

Meeting of Columbus Hillside Cemetery Board  
Monday March 24, 2025 6:30 pm  
Columbus Community Center  
125 N Dickason Blvd.  
Columbus, WI. 53925

The meeting was called to order by John Marks at 6:30pm. at the Columbus Community Center on Monday, March 24, 2025 6:30 pm.

Meeting was posted in the paper, on the City website and at City Hall.

**Roll Call:**

Present: John Marks, President, Dave Roelke, Vice President, Deb Moungey, Secretary/ Treasurer, Robert Link, Beth Altschwager, Jim Klutzman, Vicki Schulze, Dale Marshall, Suzy Liverseed, and Ryan Rostad, city liaison.

Evelyn McNulty and Joyce Shepard were excused.

**Guests:**

Jean Sennhenn and Darlene Marks.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Call was made to accept the agenda. Deb Moungey corrected items 3, 4 and 8. Motion to accept the amended agenda was made by Dave Roelke and seconded by Jim Klutzman. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent of Agenda:**

Minutes of June 10, 2024 presented and accepted without changes or corrections.

Treasurer's report presented and accepted without changes or corrections.

**Unfinished business:**

Consider and take action on Side Road removal between Sec. I and J, and E and F for burials to put on budget of 2026 for work in 2027.

The discussion of the removal of roads and getting estimates to make the area into burial lots resulted in a few questions. The consensus was to proceed to get more detailed information on it. Also find out how many grave lots would be added to the areas involved. Motion made by Dave Roelke and seconded by Jim Klutzman to table the discussion until the next meeting and get some idea of pricing and if DPW could do the work in 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

Burke Center will be working at the cemetery for 2 weeks and 2 days each. Schedule to be announced as Mr. McAuly is still getting a crew together. As soon as he lets us know I will inform the membership.

John Marks called for a moment of silence for Shirley Banetzke whose passing was a shock to all.

**Consider and take action:**

Move a member to the board for the remainder of Banetzke position and elect one Advisor.

After discussions, Dave Roelke made a motion to move Joyce Shepard to the board to serve for the remainder of Shirley Banetzke's term. Motion was seconded by Jim Klutzman. Carried unanimously.

We then had to elect one advisor for the remainder of Joyce Shepard's term. Beth Altschwager made a motion to accept Jean Sennhenn as Advisor. Dave Roelke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lot increase for 2026.

Deb Moungey checked into lot prices in the area and Hillside Cemetery is behind by \$150 to \$200. After discussion Bob Link made a motion to increase the city resident's amount to \$900 and non-resident's to \$1000 for the 2026 budget for the year of 2027. Motion was seconded by Vickie Schulze. 8 in favor and 1 opposed. Dave Roelke asked if the other areas of the price schedule needs to be adjusted and suggested that that be looked into for our next meeting.

Benches by Chapel, extra cement for a platform by the podium.

Discussion was made as to the type of benches to put by the chapel and how much they cost. Also if they would last. Another question was how much concrete would be needed and what size area to be cemented by the podium. Motion was made by Bob Link and seconded by Dave Roelke to table the discussion until the next meeting and get more information and price estimates. Ryan Rostad said he would get information on the benches from Waterloo for us to consider.

Consider and take action on 3 extra trees to be taken down and replaced from Kind CD. Also some flowers around chapel, office and tree borders.

Discussion centered around the amount of the estimates from K&B and the amount in the budget. The budget has \$3000 and we would consider matching \$3000 from the Kind CD. With one tree being \$3324.95, we would not be able to get all the trees taken care of before they fall. 3 of the trees are in really bad shape. Ryan Rostad was going to check to see what he could find out from the city. Dave Roelke made a motion to table the tree discussion until the next meeting and Jim Klutzman 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

A discussion of the flower and decorative trees and shrubs. The City has a contract with Jung's Nursery from Randolph. It was suggested to use the city budget and match it with \$500 from the Kind CD.

Jim Klutzman made a motion to use the \$500 from the city budget and match it with \$500 from the Kind CD. Motion was seconded by Beth Altschwager. Motion Carried.

Consider and take action to order memorial plaques for trees gifted to Dale Sennhenn burial. The Sennhenn family donated 2 Hydranga trees for the cemetery by the podium and would like to have memorial plaques to be placed by them. Motion was made by Jim Klutzman for a maximum one time purchase of \$50. Seconded by Beth Altschwager. Dave Roelke amended to include that the owners would have to replace after that if needed.

Motion carried.

#### **Discussion of operation:**

John Marks announced his plans to retire after 25 years of service to Hillside Cemetery and will step down at the June annual meeting.

A few members wanted to know about the lawn mowing and the bids for this year. Lakeside was the only bid and was accepted and a 2 year contract was given with the second year open in October from \$56100 to \$74100. Members discussed the job they were doing and not liking the wind row effect of the mowing and how often they mow and trim. It was suggested that maybe the cemetery should have more say in when they mow and approve mulching mowers only. Members would like to see more than one bid and would like to see if more aggressive advertising could be done. Further discussion is needed.

The farmland was discussed to see if Hillside would like to open the contract for new bids as rent is much more than \$100/acre now. This would mean the farmer would need to be notified before the end of the current year so as to not break the contract. Further discussion is needed.

Motion made by Beth Altschwager to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jim Klutzman.

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.