

Pioneer Cemetery Meeting
May 27, 2010

Meeting convened at 3:30 pm at the Skakels' residence

In attendance: Katie Skakel

Marc Berry

Kathy Fitzpatrick

David Skakel

David opened the meeting with a discussion about setting goals for the year. Marc addressed the question why would the Mosier CC budget the Master Plan estimate of \$2,000.00 by Sally Donovan during this difficult economic year. The committee listed the following arguments:

Why fund the Master Plan?

1. This one time investment to develop a Master Plan will guarantee that a business plan for the cemetery is in place that will ensure a sustainable revenue stream for ongoing maintenance and cemetery needs.
2. This one time investment will increase dramatically our chances of receiving funding from grant sources. State sources (Historic Cemeteries and Heritage Grants) are dwindling and the grant pool is highly competitive. The third grant source for Historic Cemeteries is our Wasco County Cultural Trust which has a very small amount of money to give. They prefer to give to child and educational focused projects. Funders generally do not fund projects that do not already demonstrate a well organized and community supported base. Funding for technical assistance is almost impossible to obtain without already having invested in master planning activities. Funders prefer to fund cemetery projects that have been planned by professionals.
3. The City's greatest asset, our volunteer citizen base, has demonstrated more energy towards the Pioneer Cemetery than has surfaced in the 12 years since Elizabeth Daniels and Jim Deaton did a lot of research and documentation and developed a work program proposal. The City Council at that time showed no active support for the work that had been accomplished and unfortunately we lost the good will of those individuals who had devoted a good deal of time and energy to a city property. We propose to take advantage of the volunteer hours we have available right now (the individuals who have shown their interest by attending committee meetings and workshops over the last 2 years) to develop and complete the Master Plan.
4. On December 15, 2004, the Mosier City Council voted to "open the Pioneer Cemetery to cremain burials." (Quote taken from City Minutes)
The City exists to provide services to its citizens. The City has indicated that this is a service that will be provided to its citizens and now needs to fund the process to make this cemetery a legally operating cemetery. We have an unfortunate situation now that involves a local family that wishes to bury the cremains of their

child in the Pioneer Cemetery. The City has declared this an operational cemetery since 2004 but under State law this is NOT a legally operating cemetery. All we can tell this family is that "yes, they can bury the cremains and NO we don't know where or when".

5. The development of a Master Plan is a public process throughout. The professional we hire to guide us through this process will ensure the greater public goodwill and participation.

6. Per the State Historic Cemetery coordinator, Kuri Gill, the City of Mosier is fortunate to attract the attention of the only Historic Cemetery Master Planner in Oregon (who has already donated many hours of committee meeting participation and workshops). Sally Donovan has offered to give us a discounted rate for her services of \$50.00 an hour. The other three businesses who do this type of work are located in Utah and the East Coast. Their fees are \$100.00 an hour plus travel expenses. Their fees for phone consultations are \$100.00 an hour.

The arrangement in the estimate is that Sally will be the consultant and guide the efforts of the volunteers and the volunteer professionals. We have already engaged Barbara Robinson (Pocket Park, Discovery Center landscaping) to help us with the native plant/heritage plant landscaping, maintenance, and pathway design.

Marc Berry suggested setting 3 goals to meet before August: the survey, research info, existing pathways. David said we should accomplish the goal of creating an operating cemetery. David had a list of goals that matched the goals in Sally Donovan's scope of work estimate (plot style, design, headstone regulations, fencing, pathways, mission statement).

David suggested setting monthly meeting dates and place. Kathy will check on the Senior Center as a possibility and will call Cleo to check with price.

Marc is still working on the FAQs. Kathy will check on how many plots are still available at the State Rd. Cemetery. David noticed that the design of the Pioneer Cemetery should keep in mind that the State Rd. cemetery is available to those who prefer a more manicured and structured cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.