



# County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

**Minutes  
January 28, 2016**

**Committee Members:**

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Julianne Melchor (staff), substituting for Chairperson Bonnie Wurm, at 3:00 PM. Committee members present: Mike Roberts, Art Cort, Joan Wicklund, Jeff Schmidt, Sergeant Dan Bears, and Ramona Tripp Verbeck. Guests: Suzi Mickus, Mary Ann Schroth, and Bernie Pagenkopf.
2. The agenda was adopted.
3. The minutes of December 2, 2015 were approved as written.
4. Introductions and Announcements – Doug Walker and Ramona Tripp-Verbeck have been reappointed by the Board of Supervisors. All members expressed sympathy for Bonnie for the passing of her husband.
5. Reports
  - a) Cemetery Operations Staff – No report due to Bonnie's absence.
  - b) District I – No report, but Mike Roberts shared that the El Dorado Hills Fire Department plans a training exercise in February to burn the Pearman house near the Clarksville Cemetery. The house has recently been occupied by a homeless encampment.
  - c) District II – Art Cort reported that a burial done about a year ago resulted in debris being spread around the Cemetery, which hampers clean-up work. He requested that language be added to burial permits specifying that debris larger than ½ inch cannot be spread around. He is working on his surveys.
  - d) District III – Mike Roberts reported that he is working on the sign for Placerville Union. Newton Cemetery (private) is being maintained by the Halls. It is a fire hazard and needs clean-up. Mike posted a sign.
  - e) District IV – Not present.
  - f) District V – No report.
  - g) BOS – Not present.
  - h) Fraternal Organizations Representative – Jeff Schmidt reported that he has invited Dwight Dutscke (Retired employee of the California Office of Historical Preservation and Research) to present information on criteria for historical and pioneer cemetery designations.
  - i) Native American Representative – Ramona expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for her reappointment.
  - j) Archaeological Representative. – Not present.
  - k) Coroner's Representative – Sgt. Bears reported that Sheriff's deputies investigated the possible burial site near the Cosumnes River and found nothing.
6. Public Comment
  - a) Suzi Mickus and Mary Ann Schroth stated that many private cemeteries should be designated as public cemeteries, and GPR is needed in cemeteries which have not been surveyed. They requested consistency in services provided by the County.
  - b) Joan Wicklund stated that the biggest need is for Committee members to take ownership in checking on cemeteries in their districts.
  - c) Mike Roberts stated that local cemeteries have a historical legacy which could be leveraged to attract tourism and foster economic development. He suggested the Committee contact the Community Foundation about possibilities for funding identified needs.

- d) Mike and Jeff Schmidt discussed guidelines for the care of private cemeteries and cleaning headstones, which requires training. Jeff and Bonnie have information. Mike suggested contacting sponsor groups to handle tasks on a volunteer basis. Jeff proposed setting up an "Adopt a Cemetery" program, similar to the "Adopt a Highway" program. Jeff described an Eagle Scout project to replace a fence at the Josephine Mine Cemetery in Volcanoville and requested that a future meeting include an agenda item to discuss forming a subcommittee to oversee preservation of private cemeteries. He will send an email with more information on this idea.
7. Discussion and Action Items
- a) CAC draft report – After the December meeting, Bonnie distributed the 2011 report to Committee members for updating. Committee members received the information and are working on updating reports for their districts. No information was submitted at this meeting.
  - b) Nominating cemeteries as Historic Landscapes/Landmarks (list of cemeteries) – This item was tabled until after the presentation by Dwight Dutscke at the next meeting.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. Next meeting February 24, 2016. Committee members expressed the desire to continue to hold meetings at the Placerville Library Meeting Room instead of Conference Room A.

Julianne Melchor, Department Analyst I, Community Development Agency