

St. Nicholas Cemetery Meeting Minutes December 4, 2022

Present: Ken, Doug, Dave, Steve, Don, Mike, Jeff

Absent: Anita, Elmer, Judi, Ralph, Elmer

2022 Activities:

- Tree Planting – huge turnout of workers to help dig holes and plant – around 40. Lots of help with the watering. Two of the large trees have died – under warranty – Doug will take care of replacement next Spring. There was concern about the health of the other trees – U of M was contacted – it was determined that what we are seeing is normal, and quite common during times of stress due to drought.
- Cemetery Tree Trimming – good turnout. The Catholic United Parish Volunteer Team received a \$500 grant to help pay for food, gas, equipment rental, etc.

Checkbook: Beginning of 2022, the checkbook had \$36,953. As of today, the checkbook has \$36,688. The income and expense line items appear to be correct.

2023 Proposed Activities:

- Solar light – Dave is chairing a project to research options for a solar light that would shine on the cross. Project to be concluded by July 4th.
- Cemetery mapping – the NW corner of the cemetery has issues with row alignment – the back rows are off by a significant amount; the hill does not help. Doug will chair a committee to address this issue as soon as the ground thaws. Approximately 50 grave sites are left within the fence.
- North Gate – Mike will lead a project to install a gate on the north side of the cemetery. The opening seems to be frequently used and should be maintained.
- It was agreed to move money from the checking account into a CD to earn better interest. This needs to be brought in front of the Parish Finance Council at their February meeting. It was discussed to move \$25,000.
- Doug read the existing verbiage posted on the St. Nicholas website. It was agreed that the 2010 rules and regulation wording is incorrect. There is confusion between the words of gravesite/plot and rite of burial. The intent of the parish is to sell a right of burial not a plot of land. There are currently 3 options for a right of burial: 1) traditional coffin, 2) coffin and urn on top, 3) two urns. Cremation remains must be placed in non-biodegradable container. Doug will make the suggested changes and bring updated wording to the April meeting. Mike will remove the current wording from the website and replace with “Under Construction, Contact Church Parish.”
- Winter burials – there was much discussion of whether to charge all burials a \$75/hour/machine fee for snow removal (site access) with a \$100.00 minimum or to charge a flat fee of \$250. This revenue would go directly to the Cemetery Committee approved snow removal crew. Another option is to not allow “winter” burials that require special site access. Don volunteered to check into what other cemeteries do and charge.

- It was suggested to have Mike add to the website a searchable map for burial locations or add how to search via an app already available.
- The wording on the sign will need to be updated once clear rules have been established.

Send your email address to Doug so he has everyone's current address to make a current distribution group.

Respectively submitted, Mary Caskey