



## Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board

### March 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Zets at 3:40 p.m.

#### **Roll Call:**

Brian Zets, Chair	P
Denise Kohn, Vice-Chair	P
Bill Resch	P
Nancy Ferguson	P
David Cline	P
Roger Chandler	P
Kate Macchi	P

Also present: Mike Mott - Council Member Liaison, Mark Nemec – Director, Service Department, Jennifer Mason - Clerk of Council, Robert Dean, and Betty Maynard.

#### **Approval of the January 7, 2016 meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Zets, moved to amend the minutes to show that he was present and to correct the spelling of David Cline's name. Nancy Ferguson seconded, and all voted in favor of the amendments.

Chairman Zets moved to approve the minutes as amended. Nancy Ferguson seconded, and all voted in favor of the amended minutes.

#### **Dr. Jarrod Burks (Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc.):**

Dr. Jarrod Burks, Ohio Valley Archeology, Inc. representative, narrated a power point presentation showing the steps they would be taking to survey, excavate, and research New Albany's old burial grounds.

The steps were as follows:

- 1) Research – tracking down historical information
  - 2) Mapping the surface
  - 3) Geophysical survey – magnetic and ground penetrating radar
- Dr. Burks slides showed how graves, vaults, fill, metal objects, and plastic flowers appeared to the detection devices.

Nancy Ferguson offered that 15-20 graves in the old burial grounds were exhumed and moved to Maplewood Cemetery.

4) Probing/Coring to locate stones

5) Fence Delineation/Excavation

Mr. Burks explained that after the metal fence posts still in the ground were mapped, he would want to pull those out. He further suggested a backhoe equipped with a bucket without teeth and greater than 2ft in width be used to take the topsoil off where the old fencing existed. Service Director Mark Nemeč believed that the city had a bucket that matched those specifications.

Cemetery Board members expressed interest in being present for some of the excavation phases.

Service Director Nemeč asked Dr. Burks whether his instruments used GIS. Dr. Burks stated that they did not, but that they would set up a grid with GIS markers and could input the information for GIS mapping.

Dr. Burks asked about removing trees in the area as fence excavation was likely to damage the root systems of nearby trees. Nancy Ferguson answered that no decision had been made about the trees. Bill Resch stated he was okay with tree removal as the primary objective was preservation of the cemetery. Dr. Burks stated and members agreed that trees could be replanted later.

6) Stone Excavation

Dr. Burks understood that the city would excavate the stones with the supervision of Ohio Archeology. He expected it to be messy and they would proceed carefully.

Dr. Burks asked about grave stone storage. Service Director Nemeč asked about appropriate storage locations (indoors/outdoors), means of storage, and size of required storage most of which would be determined in the near future. Pallets were suggested to keep the stones dry.

Chairman Zets asked and Nancy Ferguson confirmed that Ohio Archeology's work was approved and budgeted for by Council.

7) Stone Documentation – mapping, photos

8) Archival research

9) Final Report – came with CDs

Dr. Burks offered that he could make presentations to city council and the historical society.

In summary, Dr. Burks expected 2 weeks' worth of fieldwork that would preferably happen on consecutive days, but that work would be weather dependent.

Kate Macchi stated that local high school seniors often needed volunteer hours and could possibly help with the excavation. She stated she would contact Jenny Sage at the high school to find out what it would take involve student volunteers.

Chair Zets asked how the topsoil that was excavated and set aside would be handled. Dr. Burks suggested that the dirt could be replaced after the excavation. It could also be graded and seeded.

Bill Resch asked about the possibility of encountering bones during the excavation. Dr. Burks did not anticipate coming across bones as the planned excavation was shallow, however, if floater bones were encountered, the board may want plans to handle that scenario. Dr. Burks asked about local ordinances regarding remains and noted that the State of Ohio had applicable laws. Dr. Burks stated that Ohio Archeology had labs if the city wanted any bones studied. Roger Chandler offered that any bones could be buried under a new monument.

**New Business:**

None.

**Old Business:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to conduct, Chairman Zets, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bill Resch seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Signed:

for Brian Zets, Chair Vice Chair Jennifer Mason, Secretary 4/13/16  
Date