

**Maintenance & Office Staff Reports:**

**Office Staff**

We have been keeping the gate locked during the day, as there have been a few instances in the last two weeks of strange people showing up at the office with no cemetery business in mind, what appeared to be an inebriated man, who was angry about the maintenance of cemeteries and would not leave as asked right away, as well as a couple of other instances.

**Maintenance Staff**

There were some definite mishaps with regards to getting all the cemeteries ready for Memorial Day. A plan is being put in place for a maintenance schedule that can be given to the public and will also help with efficiency for the staff getting other work done at the cemeteries.

**Board Reports**

Janice stated how hard this last year has been on the District with staffing issues.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36pm. Next regular meeting will be:

**Monday, July 18, 2022, at 5:30pm**

Approved By: Janice Carstensen

Date: 7-18-22

### **Purchase of new mower**

Scott made motion and Lisa seconded that the District spend up to \$14,361.38 on a John Deere X758 with a 54-inch mower deck; all in favor. **Janice – yes, Scott – yes, Lisa – yes**

One of our visitor's, I believe it was Amy Lewno, stated that she has a contact at Pape' and thinks she might be able to get the District an employee discount on the purchase of the new mower; she will ask and get back to us. The Board expressed their extreme gratitude.

### **Murray Hill Cemetery**

It has been discovered by some recent land development in the area that one of the columbaria and the memorial garden are not on cemetery property. However, the company doing the land development has been in contact and are likely to deed this portion of the cemetery to the District as they do not want to disturb cemetery operations.

It was discovered that the City of Clatskanie (when they had ownership of the cemetery) entered into an agreement with Herb Clifford, the now deceased previous owner of the property, for a lot line adjustment at his expense of this particular piece of property for 6 plots in the cemetery: however, Mr. Clifford did not follow through with his end of the written agreement.

### **Neer City Cemetery Gate**

Nicole Rieger called before Memorial Day incredibly angry that she and her disabled mother are unable to visit her Dad's grave when they would like due to the gate always being locked. She wanted to know why this is the only cemetery in all 12 cemeteries that has a locked gate barring entrance for her and disabled Mother who is unable to walk in. The only answer I had for this was that the gate had been put in place to help mitigate vandalism in that particular cemetery. She stated that was not her problem and that she and her Mother should be able to visit her Father's grave when they would like. At that point, I could not disagree and requested of our maintenance crew that the gate be left open indefinitely at this time and that if we encountered any issues of major vandalism, we would revisit this situation.

I then received a phone call on my cell phone from Mr. David St. Onge, a neighbor to the Neer City Cemetery, screaming obscenities at me, threatening me personally, and stating that if we (the District) leave the gate open, he will close it, if we open it back up, he will chain it, if we cut the chain, he will dig a tank trench that will keep everyone out and that he is willing to go to jail to protect his property.

I did try to explain that I had family members requesting to have access to the cemetery without the gate due to a disability and he continued his tirade, repeating his threats and then hung up.

Due to the extreme anger and threats of this phone call, I did call the Sheriff's non-emergency number to report the call and threats.

On June 8, we received an email from Agnes Petersen, stating that she was the attorney for the St. Onge's requesting information; the email was forwarded to the District's attorney for review and guidance on how to proceed.

### **BA McKay Storage Agreement Cancellation**

As the agreement with Mr. McKay expired on December 31, 2021, and the original stated usage was not utilized, as well as an RV being parked on the property after he had been told no when asked, the board has decided not to renew the agreement and to refund the rent paid since January 2022 in the amount of \$800.

Dave stated that his backyard needs to be protected by the District. He also wanted to know why the District felt it was ok to lock and protect our office staff but not his property.

**Mitch Warren, Kevin Crawford, Margaret Magruder, Jennifer Nelson and Amy Lewno**

### Old Business:

#### **Bottle Drop Account**

The new bottle drop account balance is: \$222.70

Now that the accounts are completely separated, Cyndi will collect the card from Scott and send back to Judy with a thank you card.

#### **Clearview Tree Service**

Board approved reaching out to Ray with Clearview about putting together a regular maintenance plan for preventive tree maintenance on each of the 12 cemeteries. Cyndi has been in contact with Raymin about this and he is interested, but neither of them have had the time to get together and work out the details.

***Nothing new to report currently.***

#### **Accident at Chapel**

This has been resolved and a check received for \$2,693.83 for damages.

#### **Quote from DogBear Productions – Drone photos of cemeteries**

The quote was just for the 3 Clatskanie cemeteries.

### New Business:

Lisa made a motion and Scott seconded that May's meeting minutes and BC meeting minutes be approved as presented; all in favor. **Janice – yes, Scott – yes, Lisa – yes**

Scott made a motion and Lisa seconded that the bills be approved and paid as presented; all in favor.

**Janice – yes, Scott – yes, Lisa – yes**

#### **Resolution 22-004 – Receipt of Unanticipated Funds**

Scott made a motion and Lisa seconded that the above-named resolution be approved; all in favor.

**Janice – yes, Scott – yes, Lisa – yes**

#### **Resolution 22-005 – Transfer of Appropriations within Funds**

Lisa made a motion and Scott seconded that the above-named resolution be approved; all in favor.

**Janice – yes, Scott – yes, Lisa – yes**

#### **July & August Meetings**

Due to a conflict for a board member these two months meeting time will be 5:30pm instead of 5:00pm.

#### **Centerlogic (IT) Contract**

Lisa made a motion and Scott seconded that the District sign the contract with Centerlogic for much needed IT support; there is a one-time fee of \$345 to set up the firewall and then the District will be billed \$105.50 monthly and \$115 an hour for support when needed; all in favor. **Janice – yes, Scott – yes, Lisa – yes**

# Rainier Cemetery District

## Regular Monthly Meeting

June 20, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order by Janice Carstensen, Board Chair, at 5:40pm at 24952 Alston Rd (cemetery office), Rainier, OR; Board member(s) present: Scott Falconer and Lisa Christen

Board member(s) absent: None

Cyndi Warren, District Bookkeeper/Manager - present.

### Visitors:

#### **Jim and Sharon McGlone – Levy and Maintenance of cemeteries**

Jim was requesting to know how many people the District had in place to take care of the cemetery maintenance and that the job is not being done as well as when Kevin was at the District. Memorial Day found the cemeteries at Larson Rd in deplorable condition.

#### **Leona Zimmer – Plot at Neer City Cemetery**

Leona requested that a plot be measured at Neer City Cemetery 5 years ago; at that time, the plot price was approximately \$700. She is claiming that after repeated requests and phone calls that were never returned over these 5 years the measurement has not been completed and she feels that it would be unfair for her to have to pay the new price of \$942. The board will take under advisement.

Leona always stated that the if the gate at Neer City Cemetery was left open, it will be torn to hell. She is willing to help with keeping the gate shut.

Leona mentioned that there are headstones down over the bank at the Neer City Cemetery; Cyndi will ask the crew about this.

Leona also suggested hanging Thank you banners through downtown Rainier; she was going to investigate cost and options.

#### **Ages Petersen – Attorney for the St. Onge’s**

Ms. Petersen stated her displeasure that Cyndi was running the meeting. (for the record, it was suggested by the District’s attorney that Cyndi run this portion of the meeting due to her involvement and communications with the Neer City Cemetery gate and maintenance issues)

Ms. Petersen provided pictures and written concerns from her clients, David and Carol St. Onge.

Ms. Petersen requested copies of the District’s policies; she was told that she would have to go through the public records requests process for copies of this information.

Ms. Petersen was given a copy of the budget for review during the meeting.

Ms. Petersen suggested looking into Historical Preservation Grants.

Ms. Peterson suggested the District contact the Community Service Consortiums of Columbia County and accept community service help.

#### **Dave and Carol St. Onge - Neer City Cemetery Gate**

Dave also provided pictures of ruts in the grass that were made by people being allowed to drive into the cemetery.

Carol stated that the gate is there for a reason; it prevents people from driving between graves, they have concerns about their animals being spooked and it should only be open to the public on certain holidays.