

Meeting Minutes

City of Newnan Farmer Street Cemetery Commission Monday, May 6, 2024 6:00 pm – Newnan City Hall

Members: Jocelyn Palmer, John Pulicare, Loren Taylor, Alison O'Rourke, Jordan Marchman, Christina Joseph

Staff: Hasco Craver

Guests: Sydney Thompson, Andrew Kohr, Danny (AAA), Buck (AAA), Terri Gillet (New South), Velma Fann (New South)

1. The meeting was called to order by Jocelyn Palmer at 6:00pm.
2. Veda Brooks made a motion to accept the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes. John Pulicare seconded the motion. The motion carried. Veda Brooks made a motion to accept the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes. John Pulicare seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. Continuing Business
 - a. Hasco Craver mentioned that the property owner along East Washington Street has removed the fence from the cemetery property. Hasco Craver mentioned that the same property owner is working with the City to move the shed from the cemetery property onto their property. Hasco Craver mentioned that the property owner along Cole Street has not yet removed/moved their fence from the cemetery property. Hasco Craver mentioned that he will continue to work with the owners to remove improvements from the cemetery property.
 - b. Hasco Craver mentioned that the property to the west and adjacent to the cemetery was discussed by the City Council. Hasco Craver mentioned that at this point, there is no desire from the property owner to sell the property to the City for the City's use as a cemetery. Hasco Craver mentioned that the owner expressed an intention to develop the property as zoned in the future. Hasco Craver mentioned that City staff are keenly aware of the property and will make certain that if any development plan were submitted that the owner or applicant pay certain attention to the possibility of burial sites being located thereon.
 - c. Sydney Thomson and Andrew Kohr displayed the council-received and approved concept plan. POND staff members led a conversation related to the location of the proposed outdoor classroom. All commissioners were in agreement that the outdoor classroom should be located within the cemetery (option #2), not at the alternative location northwest of the cemetery. Loren Taylor mentioned accommodating alternative routes around the outdoor classroom. Veda Brooks confirmed that the walkway from the parking facilities to the outdoor classroom will be concrete. POND staff introduced members of the New South team. Terri

Gillet and Velma Fann presented potential signage materials, font, color and type. Terri mentioned the significance of the color periwinkle. Loren Taylor mentioned that she did not support the use of wood. Alison O'Rourke mentioned that the materials should be similar to those used at Oak Hill cemetery: granite and metal. Loren Taylor mentioned wanting to see a monument at the site. Alison O'Rourke asked about wanting to coordinate all materials throughout the site. Hasco Craver mentioned that granite is used and Oak Hill Cemetery and brick is used at Eastview Cemetery. The commission did not support the use of a bell in the signage. Veda Brooks mentioned her desire to include a sculpture that interacted with the sun. More specifically, Veda Brooks mentioned wanting to use the sunset time in the sculpture, which will recognize the significance against the community being known as a "sundown town". Andrew Kohr mentioned placing the sculpture near the parking area, which will may have better access to natural light. Loren Taylor asked the New South team to research the use of the term "cemetery" versus "burial site". Velma Fann provided information about the research she has been compiling. More specifically, Velma Fann mentioned named individuals from the community and their respective stories being found in local newspaper archives. The commission was supportive of using quotes from Velma Fann's research on future signage. Loren Taylor mentioned a school house that was once located on the site of the cemetery and that it is currently located off site and is owned by a church. Loren Taylor and Veda Brooks mentioned that telling human stories within the context of African-American experience in Newnan was preferable. John Pulicare mentioned creating one area for names to be gathered and all the walking paths through the cemetery to talk to the history of the cemetery. Alison O'Rourke asked Andre Kohr to provide a calendar of decisions being made over time to keep the commission abreast of actions being taken over time.

4. New Business

- a. Veda Brooks made a motion to name Jocelyn Palmer as the Chairperson, Loren Taylor as the Vice Chairperson and Veda Brooks as the Secretary for 2024. Alison O'Rourke seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

**Next Meeting:
July 1, 2024
6:00pm
Newnan City Hall**