



CRETE CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Crete City Hall, 243 East 13th Street

MINTUES

Notice of the meeting was given by posting and publishing in The Crete News, the appointed method for giving notice as shown by the Proof of Publication attached to the minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Mayor and City Council. Pursuant to Section 84-1412(8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the City has posted a current copy of the Open Meetings Act, Laws of the State of Nebraska in the back of the Council Chambers. Additional copies are available to read. The City may consider items listed on the agenda in random order. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Those in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. Open Meeting

2. Roll Call

Gene Eggebraaten: Present
Jim Homan: Present
Larry Shestak: Present
Pam Busboom: Present
Kathy Statsny: Present
Linda Unger: Present

Present: 6, Absent: 0.

3. Consent Agenda

Approve consent agenda as presented.

Pam Busboom read the minutes from the previous meeting

4. Items of Business

4A. General Organization of City of Crete and Cemetery Board

City Administrator Tom Ourada shared information on the duties of the board. Ourada explained that the City Code is the local law and codifies the responsibilities including those of the Cemetery Board.

- Passed out the Duties and Roles of the City Administrator. He mentioned the City Administrator supervises all departments and the cemetery is one of them.
- Passed out copies of the previous and new City of Crete Organizational Chart. Ourada explained that he is the liaison for boards and commissions.
- Explained that the reason he passed out both charts is due to the changes of positions within the city.

Ourada explained that the rules and regulations and that the board has to have an item on the agenda to vote on it. It is a violation if you don't.

- It is illegal to tell someone you don't have to follow the law
- If it's not on the agenda you can't take action on it.

Ourada explained who can add items to the agenda

- Cemetery Board Chair
 - City Administrator
 - Mayor
 - 3 council people can also request it
- The agenda is created a week before (By law 72 hours before meeting)
- Some things are trivial and don't rise to the City Council. Same to this board. Some things can be answered without having to be put on the agenda

Kathy Stastny stated that the board is there to hear concerns from citizens. Stastny provided her cell phone number to the board. If anyone on the board hears anything they want to discuss or put on the agenda to let her know.

4.B. Financial status update

Ourada passed out the Regulations of the Crete Riverside Cemetery and the Cemetery Financial Report

4.C. Discussion on possible ways to get donations for planters and benches by columbarium

Stastny mentioned fundraising for benches and planters for the columbarium

Pam Busboom stated it had previously been mentioned by Judy to have bench plaques to make the area more attractive and raising funds for this.

Jim Homan asked Ourada how often the City asks for donations. Ourada stated that the City never does.

Statsny asked about how many plots there are currently.

Ourada mentioned

- there are a number of unmarked plots
- City is considering buying small grave markers for unmarked plots

- Cemetery Board can't commit tax funds
- Cemetery Board can make a recommendation to the City Council
- City Council votes
- Ourada and Emerson Aschoff talked about the markers for the unmarked plots and it would be about \$40,000 and this would be a sign of good will from the City (something worthy to keep in mind)
- The markers would be impersonal (no way to tell who they are)

4.D. Cemetery Bylaws

Ourada passed out the Cemetery Bylaws

4.E. Update on sign repairs for Blue Valley Cemetery

Statsny commented that some tombstones are tipping over. Ourada stated you have to be very careful with this, it can be very expensive and some stones are very fragile.

Busboom mentioned that they had thought about having the boy scouts clean them but with the legalities this involves it would not be feasible.

Statsny asked about when the new signs will be made

Ourada mentioned that he spoke with Jason Dunham the Cemetery Sexton and they will be highly resistant and the city will buy the new ones and he is not sure if all the families have been notified.

- Some families were disappointed
- They will be reengraved.

Statsny asked about the new Blue Valley sign. Both Pam Busboom and Jim Homan mentioned it looks nice.

4.F. Wish list-new directory building with small service space at Riverside

Statsny stated that the new three-sided directory building with small service space at Riverside would be big expense and something to look at later down the road.

4.G. New Board member to replace Eleanor Henning

Larry Shestak is now on the board

4.H. Appearance of cemeteries for Memorial Day

4.I. Date of next board meeting

Statsny commented that the Cemetery Board meeting is on the last Monday of the month with the exception of the month of May.

-The next meeting will be on Monday, May 22nd at 4pm. Statsny will send a text message to the members and will call Gene.

4. Officers' Reports

- Reports may be given by the staff, Departments, or Board concerning the current operations of the cemetery.
- No action can be taken on matters presented under this title except to answer any questions or to refer the matter for further action.

-Stastny asked if there are trash cans. Homan and Linda Unger commented that yes there are but people move them. Busboom mentioned there is one at Blue Valley tied to a tree close to the driveway.

-Gene Eggebraaten asked about the driveway at the south and if it could be straight. Ourada stated that there are some plots there. Busboom mentioned that is the reason the driveway is that way so people don't drive on them and that Bill Renz donated some trees.

-Ourada commented that Jason Dunham does a really good job as the Cemetery Sexton. He used to be at the street department and has found his niche. Ourada sends Dunham to trainings and that way he can also get ideas on what works. Dunham is involved with the capital expenses such as mowers and other equipment to help him succeed.

Stastny asked about asking Dunham to the Cemetery Board Meeting. Ourada explained that this is what he does. Boards don't interact with employees. Ourada can communicate with Dunham.

-Busboom mentioned sharing a concern of a family having a sister buried at sea and would like a plaque with the birth and death on the back of the parents' gravestone.

- learned that you have to be the executor or spouse to have the authority to change a grave marker
- There had been concerns when a family's member didn't have a flag placed on their grave. However, that type of flag had to come from the VA and it wasn't something the board could do.

Homan asked who people can contact to buy a plot and who keeps the location of graves?

Ourada mentioned the Clerk's office or Kuncel's. The City keeps the location electronically on GIS and Kuncel's on paper. There are also books in the cemetery and even new graves are recorded.

Stastny will contact Ourada to meet a week before the next meeting to go over the agenda. Ourada explained that by law it has to be at least 72 hours before.

Adjournment

Busboom motioned to adjourn the meeting and Eggebraaten second at 4:56pm

