

**Mandan Union Cemetery Advisory Committee
Cemetery Grounds Building
Minutes – Monday, March 2, 2020
7:30 a.m.**

Advisory Committee:

Sharon Huettl, Chair

Susan Kuntz, Citizen

Victoria Vayda, Citizen

Erica Bertman, Citizen

open seat, Citizen

Mike Braun, City
Commissioner

Mitch Bitz, Public Works

Nancy Moser, Secretary

Jason Herman, Grounds
Maintenance Supervisor

Alyson Gross, Grounds
Maintenance

1. Roll Call.

2. Approval of the December 2, 2019 minutes.

There is not a quorum. Motions cannot be voted on.

3. Updates from Jason on cemetery happenings.

A lot of trees have been trimmed in several blocks. There are a few more to go. They will be looking at shrubs this summer to determine if any should be removed.

Jason had a new entrance sign made for the entrance off Mandan Ave. That will be installed in a month or so.

The parking lot will be asphalted this summer.

Part of Block 10 (across the road to the west of Block 9) will be for cremations. The road to the north is refinery property. The city owns maybe up to a foot beyond the asphalt. Jason wants to plant grass that will hopefully deter people from driving in there. Marathon doesn't want trees there because of maintenance issues.

Scattering Garden- Jason hands out a picture of granite slabs that are at the landfill. They are the old library steps. Depending on the cost of cutting them, these could possibly be used for the scattering garden monument. Jason has a bench to place at the scattering garden. A slab for it needs to be installed. The bench came from the park across the street from the high school. There have been inquiries about the scattering garden. It may take off. The plan is to keep a list of names that need to be inscribed of those that are scattered and put in the order once or twice a year.

Jason did some research for rates on Saturdays/after 3:00 at other cemeteries. He picked Rose Hill Cemetery in Minot as a comparison because it is also a city cemetery. They charge one flat rate (\$325) on Saturday/after 3 for all burials (full/cremation, resident/nonresident, summer/winter). Jason proposes we go with a \$300 flat rate. This will be tabled for the next meeting.

Nancy asks about additional tree plantings. Are any planned within the cemetery? Dakota Community Bank is donating a lot of trees to the city. About 30 of them will be planted along the east property line. Jason thinks they will be oak trees. Patrons can donate trees in honor of a loved one. They have to talk to Jason about the best place to plant the tree, which is sometimes the corner of their loved ones lot.

4. Review Brochure – looks great on the website.

The winter burial rates for resident vs. non-resident are not consistent. It is \$150 more for residents and \$50 for non-residents. Should this be changed. We will look at changing this for next year's rate changes.

5. Memorial fund.

Nancy sent memorial fund information to area funeral services along with the new rates in January. Mitch said he talked to Jim about how donations can be tax exempt. The city would have to start the process in becoming a non-profit (similar to 501c). There would be mandatory yearly reporting and meetings. Don't know at this time if it is worth pursuing. We can continue to work on building awareness and interest. Look at posting in the messenger.

6. Scattering garden listed on website, ok?

The scattering garden is usable right now, but not completed.

7. Info for Mandan messenger about trees/shrubs potential destroying of gravestones.

We can ask Kari Moore to help in putting something in the Mandan Messenger.

8. Grant money applications.

Did not apply for tree grant this year because we are getting donated trees from Dakota Community Bank.

9. Letters of interest for open seat.

There is one seat opening and we have two letters of interest. We do not have quorum so it cannot be voted until the next meeting. One letter is from a family member of a current committee member. There is discussion questioning if this would be a conflict of interest. The member would not be allowed to vote on it.

11. Other Business.

Mitch mentions the gutter on the east side of the Grounds Maintenance Building has been ripped off by snow and ice a couple times. The building will be getting new snow cleats and gutters on that east side.

Meeting adjourns at 8:30 a.m.