

Monday, March 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chairmain Jeff Volzke. The regular meeting of the Seward Cemetery Board was held Mar. 13, 2023 at 5p.m. at the Seward North Cemetery Office, Seward, Nebraska. Present: Jeff Volzke, Greg Zabka, Jerry Meyer and Pat Coldiron. Absent: Ben Hughes and Rick Endicott. Others in attendance: Jessica Kolterman – City Council Member.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in the following places: City Hall, Seward County Courthouse, Seward Memorial Library and Seward Civic Center.

Notification of Open Meetings Act

1. Military Equipment on Display in Veterans Section Update

Jerry Meyer updated the group on the idea of having military equipment in the veteran's area of the cemetery. He shared that the equipment at the museum requires yearly painting and upkeep and that perhaps this is not something that should be in the cemetery for that reason. He suggested finding things with less maintenance. Statues and bronzes are very expensive, but smaller ones could be workable. Community donations would need to be sought to do this project and the legion or the VFW would need to take the lead on it. Members of the board agreed to keep their eyes open when traveling and take photos of different things they see that might be considered. Also, discussion needs to continue about the veteran's area to make sure there is consistency and uniformity related to the graves.

2. Cemetery Budget for 2023

New ceiling needed in the maintenance shop. Asphalt road expansion where needed.

3. Trimming and Pruning of Trees

Current tree trimming going on near Hwy 15 due to line of site and safety. Citizens can pick up branches and pile them near trees. Jeff and Jessica will work with Clark and SCI to work on a story about a potential volunteer program where citizens are invited to gather branches and stack them near trees out of the way of mowing.

4. New Cemetery Addition

The question was raised when would the newer part of the cemetery be open up for lot sales? Jessica will discuss the timeline with the Mayor and City Administrator and learn more about the specific plans for this, as well as specific potential timeline for a columbarium.

5. Web Cemetery Software

There was a question if the public can access the database without going through the office or a mortuary to browse for grave locations and the answer is no - they still need to work with one of those entities.

6. Cemetery Board Educational Tour

The tour will be a part of the next board meeting on June 5th.

7. CONSENT ITEMS

No vote was taken.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Jerry Meyer and a Second by Greg Zabka after a board vote. The next meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on June 5th and officers will be elected at that time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Kolterman for Rick Endicott