

Breezy Point Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026, 1:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM on July 15, 2026.

Roll Call

Cemetery Commissioners present were Donna Hoelke, Robbin Jensen, Rhonda Swanson, and Kay Spizzo. Tia McMonigal was absent. Staff present included City Administrator Allie Polsfuss, Public Works Director Joe Zierden, and City Clerk Deb Runksmeier with Council Liaison Steve Jensen.

Approval Of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.

A motion to approve the June 24, 2026 minutes was made by Robbin Jensen. Seconded by Donna Hoelke. Motion carried 4-0.

Butterfly Release - July 18th at 11:00 am

The commission discussed final preparations for the upcoming Butterfly Release event on Saturday, July 18th. Donations were tracking lower than usual. The event program was reviewed, with a minor note to clarify the wording around remaining silent until after taps. The honor guard was confirmed to arrive at 10:30 AM, and public works staff would assist with parking and golf cart drivers are lined up. Lisa and Greg were confirmed for live music with their own sound system. High-top tables and fine Sharpies would be available for guests to write on memorial note cards, with bulletin boards set up near the shelter. A separate table was planned for the Pelican Lakes Association book sales and a kids' coloring station. It was noted that only authorized, shirt-wearing commission members were permitted to handle butterflies and pins. The Mayor was discussed as the emcee.

Facilities and Maintenance

Water Feature Repair

Joe Zierden reported that the water feature had been experiencing issues with the pump cycling dry, causing it to overheat and trip off. A new pump without thermal protection had since been installed. Joe proposed presenting a more detailed plan at the next meeting, to be held on-site at the cemetery, where he would stake out proposed changes to the retaining wall and water feature basin to improve water volume, flow velocity, and reduce algae growth. He noted that narrowing the water channel would increase flow speed and reduce maintenance, a suggestion previously made. Joe also mentioned plans to solicit landscaping bids for

replanting the area, seeking low-maintenance, deer-resistant, and visually complementary plantings, with the possibility of completing work in fall or early spring.

Benches for Shelter

Zierden indicated he would bring bench style examples and approximate costs to the next meeting for the commission's review. A brief discussion took place regarding the direction the benches should face, with members noting that recent services had been oriented toward the columbarium rather than the water feature garden.

Other

It was noted that columbarium niche sales had been strong, with two niches sold in the past week and additional interest anticipated following the Butterfly Release. Given the pace of sales, it was suggested that planning for an additional columbarium structure should begin in approximately two years. Associated concrete and infrastructure work would need to be included in the cost.

Staff raised the case of a gentleman who purchased a traditional ground lot approximately 15 years ago and wished to exchange it for a columbarium niche. It was noted that the current rules include a 5-year buyback restriction, but members felt a written request submitted to the commission could allow for a special exception to be considered at the next meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 PM.