

Policy Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016

Location: Claremont Visitors Center.

The meeting was opened at 6:04 PM

Members present included:

Chair: Victor Bergeron

John Simonds

Scott Pope

Alan Spahr

Absent: Abigail Carmen

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, Scott Pope Motion to approve, Alan Spahr second.

The committee met to accept public input on Ordinance 182, Section 16-76, Cemetery rules. Public Input was opened with Assistant Mayor/ Committee Chair Victor Bergeron stating that the goal of the committee was to create an ordinance that is acceptable to the majority of the people in the community. He then opened the meeting for public input.

Linda Matthews, who had previously sent in comments for the committee (included in the packet) stated that in the Grandview cemetery, many people are getting carried away with items, memorabilia, and structures in the cemetery. She suggested that the ordinance regulate items left to one item per gravesite.

Committee member John Simonds suggested leaving this to the discretion of the Cemetery superintendent, and mentioned that in his tours and research of other cemeteries, there were time limits to items being left on graves and being removed.

Tom Wanslaben, who had also sent in comments for the committee review, mentioned that the issues in the cemetery have been brought to light due to a structure being erected over a grave. He mentioned that it went up last year, then appeared once again. He said this can't continue. He also said there needs to be a limit on items, otherwise they become a nuisance and detract from the rest of the cemetery. He also suggested that the city clean up old items in a timely manner.

Mr. Matthews mentioned that some memorabilia is acceptable, but also that many people will test the limit. The structure was mentioned by him as well as an example.

John Simonds mentioned that he also knows that some of the decisions made by the committee and the council will not make everyone happy.

Mr. Bergeron said that there are cases where the grieving process is important, but there should be a time limit after one's death where memorabilia should be allowed, then removed.

Scott Pope started to make the motion to have the city attorney rule upon if the structure in the cemetery would be allowed under the current ordinance. He stated that fences, and stone walls and other obstructions are not allowed under the current ordinance, and this should determine if it is allowed or not under these requirements.

The motion was put on hold when Tina Rock, Caroline Hamilton, and Christine Hooper came in to give public input.

Tina Rock is asking permission for her to have a sanctuary over her son's grave during the winter months. She noted that she took the sanctuary down when the cemetery opened. She also noted that the trash buckets were not out yet, and that trash was all around from people cleaning up grave sites. She also mentioned having the youth from the high school come in to clean the cemetery as a part of their public service requirement.

Mr. Bergeron mentioned that there are specific regulations that determine if students can work on city property and that this should proceed with caution.

Mrs. Rock commented that there should be a limited number of structures allowed each year. She then presented a petition with 96 signatures *(see notes for actual numbers) who do not object to the structure on her son's grave.

John Simonds mentioned that this is the benefit of a public hearing after some lively discussion occurred between some of the public members. He also asked for respect for all involved.

Christine Hooper mentioned that that sanctuaries should be allowed on a yearly lottery basis, that a number be set and that names are chosen to allow for this.

Caroline Hamilton mentioned that structures/sanctuaries like this provide for peace of mind, and that this is a step in the grieving process. She also suggested a code for how structures/sanctuaries should be built and maintained.

Tina Rock mentioned that nobody has ever thought of putting a structure over a grave before, and that it provides protection for her and others visiting the grave of her son. She also stated that everyone is different. She then mentioned that she would Google "shrines" and that they are all buildings. She then said this was a sanctuary for her and others to use.

One member of the public (unidentified) said that if she is allowed to keep her structure, he would build four more, one over every grave he and his family own.

Tom Wanslaben stated that there should be no structures, no lights, and that you can't allow one person to have a structure over all of the others. He mentioned that nobody should be allowed to move someone's room to a grave site.

Tina Rock mentioned that she wants the next meeting to be noticed in the newspaper, and in that way all people who use the cemetery can attend. She mentioned that the web site had the meeting location in the wrong location.

Mr. Bergeron mentioned to Mrs. Rock that in their phone calls, he told her where the meeting would be held and at what time.

Mr. Pope re-stated his motion to have the city attorney look at the current regulation to see if the structure/sanctuary would be allowed under current ordinance. The motion passed by consensus.

Discussion on Ordinance 8-1 – Licensing Board and Alcohol regulations were held.

The discussion was prompted by a request by Michael Charest for an alcohol license for the Summerfest series of concerts at Arrowhead. The request is to allow alcohol sales at Arrowhead Recreational area for attendees at the concerts.

Mr. Bergeron mentioned that the organizers want a fenced in area for alcohol sales and participants to drink within.

Mr. Pope referenced Mr. Charest's letter to the council, which asks for the entire slope of the ski area to be open for wine and beer drinking in one part of the letter.

Several questions were posed by the committee to be answered, including:

- State laws governing alcohol sales.
- Licensed vendors for sales.
- Fenced in areas for use.
- The possibility of people bringing in their own in spite of the controls
- What controls will be in place
- Police presence
- Location of the stage and the sales point.

Mr. Pope asked why the beer fest could be held at the visitors center park, and was told this is not technically a park. He also mentioned that Red River's Race for the Camo had advertised a beer tent at Arrowhead and wondered how this was happening. He also suggested that Mr. Charest attend a meeting to answer these questions to provide the needed clarity for consideration.

One member of the committee also suggested that Chief Scott attend a meeting to share his concerns.

The meeting of the committee adjourned at 7:25.

*Notes

The petition has 89 signatures. .