

**MINUTES
CEMETERIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE CITY HALL
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE – 8TH FLOOR
Wednesday, March 10, 2005 - 3:30 PM**

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	CUMULATIVE FROM 3/05	
		P	A
Mark Van Rees, Chair	P	1	0
Ann Platt, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Joe Goldberg	A	0	1
Franci Bindler	P	1	0
Sharon Navarro	P	1	0
Walter Boyd	P	1	0
Victoria Mowrey	P	1	0
Connie Christensen	P	1	0
Larry Sherman	P	1	0
Albert McWhite	P	1	0

ALSO PRESENT:

Julius Delisio, Cemetery Board Liaison
 Tim Ashmore, City Water Works
 Bruce Seagrave, Carriage Services
 Mitch Rose, Carriage Services
 John C. Miller, Bank of America
 Lisa Edmondson, Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Rees at 3:40 p.m.

1. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. Meeting of 01/14/05

Motion made by Ms. Mowrey, seconded by Ms. Bindler, to approve the minutes of the 1/14/05 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sunset Memorial Gardens Building Update

Mr. Delisio reported that at a February 23, 2005 pre-bid conference approximately six or seven contractors had been present. The current problem is burrowing owls in the proposed building location which will have to complete their nesting season prior to beginning construction. It is anticipated the nests can be moved by 7/15. The bids will be accepted as a two-phase project; phase one, which will enable the irrigation and development of Section 7 prior to owl nesting season; and the building which will be phase two commencing after July 15th.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Evergreen Cemetery Waterworks 2011 Project

Mr. Ashmore reported a water pipeline project will be commencing in the neighborhood adjacent to Evergreen with construction on SE 10th and 12th Streets. The City is currently checking with a forester regarding compatibility of the pipes around existing trees; if not, an alternate route will be found. It is anticipated the 12th Street portion of the project will begin in two to three months and completed by the fall of 2005. Concerns regarding disruption of burial services being conducted at the cemetery due to construction will be addressed.

B. Bank of America Perpetual Care Trust Fund Overview

Mr. Miller reviewed and provided a summary of Bank of America's YTD accounting for the Fort Lauderdale Municipal Cemetery Fund including:

- Asset reconciliations and allocations
- 1/1/98 to 12/31/04 investment performance review
- Tactical and short term deployments
- Market shifts
- Strategic input-assets classes
- List of criteria used by portfolio managers
- Risk and return analyses
- Current portfolio assets
- Long term goals
- Hypothetic risk and return analysis
- Hypothetic cumulative growth
- Identification of risk measurements
- Probabilities on current returns

As there are new members on the Board, Mr. Delisio briefly outlined their responsibilities as Trustees, the fees paid to Bank of America, and anticipated disbursements from the fund in 2005.

C. Cemetery Price List and Comparisons

Mr. Delisio provided a cemetery price comparison, as well as proposed price schedule for review. He noted that Fort Lauderdale residents, even with an increase are charged less, although they are staying competitive in the market. He provided, for the new members, a brief history of the rates and policies for the City's cemeteries, including pricing structures in each cemetery, availability, premium locations, and retaking of reserved spaces. Upon City Commission approval, the proposed new pricing will go into effect June 1, 2005.

Ms. Platt felt that an increase of \$200 was not in keeping with market rates and should be \$300 across the board. Ms. Mowrey agreed.

Mr. McWhite expressed concern regarding overuse of Section 6 in Sunset due to low prices charged in that section and was advised that at the previous meeting, the pricing structure had been changed to allow for lower cost burials in other sections of the cemetery, mitigating ongoing damage to Section 6 due to overuse.

***Motion** made by Ms. Platt, seconded by Ms. Mowrey, to increase property prices at Sunset \$200.00 and \$300.00 at Lauderdale Memorial and Evergreen, over the current minimum GPL price. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-1 with Mr. McWhite dissenting.*

D. Maintenance Reimbursement Oct-Dec 2004

***Motion** made by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Ms. Mowrey to approve Carriage Services' Reimbursement Request October 2004 – December 31, 2004. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

E. Private Estate – LMP (Add on item)

This item was added onto the agenda at the request of Mr. Delisio as it had just been brought to his attention.

Mr. Delisio indicated that a request for building of a private estate at Lauderdale Memorial had been made, and although no contract had yet been signed or space selected, he requested Board approval of the building design. The only variance of what is being presented may be a flat roof opposed to the pitched roof in the picture.

***Motion** made by Ms. Platt, seconded by Ms. Navarro to approve the proposed building design. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Other matters discussed:

Mr. McWhite expressed concern regarding maintenance at Sunset and was assured by Mr. Rose that Chemlawn had been hired; they were filling in, raising, and realigning the monuments; and resodding is planned.

Ms. Bindler asked if the meeting had been held with Carriage Services to discuss schedules and plans for ongoing maintenance. Chair Van Rees reported that he and Ms. Platt had met with Mr. Larkin, Mr. Delisio, and Carriage representatives to discuss maintenance, turf management, markers, etc., and he had left the meeting feeling that it had been successful. However, they are still waiting for a response from Mr. Bernard addressing specific items discussed.

F. Nomination and Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

Nomination and motion made by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Ms. Platt, to retain Mr. Van Rees as Board Chair. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Nomination and motion made by Ms. Bindler, seconded by Ms. Mowrey, to appoint Ms. Platt as Vice Chair. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.