



## Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board

### April 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Denise Kohn at 3:45 p.m.

#### **Roll Call:**

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

Also present: Jennifer Mason - Clerk of Council, Robert Dean, Betty Maynard, and representatives from Plain Township: Ben Collins, Mary Fee, and Bobby Pharris

#### **Approval of the March 9, 2016 meeting Minutes:**

Nancy Ferguson moved to approve the minutes. Bill Resch seconded, and all voted to approve the March 9, 2016 minutes.

#### **Mark Morton (Gravestone Guardians of Ohio):**

Mark Morton introduced himself and gave a brief history of how he arrived at this line of work. He spoke about his qualifications, how he studied with Johnathan Appel at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training NCPTT. He told members that he had been working in the industry for 3 years doing graveyard restoration. He presented a Power Point slideshow titled "The Good and The Bad" which illustrated ways of cleaning and re-erecting gravestones which worked and ways which harmed the stones.

Bill Resch asked about using a sealant on cleaned stones. Mr. Morton stated that sealant was not recommended as it could keep water in and damage the stone during a freeze-thaw cycle.

Mr. Morton's three rules for restoration were:

- 1) Do no harm.
- 2) Do nothing permanent which can't be undone.
- 3) Do all that is possible to keep within the cemetery's historical character.

In explaining cleaning, he stated it was all about the pH balance. Never bleach limestone. Never use a product called "Wet & Forget." He stated that he used D/2 biological solution which was approved by the NCPTT. When asked how long D/2 took, he answered that it could be reapplied and showed pictures of a stone which had had several re-applications. He did not use wire brushes or Nylox wheels.

In explaining restoration, he advised against concrete for bases, recommending instead lime mortar. Another option was to use a concrete base with a place for the grave stone but utilizing limestone mortar to set the stone into the concrete. Tamped down crushed stone also worked at the bottom of re-dug holes to keep the headstone from sinking.

Mr. Morton presented a list of chemicals not to use on headstones to make them easier to read. When asked how he felt about charcoal rubbings and tracing paper, he answered that these were safe if done correctly.

Mr. Morton answered several questions from those present: Regarding an underlayment when piecing together broken stones, he stated he did not use one, just a special epoxy to glue the pieces together. Regarding whether he took stones off-site to work on them, he stated that he worked on most stones on-site.

Nancy Ferguson told the CRAB members that Dr. Burks was at the Old Burial Grounds today and was expected to be there for the following 2 weeks. She stated that she would send out an email to the members with his schedule.

Kate Macchi asked about plans for a wall with gravestone pieces. Ms. Ferguson suggested to members that they wait for the information from Dr. Burks before making plans for restoration, including if another monument containing the names of those buried but for whom no stone is found should be created, and to discuss whether there would be fencing and signage. When asked, Mr. Morton stated he preferred gravestones in rows, rather than in a wall or monument, to keep in the graveyard's historical character. David Cline agreed that it was too soon to know what would be displayed, but agreed a wall would be peaceful and respectful.

Mark Morton thanked members and left the meeting.

#### **New Business:**

It was agreed that discussion about the potential involvement of Eagle Scouts would wait until Brian Zets was present as he placed that item on the agenda.

**Old Business:**

The topic of saving trees in and surrounding the Old Burial Grounds was again discussed. Kate Macchi suggested talking to Aaron Noblet, previously an arborist for the city, now a consultant. Nancy Ferguson stated she would ask City Manager Joseph Stefanov if this could be done.

It was agreed that a landscaping plan for the area would be discussed by CRAB members at a future meeting.

**Other business:**

Nancy Ferguson asked if CRAB members wanted to hear from additional speakers. Bill Resch suggested someone from Columbus Arts Memorial, however Ms. Ferguson stated a representative from there had spoken to city council on this issue 3 times already.

Ms. Ferguson asked CRAB board members to think about restoration ideas for the next meeting which could be in May after Dr. Burks' report was issued.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to conduct, Bill Resch, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Ferguson seconded the motion, and all voted in favor of adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Signed:

  
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Brian Zets, Chair

  
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Jennifer Mason, Secretary

5/11/16  
Date