

**MINUTES**  
**CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD**  
REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
September 18, 2014  
3:00 P.M.

The following members of the Cemetery Advisory Board were present: Mr. Lawrence Pollack, Mr. Brian Waddington, Patrick Gormely, Ms. Deborah Saroff and Mr. Dennis Irvin. Absent were Mr. Larry Fry and Mr. Stephan Konz. Also, present were Mr. Mike Mohler, Cemetery Sexton, Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent, and Ms. Chrissy Kramer, Administrative Assistant.

Visitor: Mr. Wynn Butler, Mayor, City of Manhattan

MINUTES

Ms. Saroff called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Pollock, seconded by Mr. Waddington to approve the June 2014 minutes. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes came into the meeting to introduce the new Community Relations Director, Angie Sutton, to the board members. Ms. Sutton gave a brief introduction about her job experience and her goals for the Parks and Recreation Department.

SEXTON'S REPORT

Mr. Mohler stated that revenue for cemeteries of were as follows: Sunrise Cemetery - \$33,675 to include sales and burials; Sunset Cemetery – \$11,100 which is for burials only. Mr. Mohler discussed that grounds maintenance and seeding for the fall has begun. Mid-October will be the time for leaf removal from the cemeteries unless there is an early frost.

OLD BUSNIESS

Ms. Saroff began discussions regarding the bell tower. Mr. Mohler has contacted the K-State Engineering Department on several occasions to discuss the bell tower and to date, has not had a response. Ms. Saroff stated that she has not made contact with anyone at the foundation. After lengthy discussions, Mr. Pollock recommended that Mr. Mohler contact the City Attorney in an attempt to reach someone regarding this issue. Mr. Mohler will be drafting a Memo to Mr. Eddie Eastes, Parks and Recreation Director on how to proceed with this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Pet Cemetery - Mr. Butler stated that he has had citizens approach him about a pet cemetery. A potential area is near the Girl Scout House. Discussions began about the possibility of a pet cemetery. Ms. Saroff advised that she would rather another entity provide services rather than the City.

Columbarium – Discussions by the board began about the potential for a columbarium. Issues such as placement, types, costs, as well as maintenance by the city. Diagrams were given to the Board to show potential areas where a columbarium could be placed. Also discussed was individual and/or family columbarium or a ‘niche monument’ that could be used for cremations. Mr. Pollock suggested that more research should be done on the matter before making a final decision.

Natural burial – Mr. Butler stated that other cities have begun the practice of a natural burial. Discussions began on how this type of burial would be handled, maintained, placement, as well as future use. Mr. Mohler stated that an area of Sunrise Cemetery would need to be used; however, Sunrise Cemetery is in Riley County. Riley County Ordinances does not allow for above ground burials and the Ordinance would need to be changed or Sunrise Cemetery would need to be annexed into the City. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Pollock suggested that more research should be done before making any decision.

Crematorium – Mr. Butler stated several people were against having a crematorium and the funeral home who attempted to set up a crematorium has not pursued the idea any further. Mr. Waddington stated that it was his business establishment that requested starting a crematorium and were waiting for comment from the City Commission. After discussions, Ms. Saroff made a motion to have the crematorium taken off the Cemetery Board list of items to discuss. Seconded by Mr. Pollock. On vote – 5-0.

Mr. Mohler added that raising cemetery fees will need to be addresses in 3 years or earlier if necessary.

Ms. Saroff requested that a special meeting be held on October 23, 2014, from 3-5 pm for further discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.