

**MINUTES
CEMETERIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE CITY HALL
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE – 8TH FLOOR
Wednesday, January 13, 2005 - 3:00 PM**

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	CUMULATIVE FROM 3/04	
		P	A
Mark Van Rees, Chair	P	6	0
Sandy Casteel, Vice Chair	P	6	0
Joe Goldberg	P	4	2
Franci Bindler	A	5	1
Richard Kurtz	A	3	3
Sharon Navarro	A	5	1
Ann Platt	P	5	1
Walter Boyd	A	0	6
John Bauer	A	2	3
Victoria Mowrey	P	3	1

ALSO PRESENT:

Julius Delisio, Cemetery Board Liaison
Mitch Rose, Carriage Services
Bruce Larkin, Director, Business Enterprises
Ebony Calloway, ACA
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Rees at 3:10 p.m.

1. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. Meeting of 11/10/04

Motion made by Mr. Goldberg, seconded by Vice Chair Casteel, to approve the minutes of the 11/10/04 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sunset Memorial Gardens Building Update

Mr. Delisio reported that the plans had been completed and were before the DRC for review and approval. He anticipates that the bid will go out in February with a contract awarded in March.

Mr. Delisio stated that the grounds in Section 6 were “atrocious” due to the number of burials being held in that section. He suggested that in order to alleviate traffic, \$1,075 plots be temporarily sold in Sections 1 and 3, which are usually listed at a higher rate.

Mr. Rose indicated that one or two estate sites would be reserved in Section 3.

There was also discussion regarding the area previously known as the “indigent” section. Mr. Delisio announced that in the future “indigent” burials would be interspersed throughout the cemetery in single plots which have not been sold; however, Chair Van Rees stated that the County now cremates “indigents” and would no longer pay for burials. With regard to the current site, Chair Van Rees suggested that, as none of the graves are marked, some type of marker should be erected with the names of all persons buried in that section.

Motion made by Vice Chair Casteel, seconded by Mr. Goldberg, directing Mr. Delisio to check into landscaping and erecting a plaque designating the persons buried in the section formerly known as “indigent.” In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Van Rees stated that the main entrance to Section 3 should be retained for private burials. He also asked that pricing reviews be done on an annual calendar basis, in lieu of a mid-year review. Mr. Rose stated that he would prefer to keep the annual price review as is.

It was requested that Mr. Rose put together pricing comparisons to present at the next meeting. In response to a question regarding comparable pricing, Chair Van Rees pointed out that people come from other cities for burial in Fort Lauderdale due to the inexpensive pricing in City-owned cemeteries, even without the resident discount.

B. Resolution of Bulk Sales

Ms. Calloway reported that the City Commission discussed the issue of bulk sales and had approved all of the Board’s previous recommendations. She added, however, that there did not appear to be any recourse for previous plots sold as there was no breach of contract and it appeared that nothing illegal had been done; it had simply been a matter of taking advantage of an existing loophole. Mr. Delisio stated that since the loophole has been closed, there have been no complaints, and the program seems to be running smoothly.

C. Maintenance Plan

Mr. Delisio asked the Board to voice any specific concerns they had regarding grounds maintenance. He added that the storage area along State Road 84 at Lauderdale Memorial would be cleaned up and fenced, and missing slats would be replaced along another fence line.

Ms. Platt expressed concern regarding the proliferation of weeds at Evergreen and was advised by Mr. Rose that the area she was referring to had been treated within the last thirty days. Mr. Goldberg asked Mr. Rose and Mr. Delisio to take a look at that area and come up with a plan to eliminate the weeds.

Mr. Rose reported that, in response to the Board’s concerns, they had modified trimming practices, are closely maintaining bedded areas, edging on a more frequent basis, and have been looking at installing timers to modify the irrigation schedule.

Several of the Board Members felt that the irrigation system at Lauderdale Memorial was obsolete and should be evaluated by a professional. Mr. Delisio stated that cost could probably be incorporated into their upcoming five-year capital improvement plan.

Chair Van Rees pointed out that they had not yet received from Carriage a plan outlining their daily, monthly, and yearly maintenance schedules; and in addition, he has not yet seen the ongoing tree program as previously recommended.

It was decided that Mark Van Rees and Anne Platt would meet with Jim Benard of Carriage Services to resolve maintenance concerns.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cemetery Operations Financial Overview FY03/04

Mr. Delisio provided an overview of Municipal Cemetery Operations Financial Activity for fiscal year 03/04, providing annual numbers from a perpetual care perspective, as well as reviewing:

- ◆ Schedule 1 reflecting income, gross receipts, and deductions for payments from perpetual care
- ◆ Schedule 2 reflecting monies each cemetery has contracted toward perpetual care as well as payments to the trust fund
- ◆ Schedule 3 reflecting activity in the perpetual care fund

Mr. Delisio further explained item #6 stating that although “corpus” monies cannot be expended, capital gains funds could be spent with Board and City Commission approval.

B. Customer Satisfaction Survey

Mr. Delisio provided copies of the three surveys received from customers for November internments.

C. Meeting Schedule 2005, Reappointments

2005 meeting schedule dates were confirmed with the Board Members deciding to commence their meetings at 3:30 p.m. in lieu of 3:00 p.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.