



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

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Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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May 2022 Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022; 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held as a hybrid meeting both virtually as a web meeting/conference call and in person. All cases are public meetings unless otherwise indicated. All inquiries should be made to: 410-313-2350.

Members Present: Liz Larney, Chair; Chip Plitt; Roberta Kelly

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Lauren McDonald

Public: None

Board Updates

- Minutes – Ms. Larney asked if the members present had read the March 2022 minutes, and if there were any corrections or a motion to approve them. Mr. Plitt moved to approve the March 2022 minutes. Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

CPAB Administration/Board Updates

- **FY22 Grant Cycle**

Ms. Burgess informed the Board of the results of the FY22 grant applications. There were eleven applications and five applicants were awarded funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The funded projects included fencing and signage improvements, headstone repairs, and invasive species removal. The Genealogical Society (HCGS) partnered with the Board to award the funding and requested that the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) present the projects and summarize the results of the awarded projects to the HCGS at one of their monthly meetings.

- **Cemetery Webpage**

Ms. Burgess notified the Board that DPZ is working on a cemetery webpage to add to the Howard County government website. Staff is actively working on a draft webpage and intends to present the draft webpage to the Board at the July meeting.

- **PRINCE Project Update**

Mr. David Zinner is working with the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites (Coalition) to launch the PRINCE project. This project will train inmates at a local correctional facility about cemeteries including

repair, maintenance, and stewardship. They have \$25,000 to launch the project and are looking for five cemeteries throughout the state to pilot this program. Specifically, in Howard County, they are looking for cemeteries near the Jessup correctional facility. Ms. Kelly suggested that the Locust United Methodist Church may be interested, and she would serve as the contact. Ms. Burgess agreed to pass Ms. Kelly's contact info onto the PRINCE program. Ms. Larney added that this program is not a one-time training but rather an ongoing program for the inmates. There are multiple training sessions for the inmates where they learn many topics such as invasive vs native plants species, headstone cleaning, safety, and how to use equipment. The inmates that are selected for the program are pre-release and nearing parole.

- **EC250 update**

Mr. Dorsey requested this item on the agenda, but he was not present at the meeting. Ms. Burgess reminded the Board that they are always looking for volunteers for the EC250 events. She informed the Board that the cemetery tours of St. John's cemetery are no longer on the EC250 events agenda.

- **National Association of Counties (NACo) Submittal**

As mentioned at the March meeting, staff applied for an Achievement Award from NACo to recognize the Board and the cemetery grant program. Ms. Burgess informed the Board that the application did not win the top award but did receive an Achievement Award recognizing the cemetery grant program.

- **Statewide Database Update**

Ms. McDonald informed the Board that no further meetings or discussions had taken place since the March meeting. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) stated there would be a meeting scheduled for late April but that did not occur. Staff is waiting to hear when the next meeting will be scheduled, and staff will forward the meeting information to the Board.

- **Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites Annual Meeting**

Ms. Larney informed the Board that last Saturday, May 7th, was the Coalition's annual meeting which was held virtually. She said the meeting had excellent guest speakers including two on African American cemeteries. One of the speakers discussed the Laurel Cemetery which is located at the Belair Edison Crossing strip mall in Baltimore. Researchers recently discovered that the disinterment's never took place and now there are burials under the parking lot, pavement, and buildings of this shopping center. Another speaker at the meeting gave a presentation on cemetery mapping. The presentation included drone footage which helps demonstrate the cemetery layout and grid pattern. Ms. Larney noted that the meeting was recorded and will be available on the Coalition's website. The Coalition hopes to have the 2023 annual meeting in person in Frederick, and Ms. Larney encouraged the Board to check out the Coalition's webpage if they have not done so recently.

Cemetery Updates

- **Stackhouse Cemetery (#2-3) – 17386 Frederick Road, Mount Airy**

Mr. Dorsey intended to present a few cemetery updates, but he was not in attendance. Ms. Burgess mentioned that Mr. Dorsey had done a few site visits, including the Stackhouse Cemetery, and is working to find support to help with maintenance of the cemetery.

- **Rosa Bonheur (#37-9) – 7239 Washington Boulevard, ElkrIDGE**

Ms. Larney recently visited Rosa Bonheur. She was informed that the current owner of the cemetery has applied to have any human remains disinterred and reinterred across the street at the Meadowridge Cemetery (#37-10). The state's attorney's office has reviewed the application and the disinterment's are likely to occur soon. Ms. Larney is concerned that the families of those to be disinterred were not notified. During her visit, Ms. Larney noted the cemetery is being mowed but it is not being properly maintained. For example, markers have sunken into the ground. Ms. Larney is currently trying to locate the owner of the property and contact them. Ms. Burgess noted that the County does not have any record of the current owner, but staff will research the current owner.

Ms. Burgess mentioned to the Board that the County has been contacted regarding the potential disinterment's on this cemetery. She explained this Board's advisory review power is only triggered by a site development plan submitted to the County. At this time, there is no site development plan, and therefore, this cemetery is not required to come before the Board. Ms. Burgess stated that State Highway Administration (SHA) road widening and construction work is associated with this area. SHA is not required to submit plans to the County for road construction projects. Staff will continue to investigate the disinterment's and try to locate plans for the potential road construction and how it may impact the cemetery.

Closing:

Mr. Plitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reminders:

The next meeting will be July 12, 2022 at 10am both virtual and at George Howard Building.