



**CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Fee at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

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|---------------------------|---|
| Mary Fee, Chair | P |
| Ron Stoughton, Vice Chair | P |
| Thomas Shockey, Secretary | P |
| Diana Jacobs | P |
| Elizabeth Murch | P |
| Jeffrey Gastineau | P |
| Nichole Foreman | A |

Guests present: EMH&T Senior Environmental Scientist Heather Dardinger, EMH&T Senior Archaeologist David Lamp, Susan Shockey

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

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Fee moved to approve the agenda. Member Murch seconded and all members voted in favor of approving the agenda.

Tour of the Rose Run site:

Ms. Dardinger introduced herself and described her involvement with the Rose Run 2 project, including environmental permitting coordination, historic preservation, and stream restoration. Mr. Lamp introduced himself as an EMH&T archaeologist.

Deputy City Manager Joly described how, the week prior, construction crews on site were grinding down a tree stump and discovered 2 gravestone pieces - possibly from a headstone and footstone. There wasn't any identifying information on the pieces. These were pieces that the Ohio Valley Archaeology surveyors didn't find back in 2017 with their ground penetrating radar (GPR), perhaps because of the tree roots that had grown around them. Rose Run 2 construction had stopped in that area while it was determined if this was an indication there was a grave present. Deputy City Manager Joly talked about the permitting process to work at and around the New Albany Cemetery and the city's coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Now that the stones had been discovered, the team would remove approximately 6 inches of topsoil around that spot to see if they would need to investigate further.

Mr. Lamp stated the investigation would look for more tombstones. He confirmed that what archaeologist Katherine Piatek had seen at the stump were a headstone piece and footstone. When cemeteries fell into neglect, trees could grow and envelop the stones and one could only get so close with GPR. He understood that a lot of the stones had been moved in the past. When they removed the topsoil, they would be looking for more bits of stone and soil color change. It would be hard to associate the found pieces with a burial. If human remains had been pushed around during the landscape modification, they'd be looking for that, too.

Member Gastineau asked and Mr. Lamb answered that, when they removed the 6 inches of topsoil, they would look for soil color changes and they often found headstone bases.

Member Murch asked and Mr. Lamb described the kinds of soil color changes that indicated a disturbance of the soil layers and possibly a burial underneath. Mr. Lamb stated that a 6-10 inch topsoil removal was enough to look for the yellowish-brown fill that would mean they should look deeper.

Ms. Dardinger talked about the Rose Run 2 project plans that would clip a corner of the original cemetery boundary. SHPO approved the plans because there were no documented graves at that location. Since the stone pieces were found, there would be more study. She described the path and wall locations and where they would strip the topsoil. The study plan would be submitted to SHPO to get their approval. The project's SHPO contact person had recently changed.

Board members, staff, and guests discussed the location where the stones were found. Mr. Lamp state there was fill soil on the other side of the Rose Run stream. Deputy City Manager Joly stated she learned from Dennis Keesee that, when Eagle's Pizza dug out their basement, the fill dirt was placed at the location Mr. Lamp indicated.

Deputy City Manager Joly stated that the design firm MKSK was working on options for cemetery demarcation and entrance(s) of the New Albany cemetery, but those weren't ready yet. When they were ready, she would provide them to Clerk Mason who could share them with the CRAB. The board was pleased there would be options.

Deputy City Manager Joly invited those present to follow her onto the project site. It was dusty and loud, but no personal protective equipment was needed because there wasn't active construction where the board was touring.

Deputy City Manager Joly walked to a location close to the southeast cemetery boundary bollard where the gravestones were found (photo attached). She pointed out the other 3 boundary bollards which marked the cemetery's boundaries as originally plotted. These white wooden posts were put in around 2017 when Ohio Valley Archaeology did their study. She described demarcation of the entire historic cemetery boundary or just doing certain portions using a boundary line with an inlaid, flush material. She was unsure of the CRAB's intent. She pointed out where aspects of landscaping and wall would be for the veterans memorial, coming up from the creek.

Members Murch and Gastineau commented that the originally plotted cemetery boundaries covered a very big area. Chair Fee preferred protecting the actual graves and several board members stated their agreement. Member Murch thought it was more important to protect the monuments versus the entire space. Member Stoughton asked and Deputy City Manager Joly answered that the plan was to replace the existing white wooden bollards with sandstone bollards. One board member expressed that they liked marking the corners, but not enclosing the whole area.

Deputy City Manager Joly pointed out how the retaining wall and walkway would encompass the project. A high wall was needed in some places to keep the grading the same. She pointed out planned access points and landscaping that would prevent people coming into the cemetery from the backside. She pointed out 2 potential entry points with signage and talked about mown access points to encourage or discourage pedestrian traffic. There could be an arch and signage on the south side. She stated there would be no landscape grading in and around the cemetery. That grade would stay the same. She pointed out where the new city parking lot would go along Village Hall Road.

Member Shockey asked and Deputy City Manager Joly explained where the pedestrian bridges would go and which buildings were coming down. The history of the old police department building was discussed. Chair Fee recommended everyone to talk to Dennis Keesee about the history of the area. Deputy City Manager Joly told the story of Mr. Keesee touring the old mill house with her and her later procurement of the old mill house sign for his historic collection.

Board members searched for but could not find the foundation of the New Albany Cemetery's building that was likely used for cold storage. A photo (attached) was shown to Mr. Lamp. Deputy City Manager Joly suggested and

the board agreed that they would like to uncover and mark the line of the building foundation for the public to see. Deputy City Manager Joly added that the project plan called for signage to be determined by the CRAB.

Board members asked and Deputy City Manager Joly and Ms. Dardinger explained that the purpose of a large water filtration "pillow" was to catch sediment from project-related water. Board members asked and Deputy City Manager Joly replied that the artist took back the statue that previously sat outside the community garden, which was allowed by that contract. Board members talked about their experiences with and appreciation for Taylor Farm Park. Board members expressed their gratitude to Deputy City Manager Joly and the EMH&T representatives for the tour.

Poll members for comment:

No further comments were offered.

Adjournment:

Chair Fee moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Jacobs seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 pm.

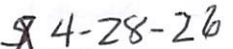
Signed:



Chair Mary Fee



Secretary Tom Shockey



Date

Attachment to 4-21-26 CRAB Special Meeting Minutes

