



CITY OF SANDUSKY, OHIO

240 Columbus Ave.

Sandusky, Ohio 44870

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SANDUSKY CEMETERY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Members: Reverend Thom Darden, Deb Voltz, Harrison Smith, Steve Toft, and Secretary Kevin Zeiher. Dennis Murray, Sr. was excused.

Also present was city Commission Liaison Member, Blake Harris, Director of Public Works Aaron Klein, Finance Director Michelle Reeder, Cemetery Manager Dan Hedberg, Services and Facilities Superintendent Scott Kromer, and Administrative Assistant Elisabeth Sowecke.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M. by Chairman Reverend Thom Darden.

**MINUTES OF THE
PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion made by Harrison Smith., seconded by Steve Toft. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Finance Director Michelle Reeder presented the Oakland Cemetery Financial Report for the Second Quarter of 2021. Revenue was reported at \$31,631.00, Expenditures at \$46,571.00 which reflected that revenue was up and expenditures down for the first quarter. The Endowment Fund also provided positive information with year-to-date revenue of \$24,000, year-to-date expenditures of \$1,900.00 and revenue at \$28,000. Mr. Smith moved to have the report placed on file and if anyone had questions, they could contact Ms. Reeder. Mr. Toft seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY MANAGER'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Hedberg reported that the cemetery currently has 3852 open grave spaces and with double depth burials and three to a grave space for cremains we are in good shape. There are some areas of the cemetery where double depth burials are not possible, however, due to the potential for cave ins due to the porosity of the soil. Fifty grave spaces have been reseeded. The seasonal employees are due back in the second week of May. The spring has been unseasonably warm and the grass is growing creating extra work for the year-round employees including Mr. Hedberg. The 2021 Memorial Day celebration has again been suspended due to the pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Hedberg reported on the meeting of the Cemetery Task Force and the effort to provide more publicity of the facility. Further meetings are in the offing.

Mr. Toft inquired about the progress on a new Mausoleum, as several of his customers have looked elsewhere due to lack of space. Mr. Hedberg reported that the cost of construction has been under study by Mr. Kline and no report was available as of yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Services and Facilities Superintendent Scott Kromer also reported on the issue of current grave space holders that desire to return their unused grave spaces to the cemetery. The questions were would the City buy them back, provide a tax incentive for a donation of the space or allow the customer to trade for other spaces. The issue is under study and more would be reported at the next meeting.

Mr. Kromer also reported on internet sales of head stones and when purchased, who would be responsible for installing them. The local memorial providers will not install the headstones and the cemetery is not a candidate for that service due to questions of liability. After discussion, Mr. Zeiher moved to adopt a policy that the cemetery would not install headstones purchased on the internet. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and the Motion carried.

Mr. Smith again raised the issue of hiring additional seasonal employees to assist in the early season mowing. Mr. Hedberg reported that in years past high school students

were hired to assist, but it was soon learned that those young workers were prone to damaging headstones and the mowing equipment. Mr. Toft inquired if Mr. Hedberg could get the seasonal employees back to work earlier, and Mr. Hedberg agreed to see what he could do.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Ms. Voltz the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 P.M.

The next meeting of the Sandusky Cemetery Board is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.**, and will be held virtually, unless other arrangements are announced.

Kevin J. Zeiher, Secretary