

Study Session



To: Diane Foster, For City Council
Author: Karen Yocum, Cemetery Sexton
Subject: Cemetery Study Session
Date: March 15, 2018

Recreation

Background

Our Cemetery has almost been sold out for traditional burial space. Several factors have contributed to this situation.

1. Traditional burial (full casket) has been the primary choice in Utah for many years. Only recently have both the LDS and Catholic churches changed their views regarding type of burial acceptable to include cremation.
2. We can only use the eastern side of the east entrance road of the cemetery for full casket burials.
3. Due to rocky terrain throughout our cemetery, stacked burials (1 full casket buried atop another) are not feasible. A single plot dimension is 4' x 8' and a small space is (visually) between plots.
4. The price of plots in our cemetery is the lowest of 15 Municipal cemeteries researched. The prices range from \$300 (ours) to \$1126 with the average price being \$600. In past research of the other cemeteries in Summit County, our price per plot is similar.
5. The low price has benefits and disadvantages. Most qualified purchasers can afford \$300 for one plot however some residents have the ability to purchase a large quantity.
6. There are no limits placed upon the number of plots a single person may purchase.
7. Memorial Walls: the Memorial Wall project opened in 2013. The walls are offered as an alternative to burial, placing just a plaque to remember someone. To date, 53 spaces (15%) have been sold of the 338 total on 8 walls. Resident plaque space costs \$250 and Non-resident spaces are \$500.
8. Cremation only plots: Cemetery and parks staff reviewed unsold plots in the west side of the cemetery and opened 55 plots for Cremation burial only. Nine have sold. (a single plot can accommodate up to four cremains).

Concerns

1. Our cemetery is about to close to new plot sales.
2. The number of plots available for traditional (full casket) burial has significantly diminished.
3. There are currently **47 individual plots** left for sale.
4. Nationwide, cremation has become a popular alternative for burial and Park City is able to accommodate those wishing this option by using plots not viable for full casket which have been labeled cremation only.

5. The low cost of plots along with no maximum number set has allowed those who can afford it to purchase numerous plots while the other side is that they are affordable for most people.
6. Our cemetery is enclosed by two major roads and a very rocky hillside leaving us without room to expand the cemetery for traditional burial.
7. The other small towns in Summit County have cemetery districts including the Snyderville Basin. In 2012, Summit County Council approved Resolution NO. 2012-8, creating the Snyderville Basin Cemetery District. The area includes all of Western Summit County with the exception of Park City. The County Council has not moved forward with any action on filling the Cemetery Board nor acquiring land for a cemetery. Summit County Cemetery Districts include Coalville, Echo, Emory, Francis, The Glenwood, Henefer, Hoytsville, Marion, Oakley, Peoa, Stevens, Upton, Wanship and Woodland.
8. When in need of burial options, Snyderville Basin residents often call the Park City Cemetery but if they don't qualify with our current eligibility requirements, we are unable to accommodate them.

Details

1. Fees:
 - Plot - \$300
 - Open/Close full casket - \$600
 - Open/Close cremation - \$70
2. The Park City Cemetery plots are currently only available to residents who have eligibility status according to our Cemetery policies.
 - A. Eligibility requirements:
 - birth in the Miner's Hospital
 - owning property within the City limits
 - having lived within Park City limits 10 years consecutively at a previous time
 - by recommendation from the Park City Historical Society

*One hundred plots had been set aside to sell to non-residents and as of October 2006, all 100 had been sold.
3. Direction by the prior Cemetery Sexton (Pace Erickson), that plots were not to be sold on the west side of the east entrance road.
 - A. Reasons:
 - older destructible caskets (plywood)
 - movement of ground
 - lack of vaults by which to determine spacing
 - area includes all but the newest addition to the cemetery acreage.
4. We have a large plat on the far west end of the cemetery which had held the burials for many mining personnel and others associated with mining. A fire in town burned all the wood crosses marking those sites and there are no records to verify burials and locations.

*Research was done with regard to use of ground penetrating radar to determine whether there had been disturbances in that area however there was no guarantee that any movements seen were due to burials or rocks.

Ideas for Discussion

1. Determine space within the City limits to develop a second cemetery with viable space for both traditional and crematory burials.
2. Communicate with Summit County Council regarding co-development of a cemetery which would accommodate both County and City residents.
*the District created by summit county council includes all of Western Summit County except Park City proper.
3. Develop cremation niches for above ground cremation burial option (west end of cemetery along lilacs/fencing)
4. Develop a cremation garden above the fence line on the hillside with walking trail