



CEMETERY BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2022 - 8:00 AM**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chairman Joel Day. Day thanked everyone for attending.

Present were members Mayor Day, Kelly Herron, Ron McAbier, Mitch Pace, Mark Wideman, Tim Halter, and Rich Geib

Excused: Jim Exley and Dave Frantz

Minutes from the February 10, 2022 board meeting were approved on a motion by Ron McAbier and seconded by Tim Halter. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Kelly Herron reported that he is still waiting to hear from Swiss Valley Fence on the installation date for the black chain link fence that will run along 20th street. Installation has been guaranteed by May, but the exact date will depend on weather.

Nine trees were removed at East Avenue Cemetery, along a section where the trees were dying. The General Services crew put in a week's worth of work and are hoping to make a return visit in the fall to take care of any additional trees needing to be removed. Water Department crews installed the water lines for the 5 lawn hydrants around section 1 at Schoenbrunn Meadows.

Herron also told the board that Calvary Baptist Church recently purchased 20 grave spaces for church parishioners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Superintendent Herron reported that all of the zero turn mowers have come in, but they are still waiting on the backhoe, one of the smaller tractors, and the gator. Herron said they have a good head start on the equipment needed for mowing this summer but are badly in need of seasonal employees.

The graffiti at the caretakers' building at Fair Avenue Cemetery was not able to be removed and has been painted over. Herron said he is looking into painting the rest of the building the same color to freshen it up, depending on the availability of summer help.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Adamich made a presentation to the board to have a historical marker placed at East Avenue Cemetery to mark the graves of Ohio Governor Vic Donahey and his family. Adamich gave a brief history of the Donahey family's achievements and contributions to the area and outlined his plan for the marker. He said one option would be to work through the Ohio Historical Marker program and the other option would be to find a local company willing to produce the marker. Mr. Adamich said that going through the Ohio Historical Marker program would allow the marker to be uniform with other historical markers in the area. As part of the application process, the board would need to provide a letter of commitment to maintain the marker, a statement of significance, the marker text and placement, and a statement of funding. The average cost is \$3,000 to \$3,500 and the Stokey Foundation and the Elks Lodge have already come forward as financial donors. If approved, Mr. Adamich recommended beginning the Ohio Historical Marker application now to allow ample time to create a solid application prior to the May 1st, 2023 deadline.

Mark Wideman made a motion to support the effort to place an Ohio Historical Marker at East Avenue Cemetery recognizing the Donahey family. Ron McAbier seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Adamich told the board that he would assist with the application process and provide regular updates. The board will visit the site during a future meeting to determine marker placement.

In other business, Superintendent Kelly Herron asked the board for approval to charge an additional \$175 for weekend niche services to cover overtime costs. Rich Geib made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron McAbier. Motion carried.

Rich Geib expressed his desire to replace the money in the endowment fund as soon as possible to allow Phase 2 of the Cemetery Master Plan to begin. The board briefly discussed ways to market Schoenbrunn Meadows Cemetery including social media, putting a flyer in the water bill, and placing brochures at local funeral homes.

Superintendent Herron also said that he would report year-to-date sales at the next meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 am on a motion by Ron McAbier and second by Tim Halter.

Jami Bailey, Administrative Assistant