



County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Creighton Avila, Deputy CAO, Cemetery Director
Julianne Melchor, Cemetery Director Alternate
Melinda Peak, District I
Mary Tran, District II
Mike Roberts, District III
Frank Clark, District IV
Joan Wicklund, District V

Brian Veerkamp, Board of Supervisors
Kathy Witherow, BOS Alternate
Sgt. Eric Palmberg, Coroner's Office
Vacant, Archeological Representative
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Cemeteries
Jeffrey A. Schmidt, Fraternal Organizations, Chair

November 28, 2018 MINUTES REVISED

1. The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice Chairman Mike Roberts at 3:00 p.m.
Committee members present: Creighton Avila, Julianne Melchor (alternate), Melinda Peak, Mike Roberts, Frank Clark, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Sgt. Eric Palmberg.
Guests: Joseph Valdez, Ellen Osborne (DAR), Maggie Killackey, Steve Hilton, Andrew Vondershmitt, Kris Payne, Charlie Basham, and Barry Hart.
County Staff: Julie Hart and Mary Cory.
The agenda was adopted.
2. The minutes of October 24, 2018, were still under review by Julianne Melchor and will be presented at the January 23, 2019, meeting.
3. Introductions and Announcements: Guests were introduced; members introduced themselves.
4. Staff Reports:
 - a. Summary of burials: the table of burials in County-managed cemeteries, through November, 2018, was distributed with no discussion.
 - b. Proposed development near Diamond Springs Cemetery (attachment). Julianne Melchor distributed information about a proposed development near Diamond Springs Cemetery; the development is in the very earliest stages; the Diamond Springs Cemetery could be affected by roadway improvements. Discussion included: location of the cemetery as related to the development, development is planned high density with a mix of small and large lots which will include duplexes; the previous project is not coming back; concern was expressed regarding Native American grinding rocks at that location; residents want a signal light at the intersection with Pleasant Valley Rd. The item will be on the December 3, 2018, TAC meeting agenda, with a deadline of November 30th to respond. Mary Cory moved that the Acting Chairman will send a response on behalf of the committee.
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Status of proposed Monroe Trail Project Gold Discovery SHP: Berry Smith, Superintendent of Marshall Gold Discovery Park and Steve Hilton of The State Historical Office of the California Department of Parks and Recreation were present for discussion, which included the Chinese burial ground; construction at the upper portion of the trail; interpretation of the area and its history; concern about sharing history but no disclosure as to location; 25-35 graves have been exhumed; some graves misplotted; trying to understand if there is an opportunity to tell a larger story without mentioning locations or discussing burial practices in the past; GPR; mystique that all was removed and returned to China; who is using trail and access side being used; new exhibit opened and has room for expansion; no mass exhumations after 1941.
 - b. Report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Ordinance, Management Plan and Setback

Language – next meeting is on December 5, 2018: Mary Cory said draft language is a work in progress.

6. Old Business

- a. El Dorado - Per Mike, the grounds look great.
- b. Planter's house Cemetery access - Mike indicated it was still locked when he was there two weeks ago; very historic and should be open to the public; the cemetery is located above the old Williams Power Tools location; Mike volunteered to contact anybody regarding property ownership.
- c. Exchange of information with the NCIC - Julianne stated she needs to contact the Surveyor's Office regarding updates, and then get the corrected information to NCIC. Mike requested items (b) and (c) be kept as Old Business.

7. Action Items: None.

8. Representative Reports:

District I: Melinda visited Mormon Island Cemetery after the recent storms due to drainage from The Promontory.

District II: Mary Tran had nothing to report as she hasn't visited cemeteries this month.

District III: Mike Roberts (see attached report).

District IV: No report.

District V: Joan Wicklund absent; Creighton will ask Jim Mitrison (Clerk of the Board) to send Joan a letter. Mike said Charlayne Gross is interested in filling the position and he has contacted Supervisor Novasel to recommend her for appointment.

Ramona Tripp-Verbeck decorated some plots in El Dorado in honor of Veteran's Day.

Board of Supervisors: No report.

Coroner's Office: Sgt. Eric Palmberg is trying to absorb information; working with the Homeless Outreach regarding the homeless issue; technically it is not illegal to be homeless. Mike indicated there are homeless individuals at the Missouri Flat Cemetery behind K-Mart. Chris Payne indicated the property behind K-Mart is privately owned by Leonard Grado's company.

9. Public Comment (limited to 5 minutes each)

Miscellaneous conversation included: Native American cemetery locations are not allowed to be made public; Barney Noel was suggested as a suitable representative for the Fraternal Organization vacancy; Melinda suggested the SHP conduct a formal recorded interview with MaryAnn Schroth; Ellen will discuss the DAR plaque at Placerville Union Cemetery with Creighton and Julianne; representatives from Save the Graves requested to speak at the January CAC meeting; Creighton suggested visiting the County website to register for and participate in the upcoming FlashVote poll on cemeteries; Melinda indicated that in 1948 the County looked into creating a cemetery district and 40 years later there is still no district; Mike recommended reading the book *199 Cemeteries to See Before You Die*.

10. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m. The next meeting will be January 23, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. at the **OES Room, Lower Level, Building A (NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION)**.

Respectfully, Julie Hart, Administrative Technician

Committee Staff: Museum Administrator, Mary Cory
Office of County Counsel, Roger Runkle
Community Development Services, Sherrie Busby, Administrative Services Officer
Community Development Services, Department. Analyst, Julianne Melchor
Community Development Services, Julie Hart, Administrative Technician