



County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Creighton Avila, Deputy CAO, Cemetery Director
Julianne Melchor, Cemetery Director Alternate
Melinda Peak, District I, Second Vice Chair
Mary Tran, District II, First Vice Chair
Mike Roberts, District III, Chair
Vacant, District IV
Vacant, District V

John Hidahl, Board of Supervisors
Kathy Witherow, BOS Alternate
Sgt. Eric Palmberg, Coroner's Office
Vacant, Archeological Representative
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Cemeteries
Vacant, Fraternal Organizations

MINUTES February 27, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Roberts at 3:06 p.m.
Committee members present: Creighton Avila, John Hidahl, Julianne Melchor (alternate), Melinda Peak, Mike Roberts, Mary Tran, Kathy Witherow, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck.
County Staff: Julie Hart, Mary Cory, and Roger Runkle.
Guests: Mark McCusker, Joseph Valdez, Mary Ann Schroth, Ray LeVitt, Maggie Killackey, Frank Clark, Bob Villalobos, Kris Payne, Charlane Gross, and Lori Parlin.
The agenda was adopted.
2. The minutes of January 23, 2019, were approved with a motion by Mary Tran and seconded by Mike Roberts.
3. Introductions and announcements: All present introduced themselves. The meeting room location was discussed and the locations are to remain as scheduled for the duration of 2019.
4. Staff Reports: Discussion regarding Fairplay Cemetery included Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) which was done about ten years ago (there are approximately 290 known gravesites; good recordkeeping was not established until 2000 when the County became involved in handling burials; and ADA issues. Other discussion included the Ad Hoc Committee is working with a planner in the Planning and Building Department to include suggested language to place cemetery setbacks in the zoning ordinance.
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Proposed Revisions to CAC Formation Resolution: Mike Roberts summarized changes he proposes the committee should recommend to the Board, which include adding a member who is a Veteran. He also requested that one of the two archeologists who have applied for the vacant archeologist position be placed in the vacant District 5 slot (if the Board approves previously recommended changes to the resolution).
 - b. Planter's House Cemetery Access: discussion included the location of the Planter's House Cemetery (in Shingle Springs below the old Williams' Power Tools building); Mary Tran, Melinda Peak Mike Roberts and Suzi Mickus visited the cemetery recently; the parceling issue; the freeway cut through the edge of the cemetery; damage to the cemetery over the years; the property owner's explanation that the gate is locked to prevent overnight stays by homeless persons; and the family history of the cemetery.
 - c. Report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee: the subcommittee met with Lindsey Alagozian, Senior Planner in the CDS Planning & Building Department, to discuss and learn about cemeteries and setbacks. The subcommittee will meet with Lindsey again on March 13 at 4 p.m.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Exchange of Information with the NCIC: items discussed included errors in Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) on cemetery lists; Melinda suggested sending the cemetery map to NCIC because they do not provide information by APN.

7. Action Items

a. Proposed Revision to CAC Formation Resolution: Kathy Witherow made a motion to accept the proposed recommended changes; the motion was seconded by Melinda Peak. The motion was approved.

8. Representative Reports:

Chair's report (including District III): items addressed included information that the owners of Rose Springs Cemetery are open to the idea of a re-dedication ceremony this spring; Mark McCusker submitted his application to be the Fraternal Representative; Kris Payne indicated that 50 people attended Dr. Bob's presentation at the Cameron Park Community Services District, which included a 15-minute address about Save the Graves and pioneer cemetery restoration; Kris Payne thanked Mike for his representation. Mike distributed a flyer titled "Cannabis Growing In El Dorado County: Understanding Vs. Fear." Roger Runkle stated that the CAC members are prohibited from taking an active political role but can act independently or as members of another group; CAC members may educate, not advocate and must step away from CAC to advocate. Creighton Avila shared that the Board of Supervisors approved creation of a fund for cemeteries through the El Dorado Community Foundation. Other items addressed by Mike Roberts included: suggesting that representatives go to their cemeteries on Memorial Day to meet visitors; Mary Cory got the Adopt-a-Cemetery-Project Program approved; and Mike will try to get donations of supplies from hardware stores and volunteers from schools to help paint the mausoleum buildings at Placerville Union Cemetery.

District I: Melinda Peak visited Mormon Island Cemetery and indicated there is some damage to the cemetery fence, holes have opened at several graves, an obelisk marker is tilting, there is downed wood, a headstone is missing, and the maps and lists have been removed. Melinda also visited Kilgore Cemetery in Sacramento County and stated it was refreshing to see what has been done at that cemetery (iron fence, keypad entrance). Julianne Melchor noted that on her recent visit to Mormon Island Cemetery she noticed a monument was missing and she thinks the holes are related to animals. Further discussion included locking the cemetery at night, getting LDS youth volunteers to clean up the cemetery, a possible water issue at the cemetery, and the fact that approximately one-third of the cemetery is in Sacramento County.

District II: Mary Tran, Charlene Gross and her husband, Mark McCusker and other Masons toured the Indian Diggings Cemetery (a Federal Preserve) led by Rusty Vardi; Mary thanked the County for the work in relation to the Fairplay Cemetery.

District IV: No report.

District V: Vacancy addressed. Charlene Gross would like to fill the District vacancy in an archeologist capacity.

Native American representative: Ramona Tripp is concerned about a development that is too close to a Native American Cemetery; she will provide more information for follow-up by staff.

9. Public Comment (limited to 5 minutes each): Mark McCusker reported a lot of trade unions would model themselves after fraternal organizations and a financial sponsorship through the Masons.

Julianne Melchor asked for topics for the agenda for the next meeting. Kris Payne requested that Save the Graves be added under Old Business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m. The next meeting will be March 27, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. in the **OES Room, Lower Level, Building A.**

Respectfully, Julie Hart, Administrative Technician

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