



# County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

Wednesday October 22, 2014

### 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
Sheriff John D'Agostini, County Coroner	Jeffrey A. Schmidt, Fraternal Organization Representative
Doug Walker, Archeological Organization Representative	Janette Rogers-Booth, District I Representative
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Representative	Fred Belt, District III Representative
Vacant, District II Representative	Joan Wicklund, District V Representative
Frank Clark, District IV Representative	

1. The regular meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Bonnie Wurm at 3:05 PM. Members present: Bonnie Wurm, Doug Walker, Jeff Schmidt, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Kathy Withrow, Joan Wicklund and Janette Rogers-Booth. Guests: Mary Ann Schroth and Susan Mickus.
2. Motion to accept agenda made by Jeff and seconded by Ramona. The agenda it was approved.
3. Doug moved to approve minutes as corrected and Janette seconded. The minutes of September 24, 2014 were approved with the correction of the date on the header.
4. There were no introductions or announcements
5. The Cemetery Administration staff had no new items to report.
6. Discussion and Action Items
  - a. A change of date for the November meeting was requested by Bonnie. The change being from the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, November 26, 2014, to 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, November 19, 2014. A motion to this effect was made by Ramona and seconded by Joan. The motion was approved.
  - b. Discussion on the cemetery report will to be rescheduled for a future meeting.
  - c. Discussion regarding the lists of Active and In-active Cemeteries that will ultimately be presented to the Board of Supervisors (see attached lists): The Active Cemeteries list has no burial sites or Native American cemeteries included. Bonnie commented to Ramona that we might need to put active Native American cemeteries on this list. Bonnie will contact the Native American Heritage Commission to clarify the county's jurisdiction over active Native American cemeteries and have a meeting with Ramona and County staff to discuss this. There are thirty-six (36) cemeteries on the Active List. Seventeen (17) cemeteries are known to be recorded. The recorded status is unknown but likely for six (6). Thirteen (13) are known to not be recorded. Letters will go out to the cemetery authorities of each cemetery that has not been recorded and/or installed a proper enclosure (fence). They will be informed that these need to be done if they want to remain on the Active Cemeteries list.
  - d. Further discussion regarding cemeteries on the Active Cemeteries list: Suzi said we should take Joerger from the Clarksville cemetery listing as an AKA. Janette mentioned that the Tong cemetery is not on the list. Bonnie has taken it off the active list until confirmation can be made that the Tong family plans to inter any other family members in the family plot. Janette is getting Tong family contact information for Bonnie. Janette does not think the Tongs are going to have any more burials. A discussion followed as to whether or not GPR has been done on the outside of the Tong family plot fence. Janette said that one known grave with a marker is outside of the Tong family plot. The stone has been broken and the grave needs to be given a permanent fence to preserve it. Preservation of the broken Stone headstone should be addressed. Joan asked if this is a family or community, i. e., public, cemetery. It was the consensus of the committee members that it began as a public cemetery but in more recent time only the Tong family has been buried there. Bonnie was asked to request the GPR report from Cal Trans. Suzi said that the stone that was broken is that of Calvin Stone who built Railroad House in the 1850s. Railroad House was a stopping off place for those heading to the gold fields near Placerville. She noted that there should be a lot more burials there than just the Tong family. Joan feels there could be a Native American cemetery somewhere in the interchange project. Joan mentioned that because of the level of activity on the site with the Silva Valley Interchange that the committee might request access to investigate the site and the Tong cemetery. Bonnie said archeologists have already reported on the various cultural and Native American features around the area and they have not identified a Native American burial ground. They will be notified if any artifacts or unknown sites are found. Janette said Richman/Hall Graves also impacted by the Silva Valley Interchange had GPR done and nothing was found. Grizzly Flat, Latrobe, and Greenwood need Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) done and a plat map recorded. Pleasant Valley-should be recorded but does not necessarily require GPR. Joan & Suzi think there are graves on the outside of the fence

and should have GPR done. The fence needs to be finished at Shingle Springs. Diamond Springs-Lime Kiln IOOF cemetery needs to have their maps recorded. Barney Noel is now responsible for the interments at both IOOF cemeteries in Diamond Springs. Bonnie will call Barney to inform him of the recording requirements. The Diamond Springs cemetery on Pleasant Valley road is mapped and recorded but it needs to be updated on new interments and any potential pre-needs. Jeff asked if GPS is required in new undeveloped areas of the Native Sons of the Golden West Memorial Park in Volcanoville. Joan said it should be GPR'd where there is suspicion of unknown plots. Bonnie said that whenever development is happening GPR is required if graves are suspected. Placerville Union –Bonnie is working on the inventory and map. Fencing is in the budget for this fiscal year. Smith Flat has also been mapped and recorded. Bonnie spoke with Mr. Winkleman regarding the Blair-Winkleman cemetery. He is going to put up a new fence around his family/friends section. There was further discussion regarding the true size of the cemetery and that there are other marked graves quite a distance away from the Blair-Winkleman family plot. Camino is not completely fenced but is enclosed. It was the general consensus that there is no need for a fence since the houses on three sides serve as an enclosure. The north side of the cemetery is bordered by an alley with houses on the other side. Joan and Doug felt that installing a fence would probably impact graves. Coloma Pioneer, not sure if a plot map is recorded. Bonnie will check. Georgetown and Renke are recorded and fenced. Georgia Slide is not recorded. Green Valley, Bonnie will check see if recorded. Jeff mentioned that the Native Sons Josephine Mine AKA Ogle Cemetery is inactive and should be listed separate from the new section and put it on the non-active list. With "NSGW Cemetery and Memorial Park" remaining on the active list. They will have GPR done outside of Josephine Mine cemetery fence to make sure there are no further graves when any development of the Memorial Park is done. There is some indication that there are graves outside of the fenced area. Doug said that if the APN is same for both NSGW cemeteries then the Josephine Mine should be considered a section of the Memorial Park not a separate cemetery. Jeff agreed with this. So the Josephine Mine cemetery will not be listed separately. It was mentioned that the Mosquito #2 Dickinson cemetery should be listed as Dickinson not Mosquito. It is fenced and GPR was performed. We need to check if recorded. Suzi asked what Bonnie meant by old and new Pilot Hill cemetery. She was told that the smaller fenced area is the old historic section. The new section goes around three sides. The new section will be developed some time in the future. Joan thought that the area next to the fenced old section would need to be GPR'd before the new section is developed. It was agreed that this would be necessary. Happy Homestead - not sure if recorded Bonnie will check. Bijou, the AKA for Happy Homestead, is spelled wrong.

- e. Discussion regarding the "Inactive Cemeteries" list: Bonnie mentioned that after reading an old correspondence from Sue Silver that referred to inactive cemeteries as non-active cemeteries she felt that non-active would be a less confusing title for this category and would not conflict with the State definition of an inactive cemetery. A motion was made by Jeff to change the name to Non-Active Cemeteries rather than Inactive Cemeteries. Joan seconded. The motion was passed. White Family, Tong, and Uppertown cemeteries may be moved to the Active Cemeteries list if further research shows that interments are expected to be made in family plots. Bonnie will move forward with these lists and research points mentioned in the discussion and bring the list back to the Committee at the next meeting. The Committee was asked to let Bonnie know if they want to add a cemetery to the Active Cemetery list. These should be taken from the non-active list.
- f. Discussion regarding multiple interments in a single plot: It is the cemetery authority that determines what goes into a grave. What if family wants to put their own niche bench? Need to be able to get variance to allow above ground memorial fixtures that will accommodate multiple interments of cremains. The new Management Plan needs to include the potential for this. To answer a question regarding double depth interments: of the County operated cemeteries they are only allowed at Georgia Slide because it is a new cemetery and the soil is amenable to digging a deeper hole and a back hoe can be used in most cases. Many of the old historic cemeteries are so rocky that double depth would be difficult and too fragile and crowded to allow heavy machinery to be used.
- g. Doug suggested that since it was 4:00 pm that we should not start on the Pioneer Memorial Parks item on the agenda and move on to the Committee Member Reports. Joan reported that she is continuing to survey the burial sites and cemeteries in District II. There were no other reports from members.

7. Public Comment –

8. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Submitted by Bonnie Wurm, Administrative Technician, Community Development Agency