



County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Creighton Avila, Deputy CAO, Cemetery Director
Bonnie Wurm, 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. Troy Morton, Coroner's Office
Vacant, Archeological Representative
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Cemeteries
Jeffrey A. Schmidt, Fraternal Organizations, Chair

MINUTES April 25, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Schmidt at 3:01 PM. Committee members present: Jeff Schmidt, Creighton Avila, Bonnie Wurm (alternative), Melinda Peak, Mary Tran, Mike Roberts, Joan Wicklund, Kathy Witherow. Guests: Mary Ann Schroth, Ray LeVitt and Joseph Valdez. County Staff: Sherrie Busby, Julianne Melchor, Roger Runkle and Mary Cory. The agenda was adopted.
2. The minutes of March 28, 2018 were approved as written.
3. Introductions and Announcements
 - (a) Joseph Valdez introduced himself as attending for his mother, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck. He announced that there will be an archaeology dig in Coloma and there is an opening for a certified Native monitor.
4. Staff Reports:
 - (a) Summary of burials – Bonnie distributed the table of burials through April, 2018 in County-managed cemeteries.
 - (b) Review of Cemeteries Report – Creighton handed out the report and table of results from the survey of other counties. He described the criteria used to select the jurisdictions to be surveyed, and included a table of the number of plots, crypts and niches available in El Dorado County-managed cemeteries.
 - (c) Cemeteries on private land – Roger Runkle, County Counsel, handed out a report based on his research so far. He briefly defined Private vs Public cemeteries based on use, and access to cemeteries based on ownership. He noted that each cemetery requires unique analysis. There were several questions regarding the specific interpretation of the law – historical and current – from the committee, and it was determined that a public workshop could be held before the annual Cemetery report is brought to the Board of Supervisors. The workshop will be held in the Library Meeting Room on Wednesday, May 16, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.
5. New Business
 - (a) Exchange of information with the North Central Information Center (NCIC) at Sacramento State University – Sherrie asked for a summary of this request made by Melinda last year. Melinda reviewed the purpose of the NCIC and reiterated the importance of having their reports at a minimal cost. She also emphasized submitting reports to the NCIC so the information of where cemeteries are located would be available to project developers earlier in the process.
 - (b) St. Michael's proposed development across the street – Melinda expressed her concern about the Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project as it is so close to the cemetery.
 - (c) Planning and Building Department's Role related to cemeteries – Julianne reported that she spoke to Roger Trout, Planning Dept. Director, who will make sure Cemetery Operations staff are notified of any meetings regarding projects near cemeteries. He will be invited to the next Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting to report on how projects are reviewed and the role of the CAC in that review.

6. Old Business

- (a) Placerville Union – Mike was asked about his intent for the motion made at the March CAC meeting regarding the definition of “historic” walkways and aisles. Bonnie reiterated the obligation to provide burials to the residents of El Dorado County. Mike identified “historic” as 150 feet from the fountain. Jeff suggested that this be discussed further at the next meeting.
- (b) El Dorado – no changes to report
- (c) Adopt-A-Cemetery-Projects program – Staff has received County Counsel’s comments, and plans to take the program to the Board of Supervisors in June.

7. Representative Reports

- i. BOS Alternate – no report
- ii. Coroner's Office – absent
- iii. Native American Cemeteries – absent
- iv. Fraternal Organizations – no report
- v. Archaeological Rep – vacant
- vi. District I – Melinda Peak reported that the Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery has some kind of hydrology issue, which needs to be identified since projects will be affected by the issue.
- vii. District II – Mary Tran reported that she visited the Fairplay Cemetery. She asked if Committee members could have business cards to identify themselves when out in the field. Mary Tran made a motion to approve issuing business cards to Committee members, Mike seconded and the motion was approved. The Cemetery Operations Office will make the cards.
- viii. District III – Mike Roberts reported that he conducted tours of the El Dorado and Diamond Springs Cemetery for the American River Conservancy. He would like to see more public involvement in caring for cemeteries.
- ix. District IV – absent
- x. District V – Joan Wicklund reported that there is a facebook page indicating that a group is ready to clean up a cemetery in Coloma. They should contact the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park personnel, as it is under their jurisdiction.

8. Public Comment

- (a) Joseph Valdez reported that the Greenstone Cemetery is experiencing some vandalism. They have asked STARS to monitor the cemetery.
- (b) Mary Ann Schroth reported that Beverly Cola, a long-time advocate for preserving El Dorado County's history, an original Museum Commissioner and a Historical Society Board Member, just passed away.
- (c) Roy LeVitt with the Kelsey Cemetery District reported in reference to Agenda Item 4B, that the Kelsey Cemetery District collects \$1.50 per parcel in the district.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting will be May 23, 2018 at 3:00 PM at the Placerville Library Meeting Room. The Workshop will be held May 16, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Placerville Library Meeting Room.

Mary Cory, Museum Administrator

Committee Staff: Museum Administrator, Mary Cory
 Office of County Counsel
 Community Development Services, Operations Unit, ASO, Sherrie Busby
 Community Development Services, Operations Unit, Dept. Analyst, Julianne Melchor