



MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Roads – Parks & Recreation – Facilities – Airport
Engineering – Surveying – Transportation – Utility Operations
Fleet Maintenance – Solid Waste – Cemeteries

TEAM, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP

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MARIPOSA TOWN CEMETERY AD HOC COMMITTEE

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

October 26, 2023

A. 1:01pm Called to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bill Bondshu	Member	Present	12:50 pm
Nancy Cordero	Member	Present	12:50 pm
Rich Westfall	Member	Present	12:50 pm
Jenny Binning	Member	Present	12:50 pm
Jean Dordan	Member	Present	12:50 pm
Shannon Hansen	Director PWD	Present	12:55 pm
Melinda Rice	Deputy Director PWD	Present	12:55 pm
Lexie Verdugo	Parks and Recreation Manager PWD	Present	12:50 pm
Wayne Forsythe	District 4 Supervisor	Present	12:50 pm

B. Introductions

Introduce past member and new members by name to the committee.

C. Public Comment

None

D. Approval of Minutes

No previous meeting minutes to approve.

E. Updates and Reports

1. Mariposa Town Cemetery plot availability.

Recreation Manager Lexie Verdugo explained that the plot availability of the Mariposa Town Cemetery is very limited at this time due to unusable space, unmarked gravesites, storm damage and steep inclines. Lexie explained that there was some additional casket space made available about two and a half years ago that the department initially hoped to fit 20-plus caskets but due to the underground conditions that number has been dropped down to approximately 15 plots with eight already filled. There is still availability for cremains as they are a smaller plot size. Member Jenny Binning noted that previously there have been plots that are showing as available in the records, when it is opened, those plots have already been filled. Member Rich Westfall asked about

access to a plot map. Director Hansen explained the cemetery section map is the only current map of the cemetery which does not reflect plots. Lexie stated she has reached out to Ben Ogren who does GIS mapping for the County in hopes of putting together a more detailed map. Lexie also informed the committee of the Eagle Scout project that took place at the Cemetery earlier this year where section and row markers were placed throughout the cemetery which helps give a little more direction within the cemetery. Supervisor Forsythe asked how we can narrow down the actual plot availability within the cemetery. Lexie explained that the only ways to confirm if a plot is available is to walk the cemetery with the record books confirming that the open space is not already recorded as unusable, reserved, or presumed used. Member Jean Dordan mentioned that previous PWD Directors has discussed having the Sonar device out to detect what is underground, but it was an extreme cost. Supervisor Forsythe reiterated that he was not comfortable with the uncertainty of the unconfirmed number of remaining plots. Supervisor Forsythe suggested that the next committee meeting be held at the Cemetery so the group can walk the grounds and see the potential and problems.

F. Action Items (Election of Chair and Vice Chair was done first)

1. Elect Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Bill Bondshu elected as Committee Chair. (M) Jenny Binning (S) Rich Westfall. Jenny Binning elected as Vice Chair. (M) Bill Bondshu (S) Rich Westfall.

2. 2024 Meeting Schedule

Jenny made a motion to have quarterly meetings, (S) Rich Westfall. All in favor. Committee Chair Bill Bondshu asked that Lexie create a calendar invite for the quarterly meetings.

3. Discussion and possible direction regarding airport property.

Director Hansen stated that in 2019 it was presented to the Board that there was limited availability remaining in the Mariposa Cemetery for interment, so the Board proposed a couple County owned land parcels, the Airport property being one of the proposed new locations. Since the proposal in 2019 there has been no movement and the Airport is flourishing, especially with the addition of Skydive Yosemite. Director Hansen stated that CalFire has an agreement with CalFire along with there being some individuals interested in building additional hangars. Director Hansen stated that there is another County owned parcel in Hornitos that could be explored for use. Bill Bondshu asked about the other proposed locations from 2019. Shannon explained that they were no longer an option due to accessibility and Caltrans issues. Director Hansen stated that the committee should also look in to asking community landowners for donation of land for a new location as they have done in the past. Bill stated that there are current talks of Sierra Foothill Conservancy purchasing some land up by the reservoir by the High School Track that there could be potential for collaboration for use of the land. Bill and Supervisor Forsythe will meet with Sierra Foothill Conservancy to propose a

collaboration for the use of land. Rich Westfall (M) to rescind the proposed airport land for a new cemetery location. (S) Nancy Cordero.

G. Discussion Items

1. Review 'Mariposa County Public Cemeteries Policies and Procedures'
2. Review 'Operational Instructions for the Mariposa Town Public Cemetery'
3. Short- and Long-term goals of the committee

Lexie stated she was looking for any feedback or proposed revisions to the two documents as they are very similar however they do have some contradictions. Lexie stated she would like work on combining the documents and updated them as they are outdated. Rich suggested to the Chair that a committee be designated to review and revise the documents to present at the next board meeting. Lexie will make initial revisions and send to Rich for review. Lexie and Rich will collaborate on reworking the documents to present at the next meeting.

H. Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for January 18, 2024 at 1:00pm

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm by Bill Bondshu, Committee Chair

Respectfully submitted,

Lexie Verdugo
Parks and Recreation Manager