

St. Mary's Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Richard Shulist, Lawrence Coulas, David Burchat, Julie-Ann Yaskolskie, Christine Recoskie, Ed Chippior and guest Michael Coulas.

1. Quorum established.
2. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Fr. Roman Majek who had to leave to attend another meeting.
3. Chairperson position was discussed but tabled for another meeting.
4. The agenda was presented and approved.
5. Minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting were presented for all members to review. The minutes were adopted as read by each member and accepted.
6. Treasurers report as of October 20, 2023, # in brackets indicates as reported April 20, 2023. Operating account \$8371.84 (\$9440.29), Savings account \$33.74 (\$32.39), BMO GIC's \$48206.63 (same) renewals in December and March TD Wealth lots \$141275.84 (\$132936.92), Markers \$9327.95 (\$8501.94), Donations \$3565.00 (\$1090.00), Monument cleaning \$1710.00, Outstanding bills \$1738.00. Report approved and accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Columbarium

- a) Specifics of the Columbarium were confirmed
- b) Vases, will still need to decide
- c) Discussion on engraving and will be considered in the spring. Handout was reviewed.
- d) Administration options when it comes to engraving. We feel the committee should have some control.
- e) Rates for the Niches will be decided after we have a confirmed cost for the Columbarium. Rates should differ from single/couple rates.
- f) Installation of footings will take place in the summer of 2024. Location to be decided in the spring.
- g) Brief discussion about opening up to non parishioners but no decision finalized.

St. Mary's Cemetery

- h) Safety audit was completed, markers were raised and reattached stones to base.
- i) New area surveyed for cremation area on east side of the cemetery for upright monuments.
- j) Donation envelopes were placed in acrylic boxes with Julie-Ann's mailing address, to date only one envelope has been removed.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery

- k) Campbell Craft grant repairs were completed.

l) Ed will be giving Lawrence a bunch of wooden crosses to engrave and replace. Wondering how many steel stakes will be needed and bases will be painted with Tremclad paint once the cross is replaced.

NEW BUSINESS

8. a) Ground keeper report: cleaned 61 stones plus the angels and monuments at the back. The reception was very good and we will likely do it again next summer. The monument at the back will need to be repainted and David Shulist has agreed to do the painting, David Burchat will let him know when. Old cemetery 20 stones were cleaned.
b) Clean up at the small grotto at the old cemetery has been completed and looks fantastic. Cleaning will take place in the spring. Mike Murack assisted with the removal and did not want to charge for his time and use of equipment. It was decided we should provide him with an "in Kind" donation receipt for the value of his services. Flowers were planted but we are unsure of who planted them. If they survive the winter they may be removed unless we can figure out who planted and have them continue to up keep and maintain them, similar to the station of the crosses at the church.
c) We need to pay David Burchat for all his work and he may need to have his hours increased.
d) David would like Ed to have Gertie put in the church bulletin that candles will not be allowed on the cemetery, this could pose a safety hazard. Home Hardware has repaired the trimmer.
e) Brushing at the old cemetery will need to be done next spring. The apple tree will need to come down and will also have to repair some fence posts. Would like to use pressure treated rather than cedar posts. Michael Coulas has volunteered to donate ("in kind") 6X6 rough cut pine posts. He will let us know when he will be milling and we would help, however it won't be until the spring. An inventory list has been made and it will be posted in the shed, a record is required in case of fire etc. Staking fees will be added to tariff of rates because if a flat marker is under a certain dimension we can't charge for care and maintenance. This was suggested to us by a monument dealer.
f) What is the reasoning for the a Constitution-These are operating principles that govern our group. We will discuss and review at the next meeting in the spring.
g) Brief discussion about erecting a kiosk at St. Stanislaus Kostka cemetery. It would show some information about the history of the cemetery, families and possibly a list of people buried and where they can be found. More discussion in the spring.
h) Budget planning: We presently have enough money to purchase the Columbarium. With donations, monument cleaning, etc. things are fine.
9. Next meeting to take place in the spring (Thursday April 18, 2024), meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.