

MINUTES
CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM - CITY HALL
JUNE 17, 1999
4:00 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Cemetery Advisory Board: Mrs. Alice Stockwell, Mr. Dennis Irvin, Mr. Don Rathbone, and Mr. Eric Londeen. Ms. Judy Atwood reported later to the meeting. Mr. Stephan Konz and Ms. Martha Gray were absent at this meeting. Also present at this meeting were Mr. Terry DeWeese, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Jerry Dishman, Park Superintendent; Mr. Mike Mohler, Cemetery Sexton; and Mrs. Debbie Dugan, Office Manager.

Mr. Irvin called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mrs. Stockwell, seconded by Mr. Rathbone to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 18, 1999. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

SUNSET CEMETERY FENCE

Mr. DeWeese explained that City Administration had been contacted by Mrs. Kronfeld about problems with high school students parking on Park Drive and leaving their trash, playing loud music, using foul language, etc. in that area. He explained that City Administration has also had problems throughout the years in this area with some of the same issues as well as damage to the Cemetery with the high school students going back and forth to school. He explained that a meeting was with held with Mrs. Kronfeld to discuss the problem and to develop a possible solution that would not only help the neighborhood problem, but the problems City Administration had been dealing with. After meeting, it was decided to replace the three-foot barbwire fence with a six-foot chain link fence with no gates on the north border of Sunset Cemetery.

Mr. DeWeese further explained that money was budgeted in the 2000 Capital Improvements Program to build the fence, but decided to utilize some savings in the 1999 Capital Improvements Program to complete the project in 1999. Quotes were received to replace the fence with the low quote being submitted by Bella Corporation Fencing, of Junction City, Kansas, in the amount of \$13,284. The fencing contractor planned to complete the project prior to Memorial Day. City Administration removed the old fence and removed trees and shrubs for installation of the new fence. After City Administration had accepted the low quote, several telephone calls and e-mails were received about the fence being replaced. The residents expressed concern about not being able to access the Cemetery for walking, riding bicycles, and that the fence was too restrictive.

Mr. DeWeese explained that City Administration met with other residents and during the discussion, alternatives that were mentioned included a Blue Zone, which prohibits parking on a street during set times unless you have a permit, natural landscaping to prohibit cars from driving through the northern boundary of the Cemetery, or placing a four-foot fence with three to four

pedestrian openings along the entire length of the fence. City Administration informed the residents of the concerns that the Cemetery Sexton deals with on a daily basis.

Mr. DeWeese stated that the Cemetery Advisory Board's recommendation would be presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and then to the City Commission for final approval. Mr. DeWeese stated that City Administration's recommendation was to install the six-foot chain link fence. He further explained that it is City Administration's intent to preserve the history and the interest of the lot owners and families that have loved ones laid to rest in Manhattan's Sunset and Sunrise Cemeteries, and the main goal is to provide a tranquil setting for the visitors to Sunset and Sunrise Cemeteries.

Dick Hayter, 1920 Grandview Drive, explained that the neighborhood had met to discuss the installation of the chain link fence in Sunset Cemetery. The group felt that the fence prevented access to the Cemetery, which has always been there, and that the neighborhood did not like the idea of zoned parking. He stated that since the shrubs and area has been cleaned up; it has opened up the cemetery. He suggested that a "wait and see" approach be taken before a decision is made to install the fence.

Mr. Gates, 411 Westview, stated that the Cemetery is not a place to walk/run or to walk dogs. He explained that the high school students have been littering, using foul language, threatening small children, etc. in this area. He stated that the fence should be installed soon.

Ms. Lee Stutzman, 2312 Grandview Terrace, stated that the cemetery is a nice, peaceful place to walk and let children ride bikes. She explained that the solution would be to place a fence on the south side of the cemetery, and that she was not in favor of a six-foot chain link fence.

Ms. Ellie Brent, 400 Wickham, stated that high school students cut through her yard and go through the cemetery to go to school and this has caused damage to her property. She inquired about the Cemetery Regulations that could be enforced.

Mr. Rathbone discussed the possibility of a long-range comprehensive plan for the cemetery.

Mr. Gates explained that the fencing has been paid for, so it should be put up and if it does not work out, then take the fence down.

Larry Fox, 2394 Grandview, explained that installing the six-foot chain link fence on the north side of the cemetery would not solve the problems that are occurring in the cemetery. He stated that the solution needed to start on the south side where there are students smoking, loitering, etc. from the high school. He stated that he was not in favor of the fence.

Mrs. Gates, 411 Westview, inquired about the Cemetery regulations.

Mr. Dishman read the Cemetery Ordinance to the public.

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Mr. Londeen explained that he has noticed problems in the cemetery not only during school hours, but during silent pray services.

Pat Gormley stated that the cemetery has always had access for walking. He stated that the lots are private and the roads are public.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Stockwell, seconded by Mr. Rathbone to develop a solution to the problem that now exists within 30 days. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

It was suggested by the Board to hold a tour of Sunset Cemetery on Thursday, June 24, 1999, at 4:00 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Londeen, seconded by Mr. Rathbone to adjourn the meeting. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

Approved by Chairperson Cemetery Advisory Board

Date