



City of Racine Meeting Minutes Board of Cemetery Commissioners

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Monday, June 18, 2007

4:30 PM

Mound Cemetery

Call To Order

PRESENT: 3 - Sharon Baldukas, Dale H. Slaasted and Sandy Weidner

EXCUSED: 2 - Margo Drummond and Vilas Lund

Roll Call

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes for May 21, 2007 Meeting

to Approve the Minutes

Reports

Financial & Revenue Reports were passed out. Sold one crypt at Mound, the price includes the opening & closing. Sandy has questions on finance reports, Donnie stated it can get confusing and that having someone from Finance explain would be beneficial.

The Report was Received and Filed

Old Business

07-0463

Subject: Cemetery Audit is now complete and will be presented to the Board of Cemetery Commissioners for review.

Recommendation:

04/16/2007 - The Mayor will be calling a meeting of the whole to discuss the Audit.

Recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners 5-21-07: That a joint meeting be held between the Committee of the Whole and Cemetery Commission.

Recommendation of the Committee of the Whole of 06-19-2007: the Item be received and filed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners 6-18-07: that the item be deferred.

The report was deferred to the end of the meeting, however Sandy Weidner was excused and therefore there was not a quorum.

Deferred

07-0779

Subject: Mr. Mekus will be updating and explaining the Crypt Design.

Recommendation of the Board of the Cemetery Commissioners 6-18-07: that the Crypt Design Plan be deferred.

Mekus preliminary master plan reports were passed out, Margo Drummond and Vilas Lund's copies will be mailed to them.

Five different samples of granite finishes were set out to look at. Mr. Mekus supplied polish finishes and thermal finishes. The thermal finish makes the stone an almost white color; the majority today are polished because the rough stones will be dirtier and collect dust particles. The cost difference is not all that large, more so in the color, not the texture (i.e. Salisbury made in Italy is actually a better price than the black because of higher demand). Keep in mind to order extra for replacement. Italy is still the most reliable and cost efficient. Each board member is to let Donnie Snow know if they have questions or comments about the designs.

There was a discussion on the costs of the elevator vs. ramp. With the ramp we lose space (the ramp would be 108 feet (54" x 54")). The ramp would require little or no maintenance and no yearly checks by the State, however there is the potential for kids to skate board and play on the ramp. The concerns regarding the elevator is the maintenance. Steve Bedard suggested that the elevator could be open on weekdays and closed on weekends; Sharon Baldukas suggested the people who need it could purchase key cards for the use.

The committee then went for a walk through the cemetery grounds, Sandy Weidner was excused at this time.

When facing the opening to the fountain by the chapel, the walkway would be on the left by the existing roof. There would be an 18ft. building and an 8ft. sidewalk. By the mausoleum, a couple of trees west of the stairs would have to be removed to accommodate the new crypt design. Looking at the projections for cremations, Mount has 985 crypts and 960 niches in the plan, Graceland has approximately 700 niches now. The plan also saves enough green space to put ground niches in place.

The fountain stone is from the Dakotas and the plan would reuse as much of the existing stone as possible, however, the cone would need to be replaced. For the fountain work, Mekus would oversee the contractor, but would not actually be the contractor. The reflecting pool would be shrunk; there would be grass around the outside, and then a sidewalk. The elevator would be to the right of the stairs. There would be two additional buildings constructed to the right of the elevator; the first building would be 25 feet across and the space between the two would be 10 feet at front side and 15 feet at backside. The idea is to try to close the fountain area in and make it more private.

The existing crypt covers are currently held in place by the hold in the top and bottom with nails that must be screwed in and out. The new system has the corners sniped and a rosette holds the covers in place. The granite is good because marble for the outside is too soft and damage can easily occur. The existing stone needs to be cleaned by either power, steam, or another method.

The committee went into the room off the chapel.

A stained glass window would be put in between the chapel and the small room. The current paneling is to be removed, the ceiling and lights are to be replaced. The room

would hold 112 niches and could be priced at \$1,300 each outside, and \$1,800 each inside (100 @ \$1,800 = \$200,000 in revenues). The glass front niches would be actual glass this way they do not color or scratch. There was a discussion regarding the chapel and room being locked and how families would visit; a video system could be put into place as a security system. They would try to move the air circulator in the closet to the basement.

Sharon Baldukas asked about the timeline for all the work involved: Phase I would be 9 months; Phase II would be 8 months; and Phase III would be less than a month. Construction can be year round unless extreme cold or extreme wet and muddy conditions when using pre-cast system.

Deferred

New Business

07-0780

Subject: Carolyn J. Hansen has purchase an emblem and is requesting approval of the attached design.

Recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners 6-18-07: that the approval of the emblem design be deferred.

No vote on this item due to lack of quorum.

Deferred

Miscellaneous

No miscellaneous business.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Office of The City Cemetery

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please call the City Clerk's Office at 636-9188 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.