

MINUTES OF CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Training Room
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)
January 9, 2025
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 Lizz Gray and Jim Poole. City liaisons present included Assistant Public Works Director Tim Cox, City Clerk Lea Alvarez and Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner. Kennesaw Cemetery Foundation President Stephen King and Foundation Secretary Andrew Bramlett were also present. Councilmember Pat Ferris arrived at 4:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes: November 14, 2024

Consideration to approve the November 14, 2024, Cemetery Preservation Commission meeting minutes.

Vice Chair Gray moved to approve the November 2024 Cemetery Preservation Commission draft minutes. Commissioner Poole seconded the motion. Vote taken, unanimously approved (2:0). Motion passed.

3. Financial Report

A. Financials: December 2024

Consideration to approve the December 2024 financial reports.

Vice Chair Gray moved to approve the November 2024 Cemetery Preservation Commission financials as presented by City Clerk Lea Alvarez. Commissioner Poole seconded the motion.

Vote taken, unanimously approved (2:0). Motion passed.

Chairman Bramlett noted that sod would cost around \$12,000. Ms. Alvarez agreed and reminded that as part of the cemetery master plan discussed in 2024, Public Works would demo two roads of the cemetery and the commission would pay to have that area sodded.

4. Cemetery Preservation Foundation Update

Cemetery Foundation President Stephen King provided the Commission with updates including: the first meeting of the Foundation will occur on January 15, their website has been updated (<https://kennesawcemetery.org/>), and during the cemetery leadership

meeting, Arts Programming Coordinator Vanita Keswami advised that she may be able to connect the Foundation with the Kennesaw State University Theater Department to discuss student involvement with Life in the Cemetery.

5. Old Business

A. Memorials:

Provide information regarding art in the cemetery.

City Clerk Lea Alvarez discussed a meeting held with Public Arts Coordinator Vanita Keswani regarding possible art installation in the cemetery to replace the new memorial trees which did not survive. City staff walked the cemetery with Ms. Keswani who then reached out to her contact with the Master Craftsman Program at KSU. Preliminary discussions included rough budget limits, student submissions, tree composition (possibly steal), eight foot tall height, and leaves/birds as memorial plaques (styles & sizes to be determined) with additional plaques being available for future sale. During the discussion with Ms. Keswani, staff did advise that budget is very important, this project could be presented to students during the fall semester, and maintenance for the art structure should be low. Mr. King asked about vandalism; Ms. Alvarez advised that there has not been any in the cemetery to date but the possibility is always there. Ms. Alvarez stated that staff hoped to have more information to share within the next couple of months. Mr. Bramlett advised that Ms. Keswani was very knowledgeable. Ms. Gray believed it sounded like a good idea, and asked staff to remember maintenance.

6. New Business

A. Officer Elections:

Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

Officer elections were postponed to the next meeting as two of the commission members were not able to attend this meeting. Mr. Bramlett advised he would like to remain Chairman, and Mr. Gray stated she would like to remain Vice-Chair.

B. Update by Lewis Bramlett:

Wreaths Across America & Year-End Presentation to Mayor and Council

Chairman Bramlett spoke about his presentation to Mayor and Council in December regarding what the Cemetery Preservation Commission accomplished in 2024. Mr. King presented to Mayor & Council that same night regarding the Foundation. Mr. Bramlett stated the December Wreaths Across America (WAA) event went well. Commissioner Poole delivered a note to the commission from Betsy Wampler with the Daughters of the American Revolution (Exhibit A). Mr. Poole stated he would like to see more attendance and attention for the WAA event. Mr. Poole provided a QR code (Exhibit B) which directs to a site for purchase of a wreath for the local DAR Kennesaw Mountain Chapter. Wreaths can be purchased for Kennesaw City Cemetery, and any extras will be taken to Shiloh United Methodist Cemetery and Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery. Mr. Poole advised the wreaths can now be recycled after they are picked up from the graves. Mr. Bramlett advised that one veteran did not receive a wreath, but it was quickly rectified. Mr. Poole stated that when the wreaths are retrieved, the flags will be picked up as well.

7. Staff Comment

Councilmember Ferris stated he was looking forward to 2025 as he has great hope for things happening at the cemetery. Ms. Alvarez stated there was still some information needed for Andrew Bramlett's tour in March. She asked the commission to be thinking about what they want May's Decoration Day to look like this year as it will be discussed at the next commission meeting. Andrew Bramlett advised he is working with the Phoenix Files for his March 22nd tours. The morning tour will be downtown and the afternoon tour in the cemetery.

8. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Gray moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Commissioner Poole seconded the motion. Vote taken, unanimously approved (2-0). Motion passed.

Christie Burgner

Exhibit A

Committee Members

Thank you for providing the port-a-potty for our 2024 Wreaths Across America Ceremony. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by our members and guests.

Betsy Wampler
Regent, Kennesaw Mountain
DAR

Exhibit B



<https://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/pages/164153/Overview/?relatedId=0>