



County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Creighton Avila, Deputy CAO, Cemetery Director
Bonnie Wurm, Cemetery Director Alternate
Melinda Peak, District I
Vacant, 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

February 28, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice Chairman Joan Wicklund at 3:05 PM. Committee members present: Creighton Avila, Bonnie Wurm, Melinda Peak, Mary Tran, Mike Roberts, Frank Clark, Joan Wicklund, Sgt. Troy Morton, Kathy Witherow. Guests: Mary Ann Schroth, Supervisor John Hidahl. County Staff: Sherrie Busby, Mary Cory. The agenda was adopted.
2. The minutes of January 24, 2018 were approved as written.
3. Introductions and Announcements
 - (a) Creighton Avila introduced himself and gave a brief description of the survey being conducted by CAO staff of how other counties are handling their gold rush era cemeteries.
 - (b) Bonnie distributed a summary of Resolution 128-2002 defining the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Advisory Committee.
4. Discussion and Reports:
 - (a) Cemetery Operations Staff Report
 - i. Update on the Adopt A Cemetery Project program – the program as revised by Cemetery Operations staff has been reviewed by County Counsel and Risk Management. It is now being prepared to go to the Board of Supervisors.
 - ii. Cemetery Budget report – Bonnie distributed the budget summary for 2016 and briefly went over sources for revenue and the expenditures for that fiscal year.
 - iii. Summary of burials – Bonnie distributed a table of burials by cemetery for 2018 so far and stated that the County has an obligation to provide public cemeteries. Mike Roberts demanded that all burials in Placerville Union Cemetery be stopped due to the lack of information about who is buried where, and to stop all burials in walkways. Bonnie reported that the practice of selling plots in walkways started many years ago by the previous owners. There was a suggestion to have County Counsel attend a CAC meeting to discuss the legal procedures relating to burials and cemeteries. Sherrie reported that a Request For Proposal will be issued to do a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the Placerville Union Cemetery.
 - (b) Representative Reports
 - i. BOS Alternate – Kathy Witherow reported that the Archeology Representative vacancy has been posted. The El Dorado Cemetery quiet

- claim is being publicly notified.
- ii. Coroner's Office – Due to questions raised at the January meeting, Troy Morton found that there were approximately 1300 deaths in 2017 and 200+ burial permits issued. The remaining would be non-county burials and cremains.
 - iii. Native American Cemeteries – absent
 - iv. Fraternal Organizations – absent
 - v. Archaeological Rep – vacant
 - vi. District I – Melinda Peak reported that she took a group doing a plan for the State Parks to the Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery. She once again asked for a current map of burials.
 - vii. District II – Mary Tran introduced herself as the new appointment for District II. She visited the Bryant Cemetery and noted that is difficult to find. She has been researching District II cemeteries, and Bonnie will send her the information that she has on those cemeteries.
 - viii. District III – Mike Roberts reported that he will be conducting cemetery tours at Smith Flat on March 31 and El Dorado and Diamond Springs on April 14 on behalf of American River Conservancy.
 - ix. District IV – none
 - x. District V – Joan Wicklund visited the Fairplay Cemetery and reported that it is beautiful and looks cared for. There is a broken headstone and a tree down on a fence.
5. Public Comment
- (a) Mary Ann Schroth reported that a Museum Researcher found a reference to a Japanese burial in the Pierroz family cemetery.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting will be March 28, 2018 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