



# 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  
Cindy Munt, BOS Alternate  
Sgt. Eric Palmberg, Coroner's Office  
Charlane Gross, Archeological Representative  
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Cemeteries  
Mark McCusker, Fraternal Organizations

## **MINUTES January 22, 2020**

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Roberts at 3:02 p.m.
  - a. Committee members present: Julianne Melchor, Melinda Peak, Mike Roberts, John Hidahl, Charlane Gross, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Sgt. Eric Palmberg, and Frank Clark.
  - b. Staff present: Julie Hart and Roger Runkle.
  - c. The agenda was adopted, with a motion by Frank Clark and a second by Melinda Peak.
- 2) The minutes from December 18, 2019, were approved with a motion by John Hidahl and a second by Charlane Gross.
- 3) Introductions and announcements: Ryan Carpenter, Detective with the El Dorado County Coroner's Office was introduced.
- 4) Staff reports:
  - a. Recommendations for service groups to do maintenance at County-owned cemeteries: Julianne Melchor announced that Creighton Avila would like each CAC member to suggest as many service groups (two groups to a cemetery) that would do landscape maintenance in the cemeteries and requested suggestions be emailed to her. Discussion included contacting the Mountain Democrat, faith based organizations, historical groups, use of jail inmates, and organization of the volunteers prior to starting the volunteer program.
  - b. Discuss date of May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting: The CAC agreed to change the date of the May meeting to May 20, 2020.
- 5) Discussion and action items:
  - a. 2020 CAC goals: Mike Roberts submitted two lists (one for the CAC in general and one for District 3). Discussion included protecting and restoring cemeteries, the problems with being notified about development projects which could affect cemeteries, posting interment lists at all cemeteries and the need for installing kiosks at many cemeteries, and scheduling a presentation on green burials. Julianne will send a PDF showing the locations of cemeteries in El Dorado County to the CAC members.

- 6) Old Business:
  - a. Exchange of information with the NCIC: Melina Peak stated the NCIC is a regional clearinghouse of cultural resources and Folsom Lake College (FLC) offers a Certificate of Achievement in GIS in Geography. She is working with Jason Pittman (an instructor at FLC) who is excited about the possibility of working with his students on putting together information to submit to the NCIC. His department is thinking about purchasing a camera for use with drones. This camera could be used to see if burials are located outside of cemetery boundaries.
- 7) Representative Reports:
  - a. District I, Melinda Peak: No report. She stated that someone who visited Greenwood Cemetery reported a grave has sunk two feet and part of a well cover is missing. Frank Clark is aware of the problem and is working on getting a crew to fix the problem soon.
  - b. District II, Mary Tran: Not present.
  - c. District III, Mike Roberts: Placerville Union is still clean after the cleanup done by Ed Bixby and his crew for the Save the Graves event. Julianne will work on scheduling a contractor to clean the cemetery after the budget is done. Mike would like to start doing Saturday cemetery walks through all cemeteries.
  - d. District IV, Frank Clark: Bob Villabos representing Kelsey Cemetery District was introduced.
  - e. District V, Vacant: No report.
  - f. Coroner's Office, Sgt. Palmberg: The County morgue has been in operation since January 1, 2020, and is hoping to keep all cases in-house. They are currently waiting for an x-ray machine. He stated they have eight cold cases and may be exhuming one from Middletown Cemetery.
  - g. Archeological Representative, Charlane Gross: No report. She gave kudos to Melinda for her work with FLC.
  - h. Native American Representative, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck: No report.
  - i. Fraternal Organizations, Mark McCusker: Not present.
- 8) Public Comment
  - a. Discussion by CAC members and staff included the Missouri Flat Cemetery; volunteers Maggie Killackey and Lori Turnbull are updating records for Placerville Union Cemetery.
- 9) Next meeting: February 26, 2020. Agenda items are due two weeks before the meeting.
- 10) Adjournment: Frank Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mike Roberts. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Staff: Mary Cory, Administrator, El Dorado County Museum  
Roger Runkle, Office of County Counsel  
Sherrie Busby, Administrative Services Officer, CAO Office, Airports and Cemeteries Division  
Julianne Melchor, Administrative Analyst, CAO Office, Airports and Cemeteries Division  
Julie Hart, Administrative Technician, CAO Office, Airports and Cemeteries Division