

Minutes for Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at C.C. Genie Society. Genie Society and then at site of Barnum-King Cemetery off C43 Road and Grouse Avenue outside of Clayton Center, Iowa

Meeting opened at 10:10 AM. Present were Commission members, Lee Embertson, Bruce and Ellen Collins, David Beck and Sue Meyer. Also present were Monumental Restoration members Sarah Gunderson and her brother Mel Pins and her sister Emily Blom who are all assisting the CCPCC with the Barnum-King Cemetery project.

AGENDA:

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Dave Beck and seconded by Sue Meyer. Motion was approved unanimously.

MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes of CCPCC on March 9, 2024 meeting by Sue Meyer and seconded by David Beck. Motion was approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bruce Collins gave current balances of Freedom Bank account \$1470.00 and County funds has a balance of \$1,182. 59. Motion to approve report was made by David Beck and seconded by Ellen Collins. Motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Results of signs needing painting:

David Beck will check on Old Garber Cemetery.

Ellen reported that she asked Zach Marmann to fix and paint the Meenan Cemetery sign in Volga Township. He agreed and said he will remove it, straighten it, paint it and reinstall the sign. Ellen told him that the CCPCC would provide the paint. He was asked for an estimate for the work, he was unsure but did say it would not be a lot. A motion to proceed with this work by Dave Beck and seconded by Sue Meyer. Motion approved unanimously. It was also suggested that he be asked to paint the Bismark Cemetery sign.

Bruce showed Noggle Cemetery sign proof. It was approved in a motion by David Beck and seconded by Sue Meyer. Bruce will contact thINK to complete it.

Bruce reported to members that he and helper Charlie Jaster have installed Schmidt sign.

Pictures of installed sign were shown to commission members.

Proposed sign for Barnum Cemetery was tabled at this time in a motion by Bruce Collins and seconded by Sue Meyer. Motion was passed unanimously. Members wanted more time to think about the wording. Discussion about why Barnum Cemetery is referred to as Barnum-King Cemetery since there is only 1 known person by name of King buried there. Answer is unknown to this question but future referrals will be Barnum Cemetery since they were the land owners at the time of establishing the cemetery.

Noggle sign will be put up. Owner of land has given the go ahead to put it up if he is not there.

It was suggested that perhaps we consider a history related sign for Meenan but it was tabled for now in motion by Ellen Collins and seconded by Bruce Collins. Motion was passed unanimously. Ellen will contact the adjacent landowners to advise of metal sign repair.

Volunteers asked for to re-install foot stones at McClelland and Garretson Cemeteries. David Beck said he will ask Frank Phippen to aid in doing these.

Bruce Collins presented a bill in amount of \$47.80 to be paid for purchase of posts for Schmidt and Noggle signs and cement for installing Schmidt Cemetery sign. Motion by Sue Meyer and seconded by Ellen Collins was unanimously approved.

Presentation given by the 3 members of Monumental Restoration regarding Barnum Cemetery.

They reported that Sarah has met via Zoom Conference with the Barnum Cemetery owners Burt and Joyce Coulter and Hertz Management Representative Trace Bolsinger and presented area to be used for restoring the Cemetery. They stressed using an area larger than area proposed by the land owners (90 X 90 X 113 ft.) They want to encompass the area where the actual burials are so that the farmed area is not over the old burial site. This designated area has not yet been approved. Area will be staked out today. Monumental Restoration has been given an OK by landowners to burn the area to see if more stones could be found. They will keep CCPCC advised. Monumental Restoration members were made aware of 2 week time frame to accomplish the proposed plotting of the land that was told to Ellen by Trace Bolsinger of Hertz Management. Monumental Restoration will handle the plotting. They did inform CCPCC members that Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds in 2020 signed an Iowa Code Ordinance to protect burial lands from being destroyed.

At this time no decision regarding the memorial plot dimensions has been made by the commission nor has an agreement been finalized with the landowners.

Email from Trace Bolsinger from Hertz Farm Management related to the land owners concern that future owners of land may not respect the cemetery and area would be lost again. The owners have asked if some kind of legal document could be established so encroachment would be barred in the future. Ellen mentioned that she visited CC Attorney Zach Hermann. He did some research but found very little. He strongly suggested that CC Recorder's Office be contacted and perhaps use the same verbage that described the initial set up of area as a cemetery.

At this meeting Monumental Restoration member Mel Pins suggested to set up a Covenant. He will send suggested wording to Ellen for her contact with CC Attorney. He feels that this would protect the land in the future from reverting to private land and would include the cemetery dimensions. He stated that a Covenant is recorded on both the abstract and deed and is carried forward to future land owners. Covenant also includes dimensions of where burials are upon the land. Ellen will contact CC Attorney to ask about this once suggested wording is received.

Next meeting depending on weather and Lee E.'s availability will be Saturday, May 11, 2024.

Motion to adjourn by Ellen Collins and seconded by David Beck was passed unanimously.

Commission Chairperson Lee Embretson adjourned to the site of Barnum Cemetery along with the Monumental Restoration members.

Those present at Barnum Cemetery site were CCPCC Chairperson Lee Embretson, Monumental Restoration members, Sarah Gunderson, Emily Blom, and Mel Pins. Per Lee E., area was probed along the road for more headstones or bases-none were found. Emily re-doused the area and put flags at sites of potential burials. Sarah probed area along the road. Red flags were placed to mark area.