

Richfield Village Cemetery Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 5, 2021

Called to order at 6 p.m.

Roll Call: Paul Swan, Jeff Stoppenhagen, Pat Healey, Bill Taylor and Jeff Ferrara. ABSENT: Stephanie Landry (excused absence). Penny Rzonka has resigned.

Guests: Service Director Papp, Mayor Wheeler, Law Director Cortes.

Harold Scobie was sworn in as the newest member of the Cemetery Board.

Approval of March 22 minutes, as corrected

Moved by Ferrara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Approval of March 23 minutes

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

New business

Cortes commented on the proposed rules. He said they were concise and not in need of too many corrections. Failing to pick up after a dog could be a minor misdemeanor carrying a fine. Regarding grave buyback language, this would apply going forward but not backward. Scobie said the definition section of the cemetery rules is missing the definition of a burial permit.

Motion to have any laws broken in the cemeteries to be classified as minor misdemeanors in part D of the proposed rules. Moved by Healey, seconded by Scobie. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to add the Ohio Revised Code definition of burial permit to the rules. Moved by Scobie, seconded by Taylor. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to submit the cemetery rules, as revised, to Council on May 18. Moved by Taylor, seconded by Healey. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Papp said Section D of Fairview has 96 graves and 431 cremains. Section E has 68 lots, and Section F has 63 lots. Each lot has room for five graves.

We have no update on headstone cleaning by Doug Mayer. Mayor Wheeler will contact him.

Motion to approve the minutes of the rules subcommittee meetings for Nov. 9, 2020; Nov. 16, 2020; Dec. 7, 2020; and Jan. 18, 2021. YAY: Healey, Stoppenhagen and Taylor.

Papp said the village has five capital projects involving the cemeteries at a total cost of \$125,000. They are ground penetrating radar and columbarium design at Fairview; and niche design, columbarium design and expansion design at West Richfield. Healey asked about the change from Behnke to Grever and Ward. Papp said GW has a very good feel for cemetery design, and the mayor is also impressed with GW. Stoppenhagen noted that Behnke's plan has a driveway between the columbarium and the veterans memorial.

Papp said the ALTA survey of West Richfield showed significant areas with no occupied graves. The use of ground penetrating radar will confirm this. A drain from the columbarium runs onto private property. We could find another 100 grave sites that could be sold and used. Swan said he would like to see the columbarium at the end of the sidewalk.

The board discussed the history and size of the completion of the new Fairview. The discussion included why just the rectangle was created instead of developing the 6+ acres purchased from Columbus Equipment. The mayor said Behnke's plan included several different levels of development up to an expenditure of \$1.2 million to complete the full 6+ acres. Wheeler said Council decided the cost would be too great, instead agreeing to spend 253,000.

Regarding cemetery signage, Ferrara said they could be made like Richfield's street signs. Papp said they would cost \$1,500 each because the materials are expensive. Papp said a survey at West Richfield could show where the signs could be placed. Healey said the section signs would not make sense without a map (showing which section the loved one is buried in), and having 24 of these signs showing the corners of the six sections would look bad. Swan said a smartphone application could help to locate graves.

Ferrara said that as a funeral director, he thought it would be a good idea to take some responsibility off the service department and place it on one person: a sexton. He gave the example of a family that ran into multiple problems with a burial. Wheeler said it has been difficult with people working from home. Taylor called it a process problem. Papp said the cemeteries represent a significant amount of work, and it would be difficult for one person to do. Wheeler said he would talk to Council about the idea of a full-time sexton.

Swan adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Gorman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeff Gorman

Cemetery Board Secretary