

Token of Grace

Minutes of the Second Board Meeting July 21, 2023, of the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: July 21, 2023,

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Willett's Residence, 18404 19th Avenue NE Arlington, WA, via telephone conference call for one board member out of state.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with five board members present.

Board Members Present: Tina Willett, Athena Husby, Celia Johnson, and Allison Frye

Board Members not Present: Denise Kazen, Jeremy Husby, and Freyja Husby

Handouts: Volunteer Schedule and Tokens lasered cut for giving out to families awaiting gravestones

The agenda was followed, and Tina Willett facilitated the meeting.

1. **Reading the Purpose, Vision, Mission, and Values** were reviewed and discussed.
2. **The First Headstone has been purchased.** Everyone was pleased with this accomplishment. Funds are still available to support another family in need. Tawnya Post, Arlington Cemetery Coordinator, was highly helpful in facilitating and coordinating this endeavor.
3. **Cemetery Improvements:** Discussion regarding Cemetery Improvements and commitment from the City and the Cemetery Board to improving the grounds. Two Maintenance Workers were hired for Spring and Summer with roughly 30 acres of land to mow/maintain full-time at the cemetery and over five gardens and 7000 graves. The volunteer calendar was reviewed, and Token of Grace provided \$4,000.00 for garden improvements at the cemetery.
4. **Cemetery areas that are challenging to maintain** include the 2003 Centennial Garden because no water for irrigation is readily available; therefore, this has become a focus for volunteers to help water. Otherwise, the City Maintenance team has done a super job re-establishing the irrigation system this year.
5. **Cemetery Needs:**
 - a. Seasonal Volunteer Support: Discuss seasonal tasks that may become more significant in the fall, such as fall leaves.
 - b. Dead trees that look poor, fire hazard, and no longer create privacy between neighboring homes/trailer parks and homes are needed for future development of solutions to offer to the Cemetery Board. Helping the Cemetery with a grant for capital expenses may be helpful.
 - c. A Bench place for visitors to sit near Baby Land. Celia said she would check into various types and costs available. A shaded area near the Star Mongolia tree may be a good location. Discussed that this proposal and suggestions would need to be presented to the Cemetery Board.
 - d. Replacing Flag at the Flag Memorial: the City of Arlington will help retire the current Flag and raise a new one at the Memorial Flag Garden.
 - e. Old Flags and items in poor condition left at graves were discussed. Tina shared that all guidance for removing any item from a grave must be approved by the Cemetery

Coordinator, Tawnya. Currently, many items left do not follow the Cemetery guidelines and can make it challenging to keep the grounds in good condition for the Maintenance team.

- f. Care for stones was discussed, especially photos with a film that clouds the image. Currently, no headstone care is being done by volunteers, as training would be required, and collaboration would be needed with the Cemetery Board. Only trimming around and removing debris has been done before the Maintenance team is hired.
- 6. Fund Raising/Donations:** Maxine Jenft made significant contributions and provided, in addition, Hosta plants, the improvements in the Memorial Garden and in the other gardens. The sold Book profits will be donated through Strip directly to the Token of Grace Fund once published. By word of mouth and support from Board member Allison, people are already interested in purchasing the Book.
- 7. Acknowledge by Mayor Barb Tolbert:** Tina was awarded a plaque for Volunteering and attended a highly welcoming City Board Meeting. A Volunteer Plaque was shared with the board.
- 8. Cemetery Historical Grounds:** There are 2 grants for the Board to consider, and Token of Grace is willing to support these efforts. The Cemetery Board is already aware. Ongoing support will be offered.
- 9. Tokens:** developed in collaboration with Freyja's logo design, Jeremy created 9 tokens to prototype. The next ones will also have a back with website information. Each member of the board received one of the first 9 that were made. Everyone was pleased with the size and design.
- 10. Website and Bank Account:** The Bank account is still pending the Secretary of State's update on the address not provided initially by Legal Zoom when the application was submitted. An addendum was sent in, but it is a slow process. Website features discussed and explored ideas on enhancing connectedness in the community.

Action Items:

1. Bench: Celia will research options and costs. Tina will bring it up to the Cemetery Board if this contribution is accepted and what the requirements are.
2. Strategic planning: Tina will outline and prepare for the next steps.
3. Historical research on the cemetery: visit the Pioneer Museum
4. Pamphlet on the Gardens to be considered: Tina will start gathering photos and names of plants.
5. Communication with the Cemetery Board on Token of Grace donating a bench near the Star Mongolia Tree
6. Completion of Website: Jeremy is working on completing it with Tina.
7. Tina will continue to put together and coordinate volunteer activities at the cemetery.

Next Meeting Schedule and Time: October 27th on a Friday was agreed upon at 7:00 PM

