

CEMETERIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Hall 8th Floor Conference Room  
Thursday, March 8, 2007  
3:30 p.m.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Cumulative 2007</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Alfred Calloway	A	0	1
Victoria Mowrey, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Ann Platt	P	2	0
Jose Portela	P	2	0
Larry Sherman	P	2	0
Mark Van Rees, Chair	P	2	0

Also Present

Julius Delisio, Cemetery Board Liaison  
Travis Woods, Recording Secretary  
Lisa Slagle, City of Ft. Lauderdale  
Trevor Jackson, Carriage Services  
John Moritz, Carriage Services  
Joe Giordano, Carriage Services  
Gary Morey, resident  
Judith Moore, resident  
Michael Nardone, resident  
Louise Whitcombe, resident  
Ingo Photenhauer, resident

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Rees at 3:37 pm.

**1. Minutes Approval**

**A. Meeting of 1/11/2007**

Motion made by Ms. Platt, seconded by Ms. Mowrey, to approve the minutes of the January 2007 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Old Business**

**A. Sunset Building Project Closeout**

Mr. Delisio noted that the change order cost increases amounted to only 8%, which was much better than most projects. The project had been completed for under the \$1.4 million the Board had approved. He explained that approximately

\$100,000 to \$200,000 in payments must still be made. Mr. Delisio said the center section 7 had been pinned, and the two outer parcels would be pinned soon as well.

Mr. Delisio said Commissioner Moore had some serious concerns about the cemetery, and Mr. Delisio had explained to him that they were seeking to rehabilitate certain sections of one, three, and six, by leveling the ground and aligning the grave markers, once the new sections were opened. Commissioner Moore also wanted meshing on the west wall to conceal the commercial area. Mr. Delisio explained that the new wall along the northside was included in the 2007-2008 CIP budget. They had also requested that Parks and Recreation donate some trees.

Mr. Delisio informed the Board that many of the vases they had replaced were missing again, and they would place an order for more. Chair Van Rees explained that Carriage was paying for the replacements.

Mr. Delisio announced that they were working with the Public Information Office and Commissioner Moore on a grand opening ceremony.

#### **B. Evergreen Non-native Tree Removal Project**

Mr. Delisio explained that they had found a contractor and checked his references. Mr. Delisio said because they did not have a budget, the project would need to go through two public hearings to budget money from the trust. Their original bid amount of \$303,000 would go to the City Commission on March 20th to create a budget for the project, and the second public hearing would take place on April 3rd or April 17th.

Mr. Delisio said Phase II would require another bid, which could be initiated as soon as the second public hearing was held for Phase I. Ms. Platt felt a landscape designer should create the design for Phase II; Mr. Delisio agreed to include this in the bid.

Mr. Delisio said some residents were in attendance to address this project.

Ms. Mowrey asked Chair Van Rees to explain the impetus behind the project for the residents in attendance. Chair Van Rees explained that concerns had begun a few years ago, but the 2005 hurricanes had caused additional problems. He acknowledged that some neighbors had concerns about the project and invited the residents' input.

Mr. Michael Nardone, resident, said he understood why the cemetery wanted to remove the non-native trees, but wanted to bring some information to the Board's attention. Mr. Nardone explained that the existing canopy between Southeast

12th Way and Evergreen was a 50-year old buffer, and its removal would open up residents' view of the cemetery. He presented photos of the current view from his neighborhood.

Mr. Nardone said the western boundary of Cliff Lake was also a Mangrove Wetland Shoreline, utilized by several "species of concern." Mr. Nardone claimed that "any potential impacts to that shoreline require federal, state and local environmental resource permits." Mr. Nardone distributed a letter to Board members indicating where this was stated in Florida statutes.

Mr. Nardone feared removal of the trees would not have the desired effect. He said that if bank stability was the goal, they should consider a geotechnical study regarding what would happen along the entire bank subsequent to the trees' removal, taking into account the additional load of the mausoleums on the bank.

Mr. Nardone stated he was a licensed geologist, and vice president of "the largest environmental and the largest engineering firm in the United States."

Ms. Platt said neighbors had complained about the hurricane refuse in the lake, and when this was surveyed, they realized the additional damage. She acknowledged the neighbors' concerns, and said the Board was also responsible to protect the property of the City.

Ms. Platt explained that they wanted to remove the potentially harmful trees and provide a sufficient visual buffer. She said they would continue to work with the neighbors on each stage of the project.

Mr. Delisio informed Mr. Nardone that they had consulted with the County and no permits were needed. Mr. Nardone took issue with this. Ms. Platt felt they should check on the need for environmental permits again.

Mr. Ingo Fotenhauer, resident, asked if they could cut the tops of the Australian Pines, which he thought would make them more hurricane-proof.

Ms. Louise Whitcombe, resident, asked if the project would be completed in sections so as not to eradicate the wildlife habitat all at once. Mr. Delisio said much of the vegetation on top of the water was mangrove, which would not be removed at all.

Chair Van Rees agreed with Ms. Platt that they could check on the environmental permits, and said the City Attorney could do this.

Mr. Delisio explained that Phase I of the project was removal the Australian Pine and Brazilian Pepper; in addition trees in the interior would be trimmed to minimize any future damage from storms; Phase II was to evaluate the lake bank

after the trees were removed and determine what corrective bank restoration may be needed as well as a landscape plan. Mr. Delisio explained that the non-native tree species would be replaced by native ones.

Mr. Delisio agreed to keep in touch with the residents during every phase of the project.

### **C. Perpetual Care Trust Fund Budget Request**

Mr. Delisio said this budget included this project only, and it would not preclude the Board's making a request for additional funds for this project, should that prove necessary as it progressed.

The Board returned to discussion of the previous item. Mr. Delisio assured Ms. Mowrey that they had an environmental engineer involved, and Ms. Mowrey said they needed to be certain before approaching the Commission that the removal would not cause more problems in the long run than it solved.

Mr. Delisio explained that Chris McFadden, a City environmental engineer, had called in the County to look at the situation, and the County had cleared the project of needing any permits. Mr. Delisio stated they had documentation pursuant to this. He explained there were not many large non-native trees needing removal.

Ms. Mowrey felt that the letter, signed by a geologists, would be a "cause of concern" for the City Commission, and the Board must be able to answer any questions that arose.

Ms. Platt suggested that someone discuss this with Commissioner Hutchinson, since this was in her district. Chair Van Rees said he would speak with her, and the Mayor as well, and suggest that they visit the site to see how many trees were involved.

Mr. Delisio said he had used the Board's motion from their November meeting for the budget request, so there was no need for a separate motion today.

## **3. New Business**

### **A. General Price List for 2007**

Mr. Delisio had distributed a current and proposed price list to Board members. He explained there was a \$100 increase in property across the board. At Evergreen, the price had increased by \$300. Openings and closings had increased by \$50.

**Motion** made by Ms. Platt, seconded by Mr. Portela, to approve the new price list. Board unanimously approved.

**B. Quarterly Maintenance Reimbursement Plan**

**Motion** made by Ms. Mowrey, seconded by Mr. Sherman, to approve the quarterly maintenance reimbursement. Board unanimously approved.

**4. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.