

CEMETERIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Hall 8th Floor Conference Room
Thursday, July 20, 2006
3:30 p.m.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Cumulative 2006</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Connie Christensen	P	4	0
Barbara Falowski	P	3	0
Victoria Mowrey, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Ann Platt	P	2	2
Jose Portela	P	3	0
Larry Sherman	P	4	0
Mark Van Rees, Chair	P	4	0

Also Present

Julius Delisio, Cemetery Board Liaison
John Moritz, Carriage Services
Trevor Jackson, Carriage Services
Sharon Seliger, Carriage Services
Jeff Moderelli, Director, Fort Lauderdale Business Enterprises
Maura Godoy
Lisa Slagle, Fort Lauderdale Business Enterprises [Recording clerk]

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Rees at 3:41

1. Minutes Approval

A. Meeting of May 2006

Motion made by Ms. Mowrey, seconded by Mr. Sherman to approve the minutes of the May 2006 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

A. Sunset Memorial Gardens Building Update (Discussion)

Mr. Delisio stated that construction was progressing. A \$2,000 change order had been requested to use glass doors at the ends of the building to allow natural light in the hallways. Mr. Delisio explained that they were investigating problems in several areas of the irrigation system.

Regarding the separating wall from the residents, Mr. Delisio reported that it is estimated at approximately \$150,000, for a pre-cast wall. This was submitted as a CIP (Capital Improvement Projects).

Mr. Delisio reported there was a problem with the grass not filling in or growing properly, and felt the problem was with the quality of the sod or a fungus. Mr. Delisio reported that a Miami company, Floratan, would inspect and evaluate the turf.

Mr. Delisio reported that there would be an open house either in October or November 2006.

B. Cemetery Price List Bench Clarification (Discussion)

Mr. Delisio stated the cemetery price list was approved by the City Commission. However, pedestal benches would no longer be permitted: traditional benches only. Also, names could be displayed on the benches but not birth and death dates.

The Board discussed indigent burials. Mr. Delisio noted that indigent burials were part of City ordinance and the policy was not to mark indigent graves or require that any grave be marked. A listing of names was available of those buried indigent at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Mr. Delisio agreed to bring an estimate for a ledger on which to memorialize those buried in the indigent area to the Board's next meeting.

The Board agreed that a Cemetery Master Plan should be developed, and that they should find a cemetery planner to create an RFP. Chair Van Reese volunteered to obtain an RFP recently used as a reference to create one of our own. Discussion concerning the current inventory of mausoleums and a new complex is a priority since the current availability is minimal at LMP. Mr. Delisio would determine if the Perpetual Care Trust Fund could be used since, the ordinance only permits Capital expense.

C. Broward County Greenshade Grant (Discussion)

Mr. Delisio reported that the grant was now in the signature process at the County level. They needed to cover the costs using the Trust Fund until they received the reimbursement from the County next spring.

Motion made by Mr. Portela, seconded by Ms. Christensen, to pay for the trees out of the Trust Fund until reimbursement from the grant was received. Board approved unanimously.

Other Old Business

Mr. Delisio stated that there had not been any further negotiations with Carriage on Capital Improvements and their desire to re-new the agreement. There were two years left on their agreement and after the capital improvement of \$90,000, for the Sunset Bldg there are no other

Capital Improvements as part of the agreement. Mr. Delisio was hoping sometime this year, they would be able to make a recommendation on how to proceed with the contract. The Board discussed the recent acquisition of Alderwoods by SCI, they believed there would be some changes occurring at the local level and believed the shake out would be complete by the end of the year.

3. New Business

A. Evergreen Cemetery Companion Mausoleums (Discussion)

Mr. Delisio said presentations had been made to two families who were interested in companion mausoleums. He explained they would be receiving on consignment two private two crypt mausoleums. These would be set up on a temporary base. One would be placed at Lauderdale Memorial and one at Evergreen. These items had been approved and had not been marketed. These are more marketable if a demo is available. The cost of these items when sold will have a significant impact as a contribution to the Perpetual Care Trust Fund. Ms. Platt, asked about the temporary placement. Mr. Delisio explained they would be placed as shown in the map provided in the back-up material, as well as those prospective buyers locations. Ms. Platt recommended that the temp be placed at the end of one of the roads we had blocked from traffic. Mr. Delisio agreed to evaluate the road end sites upon delivery of these units.

B. Ms. Falowski had brought up some concerns she has with a certain family counselor at Lauderdale Memorial Park. She has had recent incidents with families not being properly treated. She believes the individual either does not know the business or is offering items not needed. Chair Van Rees had the same concerns with this individual from a family he had, and the service level provided was less than desirable and reflects badly on the Cemeteries as well as the industry. John Moritz said he was aware of incidents and the shortcomings with this individual and would address them.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.