

DISCUSSION PAPER # 6
CEMETERY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Friends Poulsbo Cemetery (FPC) – Reviewed March 27, 2018

DISCUSSION GOAL - Draft for the Poulsbo Municipal Cemetery Master Plan and representatives of North Kitsap Cemeteries guidelines for a cemetery capital improvement plan.

Purpose Capital Plan – Preparing a long term plan with funding resources for the future of the cemetery. Capital planning for a cemetery could include budgeting and fund raising for increased acreage, construction of pavilion(s), columbarium, flag plaza(s), parking, fencing, landscaping, roadways, walking paths, irrigation, and visitor facilities.

Question - *Should the undeveloped lower section of the Poulsbo Municipal Cemetery be administered to a different plan than the uphill slope?*

The lower flat section of the cemetery has not yet been released for sale or used for grave sites. Should that section of the cemetery be administered differently going forward?

Because it is a “blank slate,” the lower flat area may provide an opportunity to create a more visually appealing face to the public, as it is also next to Caldart Avenue and the cemetery entrance gateway. In the past, estimates for providing summertime water spray irrigation for the entire cemetery were considered cost prohibitive. However, for the flat section, green grass year-round may be within reach.

By not allowing in this low section any lot borders, by keeping monuments/markers flush at ground level, and not allowing planting of shrubs, trees, live flowers, the ease of landscaping & maintenance is improved.

Grave site decorations, the planting of shrubs and trees, the placement of boxes, shelves, toys, metal designs, ornaments, chairs, settees, glass, wood, or iron cases are all currently allowed by the cemetery ordinance (with consent of the city Public Works Director and his designates).

There exists an opportunity now to designate the lower section as falling under different restrictions which would prohibit all those items in order to maintain a smooth, flat grassy area of graves that would be much easier to keep green and maintain.

If this area is to be administered under different rules, other things must be considered. Would these lots be sold at different purchase prices? Could a columbarium be built in the center, to maximize spaces (both cremains grave sites and wall niches) for cremated remains? Adjacent to the visualized columbarium, is there room in this section to construct a shelter structure for funerals and ceremonies, which could be built through contributions and donated labor & materials?

A comprehensive plan for the cemetery would be valuable after questions like this are answered by city policy makers. It would guide future projects, provide goals for volunteer groups and city staff, and enable the orderly development of the remaining space within the cemetery.

(Note: On February 14 the City Council approved the building of a pavilion, with volunteer help, at the center of the lower section of the city cemetery. This positive action will complement and support the efforts of the Friends Poulsbo Cemetery in drafting a master plan to implement a new vision for the cemetery.)

Suggestions from the 2016-2017 City Cemetery Report

- A. Take time to conceptualize how this flat area can look. For example, a green, open, grassy area that is irrigated (yet affordable) and easy to mow. Amend the cemetery ordinance and create a comprehensive plan that includes special provisions for this area.
- B. Restrict the graves to horizontal markers that are flush to the ground.
- C. Do not permit planting of trees, shrubs, or live flower plants.
- D. Do not allow plot borders.
- E. Strive for uniformity. As military cemeteries show, there is beauty and solemnity in uniform rows of memorial markers. Those that do not want grave sites in this section can still obtain lots among the remaining available ones on the hillside.
- F. Install irrigation sprinklers before burials are permitted, and ensure that grave placement and excavation does not interfere with the buried piping distribution system.
- G. For a vertical feature, consider a two-walled columbarium built and located in this section, with wall niches for urns containing cremains [this also will extend the capacity of the cemetery].
- H. Consider community fund-raising and volunteer labor to construct a covered structure next to the columbarium, for conducting ceremonies and funerals.
- I. Install a flagpole in this section.
- J. Allow a community group to raise funds, commission and install appropriate artwork, such as a statue.
- K. Enclose this section on three sides (the existing cemetery boundary) with a traditional *metalwork section fence with brick pilasters (columns)*. *This could be entirely financed and constructed by volunteer groups.*

Email comments and suggestions on this discussion paper to:

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Friends Poulsbo Cemetery is a discussion group. Papers on a Poulsbo Cemetery Master Plan and issues and needs of North Kitsap cemeteries are circulated via email and FPC website for comment and suggestions.