie Wurm, Cemetery Director Alternate	Kathy Witherow, BOS Alternate
County Coroner's Office, Sgt. Troy Morton	Jeffrey A. Schmidt, Fraternal Organization Representative
Doug Walker, Archeological Organization Representative	Janette Rogers-Booth, District I Representative
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Representative	Michael Roberts, District III Representative
Arthur Cort, District II Representative	Joan Wicklund, District V Representative
Frank Clark, District IV Representative	

## MINUTES

October 26, 2016

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Cemetery Administrator Bonnie Wurm, in the absence of Chairman Jeff Schmidt and Vice Chairman Janette Rogers-Booth. Committee members present: Sgt. Troy Morton, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Art Cort, Frank Clark, Mike Roberts, Joan Wicklund, and Bonnie Wurm. Guests: Suzi Mickus, Kathy Lewin, Mary Ann Schroth and Ray LeVitt. Staff: Mary Cory
- 2) The minutes of September 28, 2016 were approved with the word "first" added in 4a to describe the "Coloma Cemetery".
- 3) Introductions, Announcements – Bonnie reported that there are now two attorneys in the County Counsel's office assigned to work on outstanding cemetery issues.
- 4) Reports:
  - a) Cemetery Operations Staff report:
    - i) Fairplay & El Dorado – County Counsel will be finalizing their research on establishing these as county-owned cemeteries with their recommendation on delegating a sexton or establishing a Rural Cemetery Association. Bonnie noted that the driveway gate at the El Dorado Cemetery is now locked and the pedestrian gate is open.
    - ii) Missouri Flat – no information on its condition after the fire.
    - iii) Mormon Island – Bonnie will complete the sign and have it installed by Memorial Day, 2017.
    - iv) Zentgraff – aka Buckeye Flat Cemetery, which needs to be reviewed due to the gardening taking place close by. It was noted that there are more than family burials in that cemetery.
    - v) Placerville Union – City Police will have additional patrols on Halloween; Mike noted that he heard there were to be "ghost" tours during Halloween, which Bonnie reported has not been granted access.
  - b) Representative Reports:
    - i) District I – none
    - ii) District II – Art noted that the Latrobe Cemetery was cleaned up and a sunken grave is now evident.
    - iii) District III – Mike expressed his concern about "ghost tours" as fictional accounts of history, versus a fact-based tour of cemeteries. He would like to research and write a tour of the Placerville Union Cemetery before the end of the year.
    - iv) District IV – Frank reported the Greenwood Cemetery was cleaned up with an inmate crew in preparation of a burial. It was noted that Greenwood Cemetery is part of a township so should be considered a county cemetery.
    - v) District V – none
    - vi) BOS Alternate – none
    - vii) Fraternal Organizations - none
    - viii) Native American Cemeteries – Ramona will be checking for storm damage
    - ix) Archeological Representative – none
    - x) Coroner's Office – Troy reported that there are extra patrols at the El Dorado Cemetery and his office will be investigating the possible burial at Lover's Leap reported at the previous meeting.
- 5) Public Comment
  - a) Suzi Mickus provided some background information about the history of townsite maps established by Judge Irwin.
  - b) Ray Levitt reported that the Kelsey Cemetery District is updating their water system. They have also been working to educate their district constituency that they have access to burials. They will soon have an email address and a post office box so they can be more easily reached. Ray

also noted that they had their first “green” burial.

6) Action Items:

- a) Criteria for Non-County maintained cemeteries and list – Bonnie distributed an updated list discussed at the subcommittee meeting with the criteria and 10 cemeteries listed. She suggested adding to the list cemeteries discussed at this meeting: Clarksville, Buckeye Flat, Parmenter (aka El Dorado House), Durock House, Tong (aka Railroad).

- 7) The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. It was noted that the next meeting will be held on November 30, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Mary Cory, Museum Administrator