

MINUTES OF CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Training Room
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)
October 10, 2024
4:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairman Lewis Bramlett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Commission members present were Jim Poole, Judi Burrell, and Rebecca Carlson. Vice Chair Lizz Gray arrived at 4:01 p.m. City liaisons present included Councilmember Pat Ferris, Assistant Public Works Director Tim Cox, and Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner. Kennesaw Cemetery Foundation President Stephen King and Foundation Secretary Andrew Bramlett were also present.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes: September 12, 2024

Consideration to approve the September 12, 2024, Cemetery Preservation Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Burrell moved to approve the September 2024 Cemetery Preservation Commission draft minutes. Commissioner Poole seconded the motion.

Vote taken, unanimously approved (3:0). Motion passed.

3. Financial Report

A. Financials: September 2024

Consideration to approve the September 2024 financial reports.

Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the September 2024 Cemetery Preservation Commission financials as presented by Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner.

Commissioner Burrell seconded the motion.

Vote taken, unanimously approved (4:0). Motion passed.

4. Cemetery Preservation Foundation Update

Cemetery Foundation President Stephen King provided updates on the Foundation's upcoming Life in the Cemetery tours. Dress rehearsals are scheduled for October 24 at 6p.m. with staff and Council invited to attend. Cemetery Foundation Secretary Andrew Bramlett stated that 76 tickets out of 144 had been sold. Councilmember Pat Ferris invited Mr. King to attend the October 21 Council Meeting to speak at public comment and invite Mayor and Council. Mr. Bramlett advised tickets will still be on sale the day of the tours.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion: Section Signage

Review proposals from Signs & More and Miller EG Design.

Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner advised Commission of the current options for section signage. The commission was shown quotes from Signs & More and from Miller Design. Signs & More has provided all current plaques at the cemetery. Miller Design has placed wayfinding signs throughout the city and their section signs would coordinate with those. Discussion held regarding funding and if this is something the commission wants to pay for at this time. Signage is on the master plan, but may not be the best use of funding.

Vice Chair Gray moved to approve Miller Design for the section signage on the condition that the city pays for the signs; if the funds do not come from the city, the item will be brought back before the commission for reevaluation. Commissioner Burrell seconded the motion.

Vote taken, unanimously approved (4:0). Motion passed.

B. Discussion: Memorial Trees

Review proposal from Creative Landscaping.

Ms. Burgner provided information regarding the current state of the memorial trees that were placed at the cemetery in February. Public Works has removed ten of those trees that did not survive through the harsh heat/drought over the summer. There are more trees that will most likely have to be removed as they are not thriving. Ms. Burgner provided quotes from Creative Landscaping for purchase and installation of 16 trees and from Acer Rubrum Landscapes for purchase, installation and a one-year guarantee for one dogwood tree. Ms. Burgner presented three options for memorial trees at the cemetery: removal of all trees with the memorial plaques being placed at the Cremation Garden, replacement of trees by Creative Landscaping with the knowledge that the price is only for the 16 trees in the quote, or removal of the arborvitae trees to have one dogwood tree as the memorial tree. Commission agreed that the purchase of one dogwood would make more fiscal sense. Much discussion held regarding where the memorial plaques would be placed and the possible placement of a bench near the dogwood. The bench idea will be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Burrell moved to approve the proposal by Acer Rubrum Landscapes with a budget of up to \$1000 and for the memorial plaques to be placed on the tribute wall (pending approval from the Cemetery Preservation Foundation). Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

Vote taken, unanimously approved (4:0). Motion passed.

C. Event Update: Gravestone Cleaning Workshop Recap

Chairman Bramlett advised that nine people had purchased tickets for the Gravestone

Cleaning workshop led by Christa McCay. Mr. Bramlett sent a followup email asking for feedback and received one response; the attendee had a good time and would participate again. Vice Chair Gray stated she felt it was a good experience but that there were not as many headstones cleaned as she had anticipated. She would like for Clean Up Day to stay the way it is. Commissioner Carlson inquired if a gravestone cleaning and headstone symbol workshop would be well received. Councilmember Ferris stated he thought that those two things should probably be kept separate. Chairman Bramlett asked the commission to think about what it would like to see happen next year. Further discussion held. Cleanup day versus workshop will be placed on the next agenda.

6. New Business

7. Staff Comment

Ms. Burgner advised that Miranda Taylor with Economic Development stated the cemetery storyboard was currently in production and should be installed in about three weeks.

8. Adjourn

Chairman Bramlett adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.