

MEETING MINUTES – February 3, 2014

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission met in the small group 1 meeting room at the Burlington Public Library on February 3, 2014. The meeting was rescheduled from January 27, 2014 due to the cold weather. The Chairman, Herb Price, called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. Commission members present were: Mike Allen, Stacy Bliesener, Paul French, Kenton Klenk, Alan Mohr, Herb Price, Steve Stoller, & Fred Wetzel.

Associate member present was Bill Walker.

Public Input: None

Approval of the Agenda: Approval of November 23rd minutes is for 2013 not 2012. No other changes. Stand approved.

Approval of the November 23, 2013 meeting minutes: (No meeting was held in December 2013). Under Old Business Item B. End of second sentence change “west grate” to “west gate”. With correction minutes stand approved.

Communications: None. Fred Wetzel did note that contracts from 8 of the 10 mowing contractors had been signed and returned.

Old Business:

- A. Old Danville Cemetery restoration project – No activity to report. Gugeler still plans to complete the stone resetting project by end of this fiscal year.
Fred Wetzel asked if we should proceed with one of the two suggested sign layouts to be purchased from Iowa Prison Industries (IPI). He said the size the IPI quoted seems to be rather large and he would like to work with them to reduce the size of the design selected. It was suggested that the commission take another look at the proposed designs. Note: The day after the meeting Fred Wetzel emailed pictures of the two proposed layouts. Fred said that he would design the mounting system and then purchase the material and preassemble the mounting with the sign. It was suggested that the new sign be located in the cemetery and that the existing standard cemetery sign be moved to be near the road.
- B. Cemetery sign project – Fred still has 2 signs to be installed. We need permission from Mr. Renner before we can install the Mathis Cemetery sign. The Jackson Cemetery sign will be installed when we have a work session at the cemetery. Fred Wetzel will purchase the post and mounting hardware.
- C. Gate for the Sourwine Cemetery – Fred Wetzel suggested that we not replace the gate that fell down due to decay and then was removed over a year ago. Fred Wetzel made a motion that we not replace the gate at this time. Kenton Klenk seconded. Motion passed.
- D. Jackson Cemetery status – Herb Price said we need to have a work session at the cemetery but we should advise the person or group who presently maintain the cemetery. When we have the work session we will install the sign. There was some discussion about the correct name. It was decided that for now we would stay with Jackson.
- E. Cemetery booklet errata sheet – Fred Wetzel said he has started work on an Errata sheet and hopes to have it published by March 15th. Fred requested any inputs and said he will be working with Herb Price and Paul French on this project.

- F. Dravis Cemetery tree removal – Steve Stoller said that the second tree has yet to be removed. Steve will contact someone interested in the removal for fire wood. After that tree is removed we should have a work session to do a general cleanup and stone resetting.

New Business:

- A. Budget Hearing for the 2014/2015 fiscal year – Five members attended the hearing. Herb Price, Steve Stoller, Fred Wetzel, Alan Mohr and Paul French. The hearing went very well. Herb gave a brief rundown of some of our activities including the Old Danville Cemetery status.
- B. Membership elections/appointments - (Three year terms for Stacy Bliesener, Alan Mohr and Fred Wetzel expire January 2014.) – Stacy Bliesener, Alan Mohr and Fred Wetzel agreed to stay on the commission. Motion to re-appoint was made by Kenton Klenk and seconded by Paul French. Motion passed.
- C. Election of officers for calendar year 2014 - The officers for 2013 agreed to stay on for 2014. Kenton Klenk made a motion to elect Herb Price as Chairman, Steve Stoller as Vice-Chairman and Fred Wetzel as the Sec’y/Treas for 2014. Seconded by Alan Mohr. Motion passed.
Herb Price took the Chairman position with the understanding that he may not be able to fully perform the duties of the office because he is dealing with medical issues.
At an earlier meeting Fred Wetzel noted that he would like to drop out of the commission as a regular member but still continue to work now and then. He had decided to leave at the end of January but decided to stay on until the end of the fiscal year ending June 30th. Stacy Bleisener has agreed to take Sec’y/Treas position when Fred leaves. Herb Price wants Fred to train Stacy. Fred said he has prepared a procedure book based on what he is presently doing in the position. He said he will bring the book up to date and then start helping with the transfer of responsibilities later in the spring.
- D. 2014 work projects with proposed work schedule – Several projects were discussed. A final list will be prepared at the next meeting. The list will include Dravis, Avery, Spring Creek, Jackson, and Hukill.

Next Meeting Date: March 24, 2014 (No regular meeting is scheduled before that date.)

Adjournment: Unanimous agreement to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred C. Wetzel, Sec’y/Treas