

**MINUTES**  
**CEMETERIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE CITY HALL**  
**100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE – 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2005 - 3:30 PM**

<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE FROM 3/05</b>	
		<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>
Mark Van Rees, Chair	P	3	0
Ann Platt, Vice Chair	A	1	2
Joe Goldberg	A	1	2
Franci Bindler	P	3	0
Sharon Navarro	A	2	1
Walter Boyd	P	3	0
Victoria Mowrey	A	2	1
Connie Christensen	P	3	0
Larry Sherman	P	3	0
Albert McWhite	A	1	2

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Julius Delisio, Cemetery Board Liaison  
Aaron Seaman, Carriage Services  
John C. Miller, Bank of America  
Cathy Campbell, Bank of America  
Penelope Smith, Bank of America  
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Clerk  
Brenda Cooper, Recording Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Rees at 3:35 p.m. A quorum was not present.

**1. MINUTES APPROVAL**

A. Meeting of 05/12/05

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Sunset Memorial Gardens Building Update

Mr. Delisio reported that due to building redesign efforts, construction costs will hopefully be reduced by approximately \$100-\$150,000, bringing the total cost down to \$1.1 million. He expects this to result in more competitive bidding on the project with the removal of the dome. Surveying and pinning have not been added to the overall cost. This will be covered by the \$90,000 contribution being made by Carriage Services for this project. Bids are due August 7, 2005 with City Commission review and approval anticipated on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

A summary sheet showing funds expended to date not included in the \$1.1 million was provided to the Board. Mr. Delisio anticipates a 7% engineering fee for survey and administrative costs including inspections.

Mr. Delisio noted that the core of the building looks very much like the one at Lauderdale Memorial, with the exception of the administration and telemarketing areas. Construction is expected to take 200-250 days and begin October 1<sup>st</sup>.

B. Pre-Installed Vaults

Mr. Delisio stated he had spoken with Carriage which has agreed to cease pre-installing vaults. With regard to the approximately 200 outstanding work orders, notices will be sent out advising that the vaults will not be installed.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Bank of America/Trust Performance

Mr. Miller reviewed current trends and the status of the Trust portfolio, summarizing asset reconciliation and asset allocations, as well as providing a performance review. He indicated they are shifting to a shorter maturity portfolio with a move to different asset classes due to current market trends.

B. Maintenance Turf/Tree Improvements

Mr. Delisio reported that staff had been previously ineffective in trying to maintain the lawns and trees. He introduced Mr. Ruggiero and Mr. Quintero with TruGreen ChemLawn, the company now working to maintain the lawns. Mr. Ruggiero indicated that since they have taken over maintenance, he has seen good improvement; however, their efforts need to continue. Four spray applications per year were recommended.

There was brief discussion also regarding the need for irrigation improvement and soil compaction.

Mr. Ruggiero did suggest that approximately 15,000 square feet of sod at Evergreen be replaced. Mr. Delisio agreed, proposing that small portions be replaced at a time.

Mr. Delisio expressed concern regarding plastic placed around the trees at Lauderdale Memorial to control weeds, as he felt this would affect the growth and health of the trees. Mr. Ruggiero advised he would look into that situation.

Mr. Claude Brigante of NovoArbor was introduced. He advised the Board that they are currently concentrating on correctly pruning the larger trees, especially the ficus at Lauderdale Memorial, as well as the trees around the canal bank at Evergreen. Mr. Brigante stated that if the trees are pruned

correctly, yearly maintenance would not be necessary. He will be providing a 3 to 4 year plan along with cost estimates for consideration.

Mr. Brigante also noted that the City would get first recall from his company for removal of hurricane debris to allow immediate access to the grounds and buildings after a storm.

Chair Van Rees added that he would like to see all the old paraphernalia cleared out of the cemeteries such as flowers and gifts left for long periods of time at the gravesites.

Mr. Seaman indicated that other concerns had been higher on their list of priorities and due to being short-staffed that issue had been somewhat neglected, however, it will be taken care of in the near future.

Mr. Boyd also mentioned iron stains on the grave markers from the well water being used for irrigation, asking if there was a solution for removal of those stains. Mr. Delisio stated that chemicals were not advisable, and he had been looking into water filtration systems such as that used by the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

C. Current Issues at Sunset Memorial Gardens

The recent news story regarding an interment problem at Sunset was mentioned by Mr. Delisio to bring the Board up-to-date on the status of that matter.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.