



# County of El Dorado Cemetery Advisory Committee

## Committee Members:

Creighton Avila, Deputy CAO, Cemetery Director  
Bonnie Wurm, Cemetery Director Alternate  
Melinda Peak, District I  
Mary Tran, District II  
Mike Roberts, District III  
Frank Clark, District IV  
Joan Wicklund, District V

Brian Veerkamp, Board of Supervisors  
Kathy Witherow, BOS Alternate  
Sgt. Troy Morton, Coroner's Office  
Vacant, Archeological Representative  
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Cemeteries  
Jeffrey A. Schmidt, Fraternal Organizations, Chair

## CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES July 25, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman Mike Roberts at 3:05 PM.
  - (a) Committee members present: Creighton Avila, Bonnie Wurm (alternate), Melinda Peak, Mary Tran, Mike Roberts, Joan Wicklund, Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, and Frank Clark. Guests: Mary Ann Schroth, Suzi Mickus, Ellen Osborn, Ray LeVitt and Charlane Gross. County Staff: Sherrie Busby, Julianne Melchor, Mary Cory.
  - (b) Adoption of the Agenda – Melinda stated her concern about staff making changes to the agenda and she asked how decisions were made to include or delete items in “Old Business” as in the past many items have been discussed and then dropped from the agenda. She suggested that any changes to the agenda should be done by Committee resolution. Melinda asked that NCIC records, and Burials in Placerville Union Walkways be on today’s agenda.
2. The minutes of May 23, 2018 were approved with the correction of “Mary Tran” replacing “Art Cort” in the heading.
3. Introductions and Announcements –
  - (a) Bonnie introduced Charlane Gross who has submitted her application to the Board of Supervisors for the CAC Archaeology Representative position. Everyone introduced themselves, and Charlane provided a brief summary of her professional background as an archaeologist.
  - (b) Ellen Osborn announced that she will be submitting the DAR application for the plaque at the Placerville Union Cemetery. She completed her research, and with input from members of the CAC, has a final draft of the plaque’s text. She is now getting letters of support and then will submit the application to the National DAR office for their review.
4. Staff Reports:
  - (a) Summary of burials – Bonnie distributed the table of burials in County-managed cemeteries, through June 2018.
5. New Business
  - (a) Update on cemetery presentation to the Board of Supervisors – Creighton summarized the report he gave to the Board on June 26. The Board gave direction for staff to: 1) research establishing endowment care fund(s); and, 2) research establishing cemetery district(s) and possibly putting the question on the ballot in 2020. Mike thanked Creighton on the quality of his presentation to the Board; he has copies of some of the attachments, including the summary of plots available, for other CAC members.
  - (b) Ideas for future special workshops – fundraising successes from other cemetery groups; how to better respond to the potential for tourism dollars. Members were encouraged to think about other workshop topics and pass them along to staff.
6. Old Business
  - (a) El Dorado Cemetery – Julianne reported that the County has assumed operations of the El Dorado Cemetery. The final transfer of ownership has not yet been completed and

may take some time.

- (b) Adopt-A-Cemetery-Projects program – Julianne reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the program at the June 26 meeting. She will email the final version adopted by the Board of Supervisors to the Committee.
- (c) Cemetery Ordinance and Management Plan – Sherrie stated that no action will be taken today and the attachments sent to the Committee members today are for their review at our next CAC meeting. Paper copies were distributed. Sherrie stated that the attachments are “early drafts.” Mary Tran stated her concern about no defined setbacks in the draft ordinance, and she had prepared an example of setback wording, which she distributed. Bonnie provided some background on why the wording had been removed. Suzi reported that “Pioneer Memorial Parks” are only private cemeteries in State Law.
- (d) NCIC – staff will provide an update at the next meeting.
- (e) Burials in Placerville Union Walkways – maps showing burials in aisles will be distributed at the next meeting.

#### 7. Representative Reports

- (a) BOS Alternate – absent
- (b) Coroner's Office – absent
- (c) Native American Cemeteries – Ramona reported that the cemeteries were decorated for Memorial Day Weekend.
- (d) Fraternal Organizations – absent
- (e) Archaeological Rep – vacant
- (f) District I – Melinda reported that she is aware of subdivision plans adjacent to the Mormon Island Cemetery, and asked that the CAC be notified. She expressed her concern that projects, which may impact cemeteries, are not coming to the CAC. Bonnie reported that any notices that staff receives from the County Planning Dept. will be brought to the CAC.
- (g) District II – none
- (h) District III – Mike had no report. Bonnie reported that the watering system at Placerville Union Cemetery needs to be turned on and off, and is looking for a volunteer to help with that.
- (i) District IV – Frank reported that Bonnie made a great presentation at his SIRS (Seniors in Retirement) group in Georgetown. Frank reported that the Greenwood Cemetery has a water leak that he has reported to GPUD.
- (j) District V – Joan reported that the Planters Cemetery pedestrian access is still blocked. As access was a part of the Planning Dept.'s approval for past permits, Bonnie reported that she will follow up with the owners.

#### 8. Public Comment

- (a) Ray LeVitt thanked the Pioneer Cemetery Commission for their many years of research, and they have now included their data into the Kelsey Cemetery District records.
- (b) Suzi Mickus stated that once a cemetery is declared “public,” it is always public.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting will be August 22, 2018 in the Library Meeting Room.

Mary Cory, Museum Administrator

Committee Staff: Museum Administrator, Mary Cory  
Office of County Counsel, Roger Runkle  
Community Development Services, Operations Unit, ASO, Sherrie Busby  
Community Development Services, Operations Unit, Dept. Analyst, Julianne Melchor