

Holy Family Parish Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2014

Present: Fr. Dorner, Jeff Stodola, Kaleb Case, and Al Demerath

Absent: Jeff Thielen, Don Wahl

Prayer: Fr. Dorner began the meeting with a prayer.

Agenda: The *agenda* was approved.

Statement of the purpose and goals of the Committee:

In March of 2013, Bishop asked Fr. Dorner by letter to have the parish form a Cemetery committee to begin more closely managing the three cemeteries of Holy Family Parish. Concerns were brought to his attention such that he decided to call upon the parish to better maintain and manage these sacred sites.

Our goals are to assist the parish in keeping the boundaries of the property clearly demarcated, clearing brush in the areas that are too rough for grass cutting, removing dead trees, and maintaining the cemetery stones so they are straight and not a hazard to anyone visiting our cemeteries. No further burials are planned.

Catholic section of Woodlawn Cemetery:

In 2013, the Parish paid for a professional survey of the Catholic section of Woodlawn cemetery. Permanent boundary markers were placed next to the survey stakes. The posts are completely on Cemetery property. Brush removal has been started with the goal of completely removing the brush by the time summer arrives. Suggestions were made by Kaleb Case to place signs on some or all of these posts with the name of the cemetery. Jeff Stodola currently has volunteered to check the stones annually and straighten them if necessary. The city had been contracted with in 1981 to cut the grass and remove fallen sticks from the grassy areas. This arrangement will continue.

Calvary Cemetery:

In 2013, the Parish paid for a professional survey of Calvary Catholic cemetery. Permanent boundary markers were placed next to the survey stakes. The posts are completely on Cemetery property. Brush removal has been started with the goal of completely removing the brush by the time summer arrives. Suggestions were made by Kaleb Case to place signs on some or all of these posts with the name of the cemetery. Jeff Stodola currently has volunteered to check the stones annually and straighten them if necessary. The city had been contracted with in 1981 to cut the grass and remove fallen sticks from the grassy areas. This arrangement will continue. There was some discussion of a volunteer or employee cutting paths to the few stones remaining on the back of the property.

St. Joseph's Cemetery:

In 2014, the Parish paid for a professional survey of St. Joseph's cemetery. Permanent boundary markers are in the process of being placed next to the survey stakes. The posts will be completely on Cemetery property. Brush removal will be done along the property line and around the stones. Other areas will have dead trees removed and an attempt will be made to make the wooded areas look

dignified. The grass areas need to be cut by a Parish employee or volunteers. Currently Dan Hayes and Elmer Sterzing have agreed to cut the grass at least this year.

Spring and Fall cleaning date and crews:

There are plans in the making such that each year there will be a Spring and Fall recruitment of volunteers from the Parish to clean up the wooded areas of our three cemeteries. This would consist of picking up fallen branches, forming piles, and then having a wood chipper brought in to dispose of the branches. There already was a crew of volunteers from STAA that helped at Woodlawn cemetery.

Correspondence or work with the city:

Currently, Mike Swiatnicki is the supervisor of Public Works for the city. Fr. Dorner had a good conversation with him. Father stated his appreciation of their conversation and belief that our improvement of the wooded areas of our properties may actually be of mutual benefit. There was some discussion of the city bringing sand they need to dispose of, into the wooded areas that are low and filled with water. This would make that part of the cemetery more level and pleasing in appearance and also usable for disposal of leaves. This could be done at both Calvary and Woodlawn but is completely up to the discretion of city and the Cemetery committee. It was discussed that the committee might consider inviting the supervisor of public works to attend the quarterly meetings to maintain good avenues of communication between the city and the parish.

Public participation:

There was no public participation but it was mentioned that Pat Kosuth volunteered to study the records of burials for the three cemeteries to help us identify grave sites if any relatives of the deceased were ever to approach the parish asking for such information.

Closing Prayer:

Fr. Dorner led the committee in prayer. The meeting was then adjourned.