

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission  
Meeting: Jan 18, 2025

The January meeting of the CCPCC was called to order shortly after 9:00 a.m. at the Elkader Genealogy Office.

In attendance were all the commission members: Sue Meyer, David Beck, Ellen Collins, Bruce Collins and Chairperson Lee Embretson via speaker phone.

### **Agenda and Minutes**

Chairperson Embretson asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. There being none, David Beck made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Embretson asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes. There being none, Ellen Collins made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Sue Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bruce Collins reported that there was one disbursement from the county funds since our last meeting for \$400 to Brian Thiese for mowing the Borcherding Cemetery during the 2024 growing season, leaving a balance of \$1,427.86 in that fund.

The balance of the commission's funds at Freedom Bank remains \$2,010.64 since there has been no activity in this account since our November meeting.

## Old Business

### 1. Barnum Easement

The first topic of discussion was the easement agreement at the Barnum burial site. The easement agreement our commission sent to the Coulters (the landowners) was for a space 150' x 175'. The easement agreement returned by the Coulters was for a space 10' x 30'. A discussion followed as to how our commission should proceed related to this size difference. One suggestion presented was wondering if the Coulters would accept an easement of 15' x 30'? Another consideration was whether the 30' side was along the fence line or along the county road side. The preference consensus of our commission was for the 30' side to be along the county road allowing for more visual exposure from the road.

Chairperson Embretson said he was going to the site, maybe after this meeting, step it off to get a better formulation of his thoughts about the easement size, and then give other commission members that info. (The objective is for the commission to come to some consensus on how to proceed on this easement size issue.)

### 2. 911 Addresses at Pioneer Cemeteries

It was again noted that Pioneer Cemeteries would be much easier to find if they had 911 addresses. It was noted that these addresses be used only on burial sites that have close access to public roadways to avoid encouraging trespass on private property. Sue Meyer is to follow-up with Samatha the county 911 coordinator to see if there is a potential for this to happen.

It was also suggested that perhaps 20 or so of these signs be installed each year to spread the cost over more than on fiscal year.

### 3. The Railroad/Chinese Cemetery

Ellen Collins said she has spoken with Ed Uriell who worked for the county with the late Lawrence Fox who was also a member of this commission.

Lawrence showed Ed where this cemetery (Railroad/Chinese Cemetery) is. It was suggested that we invite Ed and plan a trip to this site as a commission and then have a sign erected at the site noting that it is a burial site of railroad employees.

#### 4. Status—Meenan Fabricated Metal Sign

Ellen Collins said she spoke with Zach Marman, the person that our commission asked to repair the Meenan sign. Zach said the sign has been repaired and is ready for installation in the spring.

#### 5. Sign for Winkowitsch Cemetery

At our last meeting a draft was presented for a sign to be placed at the Winkowitsch Cemetery, however the information on the sign was sparse. Subsequently, David Beck obtained more information related to this cemetery and a new draft was prepared. At this meeting that draft was presented, and with several additions to the wording, Bruce Collins will get a quote for making this sign.

#### 6. Sign for the Watkins Cemetery

At our last meeting the Watkins Cemetery near Osborne was briefly discussed related to having a sign made for this site. David Beck provided a newspaper obituary for Perry Watkins and subsequent to this meeting David provided information about Mrs. Watkins. Bruce Collins will work on a draft for a sign for this site.

#### 7. Discussion related to the State Agency for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC)

SAPIC was discussed. Lee will see if he can make contact with someone from this group---maybe a presentation can be made by a representative of this organization about restoration and preservation of cemeteries.

Potential membership by our commission in this organization was also discussed.

8. Next meeting---February 08<sup>th</sup>.

9.) Adjournment—David Beck made motion, Ellen Collins seconded, motion passed unanimously at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Bruce Collins  
Sec/Treasurer  
CCPCC