



**CEMETERY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 24, 2026**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Fee at 3:33 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Mary Fee, Chair	P
Ron Stoughton, Vice Chair	A
Thomas Shockey, Secretary	P
Diana Jacobs	P
Elizabeth Murch	P
Jeffrey Gastineau	P
OPEN	

Guest present: Keri O'Donnell

Staff present: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason; Public Services Manager Angela Hobart; Deputy City Manager Adrienne Joly

**Approval of the February 2, 2026 meeting minutes:**

Member Murch moved to approve the February 2, 2026 special meeting minutes as submitted. Chair Fee seconded and all members voted to approve the February 2, 2026 special meeting minutes.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Clerk Mason suggested moving the Wagnor Cemetery Landscaping Update above the New Albany Cemetery Historical Marker discussion so that Manager Hobart could depart before the re-writing work. Member Murch moved swap the discussion items and adopt the agenda. Chair Fee seconded. All members voted to adopt the agenda as amended.

**Hearing of visitors:**

NONE

**Other Business:**

Rose Run 2/Veterans Memorial Update

Deputy City Manager Joly presented the attached slides. She recalled her prior presentation to the board and described the New Albany Police Department expansion which had been added to the project. She talked about the purpose of the project and the ways to connect people to the war memorial year-round instead of for a particular holiday. She described the safe and accessible restrooms, more and varied seating options, the ways to get people to and across the creek - which had been a success in Rose Run Park. Deputy City Manager Joly described the veterans' wall with bronze military seals and veterans' names on the inside of the wall. She talked about new criteria for being listed on the veterans' wall.

Member Murch asked and Deputy City Manager Joly described about how Rose Run Creek would be remediated closer to US 62.

Member Jacobs asked and Deputy City Manager Joly replied that a person could request a new veteran be added to the wall. There were more details to come and some council decisions to be made.

Deputy City Manager Joly described the water feature which would add ambient sound for reflection. She displayed a rendering of the Gold Star statue which honored both veterans and the families who supported them. She reviewed the new parking lot configuration and the opportunity to test specialized concrete stamping which could have environmental benefits by reducing sediment in run-off water. Deputy City Manager Joly talked about how the boundaries of the historic New Albany Cemetery would be maintained. There were opportunities for signage by the cemetery to educate the public. She noted that Dublin used QR codes to lead people to their webpage about their cemetery and New Albany could do the same.

Member Murch observed that there wasn't any cordoning off of the cemetery. Deputy City Manager Joly responded that there was an 18" to 24" retaining wall around the park. The idea was to make it accessible - unless the board had feedback. Member Murch asked about how the cemetery entrance was marked. Deputy City Manager Joly indicated the spot for the Ohio Historical Marker sign. There could be signs on the retaining wall, similar to the prior version of the presentation. She was happy to take back ideas to the design team. She confirmed that the design rendering displayed was to scale.

Chair Fee noted the cemetery was spread out. She liked the marking for Veterans Memorial/Founders Field. The historical marker could be between (SITE PLAN slide) item 1 and 2. Member Gastineau noted the Gold Star statue had a specific location and was a destination. Founders Field with the cemetery just seemed to be in the middle. He asked if the design should funnel people to the cemetery or should it allow people to wander in. Member Murch wanted 2 points of reference, perhaps between (SITE PLAN slide) items 1 and 2 or 6 and 2. She talked about how other cemeteries had a defined entrance. To have none was troublesome.

Chair Fee didn't want to see kids playing in the cemetery. Board members agreed the stones were fragile. Chair Fee recalled how she would visit cemeteries with her family and she was taught how to be there. She didn't think families taught that much now. She didn't want the cemetery to eventually be a play area. Member Jacobs thought shrubs or a fence were appropriate.

Deputy City Manager Joly asked the board if they wanted people to be in the cemetery space or not. Chair Fee replied she did want people to be there, but if the space was too open, it became a playground. Deputy City Manager Joly noted that Veterans Memorial was there and she understood the corners of the cemetery were important. Member Murch believed having an entrance was important and asked for that demarcation. If it was a cemetery, it should be addressed that way. Deputy City Manager Joly pointed out the 18" to 24" wall, depending on the land grade, with signage on the wall at the points of entry. Member Murch suggested a rod iron fence, waist high, with a gate that could be opened. Member Gastineau observed the multiple ways into the oval around the wall. Deputy City Manager Joly and the board discussed whether there was evidence of an original entry to the New Albany Cemetery. The board was unaware of evidence and discussed where an entry would be likely.

Member Murch stated the cemetery was not a big area to fence off. Entry to the cemetery should be purposeful. The headstones were fragile. When the city wanted to fix them all, it turned out there was 1 person who could do it and was hard to get that person scheduled. Deputy City Manager Joly noted the challenge was that the stones were spread out. Chair Fee didn't think a fence as part of the design would be objected to.

Member Gastineau thought the design of the walkways could direct the flow of traffic past the cemetery, perhaps with a circular observation point. Deputy City Manager Joly noted that if structures touched the cemetery, the city would need an archeological person on site. Since the board didn't know where the entrance was, she would need feedback from the board. The wall design ended up as an ellipse because it was more organic. Because of what had happened to the cemetery of the years – it was a product of history and time – could respect that or confine it.

Member Shockey thought it would be helpful to walk the site. Board members agreed. Deputy City Manager Joly stated that tree removal would start in early March. The site would still be accessible, but she would have to arrange it and they would need hard hats, etc.

Chair Fee expressed that the overall park was beautiful. She wanted to see the cemetery more enclosed.

Deputy City Manager Joly stated the city hoped to bring visibility to the cemetery and Veterans Memorial. She noted the police department was next to the site and there would be security cameras in the park.

Member Murch specifically requested cameras on the cemetery. Board members and Deputy City Manager Joly discussed lighting on the site.

Deputy City Manager Joly stated that if the board didn't want access-

Member Murch stated they wanted access but didn't want it to be in the open. The board was super-flexible, but didn't expect it to be open season. Shrubs, a fence, an extension of the retaining wall, something that matched the park design could work. She asked for a list of things for the board to consider and asked if the designer could make a suggestion.

Deputy City Manager Joly responded that the design was best for the park. The designers were flexible. She wanted suggestions from the group, not individuals. There were concerns and she wanted those articulated as a board.

Member Murch stated the board could discuss this as a group with a member of the design team.

Board members discussed ways of separating the cemetery from the kids play area in the creek. Member Murch noted there wouldn't be a cemetery if people kept knocking the stones down.

Deputy City Manager Joly stated the grade change meant more practical considerations close to the creek.

Secretary Shockey proposed a field trip. Deputy City Manager Joly agreed to lead the group and suggested that Clerk Mason arrange it with her and the board. Member Murch and Secretary Shockey observed that the drawing appeared bigger than the actual space.

Manager Hobart stated that kids were respectful of Rose Run Park and she thought they would be respectful of Rose Run 2. Chair Fee thought any breakage would be accidental.

Deputy City Manager Joly and the board discussed other city open spaces, the unused event lawn, and the new e-scoot/e-bike laws.

Chair Fee expressed that the new park would be gorgeous. Several board members agreed.

Member Gastineau asked and Clerk Mason agreed to send him a copy of this slide presentation.

Board members discussed the seeming randomness of the cemetery in the design, how the cemetery was not accented, how people would walk around the individual stones; how most people wouldn't realize the cemetery was fragile. Chair Fee stated the cemetery could be contained. The board liked hedges, or posts with ropes to define it – so people could see it but not run through it, so no one would run in to catch a frisbee. There were people buried there from the War of 1812, New Albany founders, a founder of Otterbein. The board expressed concern about how construction around the cemetery would impact it.

Member Murch asked for ideas from the design company. Member Shockey agreed with asking them what they thought was reasonable and get suggestions. Deputy City Manager Adrienne Joly stated the designers had done it.

The board asked how to communicate with the city. Member Murch recalled addressing council on just this issue. Member Gastineau pointed out there was a walking path to the Veterans Memorial and Gold Star statue. Member Murch agreed they were treated as features in the park. Board Members discussed the Bath & Body Works house and whether it was an historic building.

Deputy City Manager Joly departed the meeting.

Board members discussed making a motion and selected the elements of the motion.

Member Jacobs moved to communicate to staff that the Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board was asking for the New Albany Cemetery to be enclosed using, for example, shrubs, rope with stanchions, a low fence, or other means of demarcation, and to have an entrance; and requests that the designers/consultants present ideas for the board's consideration. Chair Fee seconded the motion and all members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

#### Wagnor Cemetery Landscaping Update

Manager Hobart showed the board the landscaping design for Wagnor Cemetery (attached). The plan included electric, pillars, iron fencing, a flagpole, trees, benches, and lights. Due to the electric plans, AEP Ohio needed a stamped plan which was now being drawn up. Work on the site would start in the spring.

Member Fee asked and Manager Hobart answered that the fence would be 6 feet tall. The horse fence along the road would go away.

Member Gastineau asked and Manager Hobart confirmed the scary pine tree was coming down.

Board members expressed enthusiasm for the plan. Manager Hobart confirmed the location of the flagpole and historical marker had not changed. Board members talked about how the Wagnor Historical Marker contained errors. Clerk Mason stated they would address that sign after the New Albany Cemetery historical marker application was done.

Board members discussed wanting a smaller scale version of the Wagnor design plan for the New Albany Cemetery. Member Fee commented that even small rural cemeteries in West Virginia, where she grew up, had enclosures.

#### New Albany Cemetery Historical Marker

The board agreed that they had run out of time and energy for a full discussion of the historical marker materials. Clerk Mason referred to the last draft of the historical marker text and stated that she would like to make some simple changes based on the correspondence and corrections from Nancy Ferguson which had been shared with the board via email. Clerk Mason pulled up the text and walked through some simple changes (attached).

Ms. O'Donnell talked briefly about her ongoing research on the Benedict family (attached). Hanna Benedict was the first person buried in New Albany Cemetery and her body was likely moved there.

The board planned on a more detailed review of the historical marker text and statement of significance at the next meeting.

**Schedule next meeting:** The board agreed to meet on the regular meeting date of March 24, 2026 at 3:30 pm.

#### **Poll members for comment:**

Member Jacobs described attending a funeral for a family friend where it turned out the reserved grave site already contained a deceased occupant.

#### **Adjournment:**

Chair Fee moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Murch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

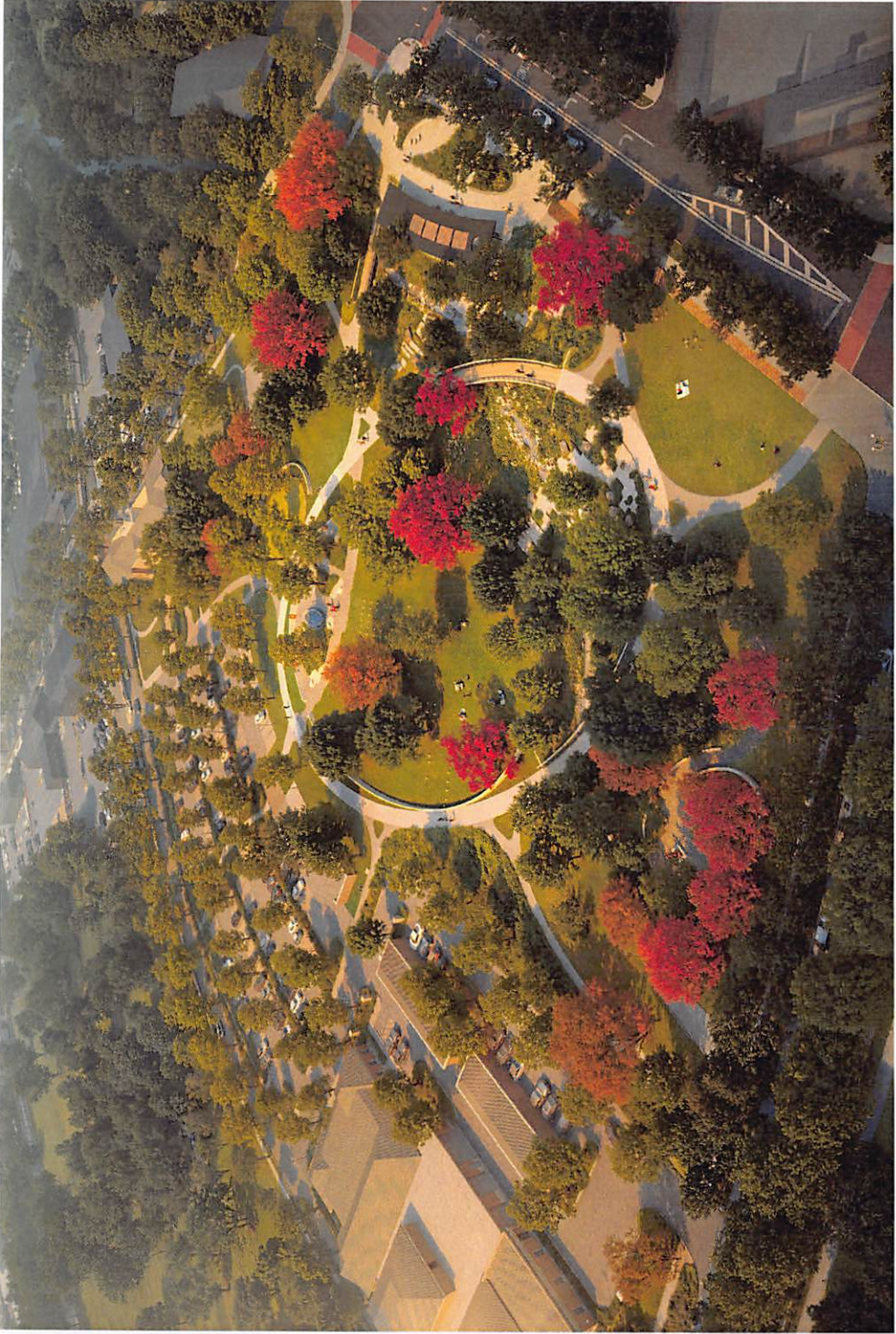
Signed:

Mary Fee  
Chair Mary Fee

Tom Shockey  
Secretary Tom Shockey

3-24-26  
Date

AH to 2-24-26 CPAB Minutes





# ROSE RUN PARK

PHASE II

MKSK  
16 DECEMBER 2025

CITY COUNCIL



## SITE PLAN

## LEGEND

1. Veterans Plaza
2. Founders Field
3. Ceremonial Lawn
4. Gold Star Statue
5. Hero's Walk
6. Stream Access
7. Pavilion
8. Northwest Plaza
9. Parking Lot
10. Village Hall Autocourt

