



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
Frank Clark, 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
Mark McCusker, Fraternal Organizations

MINUTES March 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, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Mark McCusker.
County Staff: Julie Hart, Mary Cory, and Roger Runkle.
Guests: Lori Parlin, Mary Ann Schroth, Bob Villabos, Kris Payne, James Dayley, Bethany Fieldhouse-Elliott and Ellen Osborn.
The agenda was adopted.
2. The minutes of February 27, 2019, were approved, with a motion by John Hidahl and a second by Mary Tran.
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:
 - a. Distribution of cemetery list, organized by Board districts: Julianne Melchor distributed the list of cemeteries (in alphabetical and district order). Discussion included the County managing some cemeteries; private cemeteries need the property owner's permission to enter; tours of cemeteries can create parking issues; posting better maps at the cemeteries; the Georgetown Advisory Committee is working on a kiosk for a map and burial listing for the Georgia Slide Cemetery, and they intend to do kiosks for Pioneer and the Renke Annex; funding, safety and keeping cemeteries safe from vandalism. Other discussion included abandoned cemeteries; Fairplay Cemetery (the County is in the process of acquiring title to Fairplay Cemetery); and El Dorado County is one of the few counties that operate cemeteries.
 - b. Update on proposed changes to the resolution: The Cemetery Advisory Committee was formed by the Board of Supervisors by resolution in 2002. Discussion of changes to the resolution to recommend to the Board of Supervisors included adding a veteran and an archeologist as voting members. The resolution would likely be a consent item on the Board's agenda.
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Cemetery Projects: Mike Roberts announced dates of interest related to cemeteries: May 11th at 11 a.m. at the Rescue Historical Society, history and tour of the Rose Springs Cemetery; May 27th is Memorial Day and Mike recommended that committee members consider taking burial lists to cemeteries in their districts to assist visitors; and October 19th is the Save the Graves fundraiser at Placerville Union Cemetery. Mike also stated that ARC would like him to lead cemetery tours and that he would like to tour Greenwood Cemetery. The Adopt-a-Cemetery-Project Program was addressed. Items discussed included: people showing up at a cemetery to plant an oak tree on a grave; taking projects to schools, scouts, and fraternal organizations; and Kris Payne of the El Dorado Historical Society addressed junior docents and junior researchers helping the Historical Society; getting kids involved. Mark McCusker requested the Adopt A Cemetery Program be sent to him. Ramona Tripp-Verbeck requested the name Tripp be removed from

Blackwell/Tripp Cemetery.

- b. Stewardship Recognition: Mike Roberts has met people who have been maintaining cemeteries and would like to recognize these volunteers, stating he would be willing to go to Arnold's and pay for a modest recognition award. Discussion included some people do not want recognition and having an article written in the Mountain Democrat about the volunteers.
 - c. Special Districts recap/update: Mike Roberts distributed the Chairman's Report. He addressed the idea of special districts for cemeteries, which the Board is exploring for the ballot in November 2020; CAC members cannot advocate for the ballot item under the guise of their membership on the committee, but can advocate independently; the annual budget process puts cemeteries in jeopardy for funding; and the Board of Supervisors appoints the trustees for cemetery special districts.
6. Old Business:
- a. Planter's House Cemetery Access: Remove from Old Business.
 - b. Exchange of Information with the NCIC: no update.
 - c. Save the Graves: Kris Payne announced that there will be an open house on October 19th at Placerville Union Cemetery; Imagination Theater supporters and others are volunteering to do reenactments; the group is associated with the El Dorado Arts Council, which is a non-profit organization supported by the El Dorado Community Foundation; and Bill Roby, Director of the Foundation, has said that he would assist in any way he can.
7. Representative Reports:
- District I: Melinda Peak addressed the following: some of the posted information on the Mormon Island kiosk is missing; hydrology problem; will finish report once the ground dries; and a proposed storage facility will have an entrance on Green Valley Road and will have to be approved by the Planning Commission.
- District II: Mary Tran indicated she will take pictures of cemeteries in her district once the rain stops.
- District III: Mike Roberts reported El Dorado Cemetery is beautiful, green, and no trash. He has not been back to Missouri Flat Cemetery. Mary Ann Schroth stated Jack Sweeney is keeping an eye on it.
- District IV: Frank Clark noted Memorial Day is approaching and there are more than seven cemeteries to take care of.
- District V: Vacancy addressed.
- John Hidahl wants to work with the Cemetery Advisory Committee to develop funding mechanisms; want to educate not advocate.
- Sgt. Eric Palmberg: Nothing to report.
- Ramona Tripp-Verbeck: Nothing to report.
- Creighton Avila: Nothing to report.
8. Public Comment (limited to 5 minutes each): James Dayley asked the about the number of residents in the cemeteries; Julianne Melchor addressed cemeteries and the general fund for cemeteries.
 9. Next meeting: April 24, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. in the **Library Conference Room**.
 10. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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