



County of El Dorado

Cemetery Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Melinda Peak, District I, Vice Chair

Larry Robinson, District II

Mike Roberts, District III, Chair

Frank Clark, District IV

Vacant, District V

Charlane Gross, Archeological Representative

Mark McCusker, Fraternal Organizations Representative

Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Cemeteries Representative

Lori Parlin, Board of Supervisors

Shelley Wiley, Board of Supervisors Alternate

Sheriff John D'Agostini, Coroner's Office

Sgt. Blake Alvarez, Coroner's Office Alternate

Christopher Perry, Cemetery Director

Julianne Melchor, Cemetery Director Alternate

MINUTES March 31, 2021

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Roberts at 3:12 p.m. The meeting held via Zoom and was recorded. The agenda was adopted, with a motion by Frank Clark and a second by Melinda Peak.
 - a. Committee members present: Melinda Peak, Mike Roberts, Frank Clark, Sgt. Blake Alvarez, Chris Perry, Sup. Lori Parlin
 - b. Committee members absent: Larry Robinson, Charlane Gross, Mark McCusker, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck
 - c. Staff present: Mary Cory, Julianne Melchor and Shelley Willey
- 2) The minutes from February 24, 2020, will be presented for approval at the next meeting.
- 3) Introductions and announcements: Sgt. Blake Alvarez has replaced Sgt. Eric Palmberg as the Coroner's Office alternate representative.
- 4) Staff reports (from Julianne unless otherwise noted):
 - a. Simplified budget overview and actuals: not complete.
 - b. Progress report on development of the SQL application to replace current database: Tables for Renke and Georgia Slide were converted last year for testing. Lance Gilbert was subsequently taken off the project for another priority, but hopes to get back to it soon. The new application will allow direct connection to the Cemeteries webpage so members of the public will be able to access information on burials in all County-managed cemeteries.
 - c. Current active cemeteries (plot sales) and status of GPR in those cemeteries: Julianne is selling plots at eight active cemeteries; El Dorado (most active), Georgetown Pioneer and the Renke Annex, Georgia Slide, Mormon Island, Pilot Hill, Placerville Union and Smith Flat.
 - d. Status of GPR project at Placerville Union and Latrobe: GPR is in the budget for Placerville Union and Latrobe, but staff has no time to work on the RFP so it is unlikely to be done this year. The expense was rolled over into the next budget. Latrobe also needs GPR but is lower priority due to difficult access to the cemetery (limited sight lines onto Latrobe Road, cemetery access requires crossing private property and the owners not happy about this). Pre-need burials are happening, rarely, but cannot sell plots unless GPR is done. Oddity: left (east) side headstones are at the foot of graves. GPR has been done at all the other cemeteries where plots are being sold.
 - e. Committee vacancies: The District 5 seat is still vacant. Changes requested by the committee (residency requirement and the addition of a veteran's representative) have not been forwarded to the Board. Staff is not clear on whether the committee can suggest amending the formation resolution. Supervisor Parlin suggested asking County Counsel or the Clerk of the Board for

advice, and added that this is a good time for such a recommendation.

5) Discussion and action items:

- a. Volunteer recognition: Mike presented recognition to uber-volunteer, Maggie Killackey. Maggie spend considerable time consolidating and updating Placerville Union Cemetery records. She, with her husband Bob and Mike (who donated the materials for signs) created about 100 section signs and placed them in the cemetery. She also updated and revised the layout of multiple charts used to locate graves.
- b. Save the Graves update: The group plans to move forward with an event in October, duplicating the format of the event in 2018. An advisory cabinet has been formed, and a grant to send actors into classrooms was received.
- c. Annual report to the Board of Supervisors: Mike requested that the committee be involved in the annual report to the Board.
- d. Cemetery project guidelines: Mike indicated guidelines are needed on what the committee is allowed to do; he is concerned about the requirement to essentially conduct a genealogy research project to be able to clean headstones.

6) Old Business:

- a. Formation resolution directive on funding (look into TOT funding): Formation resolution instructs CAC to seek out alternate sources of funding for cemeteries. Mike explained hotel tax. Suggested possibility of outside grants. Melinda remarked that very few cemetery grants are available; most are very small and much work is required to apply. Landmark status is not required, but cemeteries are rarely listed on the National Register. Mike suggested implementing a reverse endowment -- ask families of the interred to donate toward cemetery upkeep; and also suggested publishing stories as outreach to drive donations. Melinda suggested a nonprofit of some sort, to work with the County. Julianne indicated the County can accept donations, but the Board must approve them. Mike said the Save the Graves leadership is talking about forming a cemetery non-profit, to include cemetery work and education. Julianne said the County would like to see some STG monies directed toward county cemeteries. Much staff time was spent on the 2018 event. TOT grants require analytical evidence of benefit. We should measure website traffic to measure public interest in cemeteries. Staff has no time to develop web content and requested help from committee members or anyone else. We need more info for all cemeteries, not just county-managed. Lori suggested creating packages for hotels. Some type of walking tour (using headsets) would be a good idea. The Board just approved this year's funding splits, but there may be money left over if this group could get a proposal ready to go. Money is for one-time expenses. Chris Perry suggested engaging the Visitors Authority, the number one site for El Dorado County tourism. There is much interest in cemeteries in a historical area like El Dorado County. Melinda suggested tracking with a QR code, build in tracking, and start with Placerville Union. Chris suggested geotagging, geo-caching, kids games. Julianne suggested getting permission to use the videos created for Save the Graves. Chris asked for a strategy and vision piece to schedule a time to meet the visitors' authority.
- b. Cemetery inspections/tours (attachment: Proposed 2021 Outings List): Mike's draft proposal for several tours was posted on the CAC portion of the Cemeteries web page. Mike will send an invitation to the first outing and a rough guide to others. He is looking for feedback. People want to see these places. Frank said people want to see places like Greenwood and Spanish Dry Diggings. Frank commented that inmate labor is no longer free; he is trying to get a Growlersburg crew out to Greenwood and Pilot Hill before Memorial Day this year. Julianne suggested that the crew not be asked to do Pilot Hill, as Facilities has that cemetery on their maintenance list.

- c. Bylaws (attachment): Mike submitted proposed bylaws, which will be discussed at a future meeting. The bylaws will likely inform a revised formation resolution. Julianne reminded members that while the Board of Supervisors has legal authority over all cemeteries in the County the County's management authority is limited to the seventeen to which the County has title ownership or is likely the title owner. Mike agreed, but indicated a lingering question is what to do if a private cemetery needs attention.
 - d. Cold Springs Cemetery complaint: Lori indicated the Board is considering how to handle the Cold Springs Cemetery; it is possible it will become a County-managed cemetery, unless another option presents itself. One possibility is clearing the title for a private party to take it over.
 - e. Providing information to the NCIC: no solution yet; suggested a subcommittee for the project.
- 7) Representative Reports: Mike made a motion to skip this item, but the motion failed for lack of a second. Discussion ensued about the need for committee members to become active in leading and working on issues. Lori Parlin suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to work on the things that come up repeatedly with no progress. She would be interested in serving on a committee to work with the Visitor's Authority. Chris indicated that staff would assist with administrative work (to the extent that there is bandwidth in the unit) but the committee needs to provide the content.
- 8) Public comment (limited to five minutes each): None present.
- 9) Next meeting: April 28, 2021, via Zoom. Agenda items are due two weeks before the meeting.
- 10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Staff: Mary Cory, Administrator, El Dorado County Museum
Roger Runkle, Office of County Counsel
Sherrie Busby, Administrative Services Officer, Planning and Building Dept., Airports and Cemeteries Divisions
Jessica Dillon, Planning and Building Dept., Assistant to Chris Perry