

# **MARESH-MEREDITH & ACKLAM FUNERAL HOME**

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Racine Park and Recreation Board  
Thomas Molbeck

Director Molbeck and board members,

We the Meredith family, are very much interested in purchasing family plots in Mound Cemetery. The parcel of land (photo attached) that we are looking at has not been platted. We were told that the cemetery does not have the funds to be platted, and we would have to pay \$4000.00 for it to be surveyed, as well as pay \$400.00 to have the diseased tree removed. A temporary survey showed that twenty graves would be available in this particular circle. We agreed to these terms.

We then were told we'd have to meet with the cemetery commission board, for their approval. Unfortunately our request was denied which brings us to the Park and Recreation Board, to appeal the cemetery commission board's decisions and ask for approval. We do this because in our opinion we do not feel the cemetery board's reasons for denial are valid.

As we understand the cemetery board was concerned that

- by allowing this circle to have graves (around the outer edge in the shape of a circle) , it would not fit the general area where the other graves are in long linear rows.
- the forefathers never platted graves in this circle because it was intended to be a soft space
- those who are already buried in this area would object to the circle being used because when they purchased their spaces they did so knowing the circle had no graves.

Steve Bedard the cemetery sexton offered some history regarding this circle. He said that it wasn't intended for grave spaces because it originally was used as a hitching post for horses when people visited the cemetery. When horses were no longer used for transportation and the hitching post no longer needed the circle was planted with flowers. When it became cost and labor prohibited to maintain a garden, a tree was planted. Today Steve says the tree is diseased and will have to be taken down when there is money in the budget.

The cemetery board mentioned that there are other graves for sale, so that is another reason not the sell the circle. However when asked, they did agree that when all graves in the two cemeteries have been sold, the circle would probably be sold for graves at the time too. Of course by then there would probably different members on the commission.

If this circle had been an Indian Mound or have some other historical significance we would totally agree and understand the board's denial. However, the denial to turn a prior hitching post into useable grave spaces in an area which consists of only grave spaces, doesn't make sense to us. So we would like a second opinion and appeal to you to overturn their decision and sell the circle to us to be used for graves. As previously stated we agreed to pay for the surveying \$4000, the removal of the tree \$400 and 20 grave spaces \$18,700. Nearly two months have passed since we began this conversation, so your prompt response would be greatly appreciated.

We are very passionate about our community, its history and future and feel we will not only beautify this particular parcel but will also (in our small way) enhance the financial prosperity of the Racine Community.

Thank you,  
The Meredith Family