

Richfield Village Cemetery Board

Minutes of the Special Meeting March 22, 2021

Called to order at 6:01.

Roll Call: Paul Swan, Jeff Stoppenhagen, Pat Healey, Penny Rzonka, Stephanie Landry, Bill Taylor and Jeff Ferrera.

Guest: Service Director Chris Papp.

Rules Discussion

The board discussed adding buy-back language to the rules. Papp said Law Director Alex Cortes could use language from the Ohio Revised Code that allows the township to buy back unused plots. Papp said this could be added after the rules are adopted, but not before.

943.03 – Grandfathering language could be added regarding a casket with two urns.

943.05 – Papp said foundation removal could be added to the list of costs (\$500 to \$1000). Papp said this has only happened once in the last three years.

Urn could be cultured marble. Stoppenhagen asked “unless otherwise approved by the director of public service” would cover this, and the other board members said yes. Now, we allow plastic containers.

Language could be added to prohibit interment unless the body or cremains are accompanied by a burial permit.

Regarding exhumation, the requirement could be changed from “court order or written consent” to “court order and written consent.”

Stoppenhagen asked if dogs are allowed. Rzonka said yes. Ferrera said Council might push back on this. Stoppenhagen said the dog owner must be responsible for cleanup. Ferrera said a misdemeanor would result otherwise. Taylor said that while the park has a honor system, the cemetery rules should have some teeth to them regarding this issue.

945.09 – Papp said section E can be omitted because the subject matter is covered by section F. Regarding the parameters of headstone, thickness (front to back) could be added.

The penalties have been moved to the end of the chapter (945.99)

Landry asked if these rules could be guidelines rather than laws, so all changes would not have to go through Council. Stoppenhagen said that if they are laws, citizens must abide by them. Papp said the rules would not hold up in court if they are not codified. They can be changed later.

Stoppenhagen thanked everyone for their work on these rules over the years. Swan thanked the rules committee of Stoppenhagen, Taylor and Healey.

Healey thanked Taylor and his group for cleaning up West Richfield Cemetery.

Swan adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman

Cemetery Board Secretary