

Cemetery Board  
September 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Cemetery Board was held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Parks Conference Room, 401 South Elm, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Peggy Crabtree, Chairman  
Chad Hicks  
Connie McGuire  
Chelsea Holder  
Perry Giles

Others Present: Brad Barnes, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director  
Yadira Campos, Recreation Specialist

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Peggy Crabtree called the meeting to order.

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. Approval of minutes of the City Cemetery Board meeting of July 7, 2022**

**Action:**

*Ms. Chelsea Holder moved to approve the minutes of the Cemetery Board meeting of July 7, 2022.  
Ms. Connie McGuire seconded, All Ayes.*

**4. Hear update on Babyland Headstones and take any necessary action**

Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Brad Barnes introduced an opportunity to address unmarked graves in the Babyland Addition of the Cemetery. Mr. Barnes explained Seth and Leslie Goring have already made improvements to the sod and irrigation and have approached the City offering to cover the costs of placing markers at unmarked graves in Babyland.

Ms. Goring explained her and her husband have a child in Babyland and would like to improve the area for families to visit and enjoy. She noted there are nine unmarked graves in Babyland and recognized that it may be difficult for families to provide markers for whatever reason. She proposed mailing letters to families and offering to cover the costs of the marker through an anonymous donation.

Mr. Barnes stated the City does not have contact information for some of the unmarked graves. He noted graves are required to be marked within two years of burial; however, he recognized families may not always be able to do so. If a family is unable to be contacted or does not respond, Mr. Barnes stated a stone or a blank marker may be an option to be placed to mark the grave.

The Cemetery Board discussed potential legal obligations and opportunities to reach the families.

Chairman Peggy Crabtree recommended reaching out to the families that the City has contact information for and try to locate contact information for the others. She advised that after some time has passed, the Cemetery Board can discuss placing blank markers if contact was unable to be made or if no response was received.

**Action:**

*Mr. Chad Hicks moved to approve a proposal for a donor to fund Babyland Headstones for unmarked graves with plot owner permission. Ms. Chelsea Holder seconded. All Ayes.*

The Board thanked the Gorings for their generous offer.

**5. Request to appear by Jerry Chapman regarding plot discovery and take any necessary action**

Mr. Jerry Chapman presented his request to perform plot discovery on the Chapman lot and possibly a neighboring lot, the McDaniel lot, in order to identify a burial location for him and his wife. Mr. Chapman stated he would like to hire a City approved business at his expense to excavate the Chapman lot and a portion of the McDaniel lot, which has not had any activity since 1909. By excavating the Chapman lot, the location of the buried will be confirmed and also identify plot availability. If the excavation of the Chapman lot shows no plot availability, Mr. Chapman stated he would like to request one or two plots from the 10' x 20' McDaniel lot which has one marked grave. With the permission of City staff, Mr. Chapman secured the services of Texas Cemetery Restoration (TCR) to perform Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to identify any unmarked graves in the area. The TCR report provided to the Board by Mr. Chapman noted "a total of zero possible unmarked graves were recorded." He noted the only way to know 100% is to perform excavation.

Mr. Barnes stated City staff supports Mr. Chapman's request to excavate the Chapman lot; however, due to being unable to locate the McDaniel lot owner for authorization, City staff is unable to support the excavation of the McDaniel lot.

**Action:**

*Mr. Chad Hicks moved to approve excavation of the Chapman lot by a City authorized excavator at the expense of Jerry Chapman. Ms. Chelsea Holder seconded. All Ayes.*

**6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Bonner  
Assistant City Secretary