

**CEMETERY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

April 16, 2009
5:00 P.M.

Engineering/Planning Conference Room, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray Geigel
Jerry Waak
John Zabel
Ted Dirkman
Dennis Schneider

STAFF PRESENT

Derek Muench
Sandy Ronski

OTHERS

R. Geigel called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes from March 26, 2009

T. Dirkman made a motion to approve the minutes. J. Waak seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapel donation

D. Muench did send out the application for a grant from the West Foundation. D. Muench was told by another City department head that the Foundation generally has a 40-day turnaround, and they do have monthly meetings. D. Muench also met with the Engineering Department this week to go over a spec. The RFP's were sent out this week to get bids for architectural design of a chapel to be constructed for under \$45,000 using a shingle roof with a 50-year warranty. He's hoping that there will be money left over, so that the Cemetery staff can do any necessary landscaping. Once the site plan is done, it will be put out for bid. T. Dirkman did not think that Hamann's estimate was out of line. D. Muench said he is hoping that the architectural plans do not cost more than \$2,000.

2009 Memorial Day plans

R. Geigel spoke with Marge Miley from the Herald Times Reporter, who agreed to write a column for us. He passed around some pictures that he had received from her. He also reviewed some information about other prominent burials in Evergreen Cemetery.

D. Muench told the Commission that the Manitowoc County Civil War Round Table would be interested in working together with the cemetery staff to put on a Civil War Veterans Cemetery Walk on Memorial Day. Some of the Round Table members had been planning to participate in an out-of-town Cemetery Walk, but preferred doing it locally. Mary Lou Salomon, the organization's secretary, has 16 volunteers ready to participate. D. Muench felt it was a good opportunity since much of the responsibility for the Walk would lie with a third-party. M. Salomon is envisioning a self-guided tour from 12 PM to 2 PM on Memorial

Day. She has a pop-up tent, which would be placed by the middle entrance on North 18th street and which is where she will have her binders of information available on all Manitowoc County Civil War veterans. She has said that we would be welcome to display literature about the cemetery as well.

The Walk would feature some re-enactors and descendants. T. Dirkman likes the idea because it is different from the activities across the street. The Cemetery would be responsible for advertising the Cemetery Walk. Al Karl, from the Manitowoc County Veterans Council, told D. Muench that if we get the information to them about the Walk, they will promote it during their event. D. Muench said that he would prefer to have articles written about the event in the newspaper rather than do paid advertising and that we could get the information out to our city outlets (library, senior center, etc.). M. Salomon had suggested that if we do it again next year, then we should consider adding veterans from other wars, etc.

S. Ronski told the Commission that maps of the Civil War veterans' burial sites will be available at this weekend's Civil War Encampment at Washington Park. Over 220 of Manitowoc County's 800+ Civil War veterans are in Evergreen Cemetery. In August, there will be a 2-day Civil War Remembered event at Pinecrest Historical Village.

R. Geigel suggested a horse-drawn wagon to transport elderly people who may not be able to walk. S. Ronski said that the Cemetery does have a Gator that could be used, if necessary. She questioned if we wanted to do anything with refreshments. The Manitowoc County Historical Society's event, which serves food and drinks, normally goes until noon. The Commission discussed selling bottled water and soda. J. Zabel suggested putting out a cooler of water. R. Geigel questioned if the Health Department would allow that. J. Zabel and J. Waak did not think that we needed to sell refreshments. J. Waak suggested that maybe the Round Table would like to sell the refreshments.

T. Dirkman asked if there was an alternate date if it rains. S. Ronski said that there would not, unless we tried to set something up later in the summer or fall. D. Muench said we won't be out anything if it's cancelled. T. Dirkman said that we will get good advertising out of the event in either case.

T. Dirkman made a motion that we go ahead with plans for a Civil War Veterans Cemetery Walk on Memorial Day. D. Schneider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Advertising

As a side note, D. Muench mentioned that he had some ads put together for the 50+ section of the newspaper. He said that he would bring them to the next Commission meeting. He will be doing a 7-12 month ad in both newspapers, which will cost approximately \$1,200.

Memorial Tree Program

D. Muench said that the brochure is already to go but needs to be printed. The plan is to send it to people who purchased lots after 2003 and the contacts that we have listed for any

burials. This comes to approximately 1,200 individuals. D. Muench said that he would prefer to do an editorial on this program instead of paid advertising, because he believes that people will read it. He said that he could probably put ads in the Manitowoc and Two Rivers Senior Center newsletters, plus he said that there is room for articles.

S. Ronski suggested that perhaps in the article, we may want to mention our Champion Trees. We had a Swiss Stone Pine, Camperdown Elm and Japanese Yew that are on record as being some of the largest in Wisconsin. D. Schneider said that Bill Gamble is one of the people who measures the trees.

Freedom From Religion Signs

D. Schneider explained how the City Council gives permission for a gentleman from First Lutheran to erect three crosses on the hill by the cemetery. The crosses used to be on their hill by their parking lot until they took it down. S. Ronski explained that over the course of the week proceeding Easter, someone had placed or attempted to place three Freedom From Religion signs by the crosses. The police caught the suspect “red-handed.”

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 14th at 5:00. T. Dirkman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Schneider seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Derek Muench, Cemetery Manager