

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission  
Meeting: April 05, 2025

The meeting of the CCPCC was called to order shortly after 10:00 a. m. at the Elkader Genealogy Office.

In attendance were all the commission members: Chairperson Lee Embretson, David Beck, Sue Meyer, Bruce Collins and Ellen Collins. Also attending was Paul Young from Farmersburg and Allison Hockey from Spatial Agency, which provides cemetery mapping and record keeping services.

Lee introduced Paul Young, noting that he has been doing research related to family burials and genealogy, specifically in the McGregor and St. Mary Cemetery there. Paul said he did fill out a questionnaire with the board of supervisors noting he would be interested in joining any one of a number of county commissions, but to this point, he has not heard back.

(We welcomed Paul to our meeting.)

## **Agenda and Minutes**

Both the agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously. For the agenda, David Beck made a motion to approve and Sue Meyer seconded the motion. For the minutes, Sue Meyer made a motion to approve and David Beck seconded the motion.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bruce Collins reported that there was no bank activity since our last meeting, with the balance of the county funds remaining \$1,427.86 and the balance of the commission's funds at Freedom Bank remaining \$2,010.86. Ellen Collins made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Sue Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

As the first order of business, Chairperson Lee Embretson introduced Allison Hockey from the Spatial Agency located in Ceder Falls and she gave a presentation about the services performed by this agency. The service provides cemetery mapping and record keeping as well as other services including making cemetery information more accessible to the public.

*(The general consensus of the commission members was the services provided by Spatial Agency was a good service to cemetery boards, but at this time there was no immediate application that could be determined for this service by our commission.)*

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Next on the agenda was Barnum Cemetery. Lee Embretson had the signed easement agreement for an 180'x 20' area signed by the landowners (The Coulters). He gave this to Sue Meyer to have recorded at the Recorder's Office.

The question was asked about a survey to the easement area and it was agreed by the commission that the easement area can be adequately marked and staked by the commission. Lee is to followup on doing this.

Related to fencing the designated cemetery area at Barnum, Lee is going to followup and getting pricing related to the fencing discussed at our previous meetings. It was generally agreed that the pricing should include both materials and installation and that it was critical that this work be paid out of this year's fiscal budget which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. (This is a situation of –use it or lose it-- as far as the county funds are concerned.)

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Next on the agenda was a discussion related to placing 911 locations signs near Pioneer Cemeteries. There was general agreement if there is presently a 911 on a property near a Pioneer Cemetery, using that 911 number would

suffice in getting those interested to the proximity of that cemetery. Also it was the consensus that a 911 sign would not be placed in an area where there would be significant trespassing on private property to reach the cemetery. Sue Meyer is following up with this project.

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For the Winkowitsch Cemetery, the sign that was made for that location was displayed at the meeting. Lee is taking that sign, mounting it on a metal post, and will be contacting Bruce or David for assistance installing it at the site.

Lee Embretson signed a payment request to the county auditor to reimburse Bruce Collins for his payment to thINK for making this sign.

For the Watkins Cemetery, a draft for a sign at this site was displayed at this meeting. The proposed sign would be 12" x 18" with the same white lettering on a green background as used for the other signs made in recent years. The price quoted by thINK is \$65.00. Since this cemetery site is right next to a residence, Ellen mentioned that we should get the permission of the owner of this property before installing any sign. **David Beck made a motion to have the sign made as presented if it is okay with the owners to place this sign on a chain link fence at the cemetery. Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

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At the Cords Cemetery near Osborne, Ellen Collins said there was a tree down, or partially down, in that cemetery. It was agreed by the commission that Bruce Collins would follow up on this with his local neighbor, Charlie Jaster, and hire him do the removal if it was needed and he (Charlie) was able and willing to do it.

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Our commission's next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> with making a field trip to the Chinese/Railroad Cemetery as the final part of that meeting and inviting Ed Uriell to go with us to show the location where the cemetery is.

Bruce Collins  
Secretary/Treasurer