

Richfield Village Cemetery Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting March 23, 2021

Called to order at 6:16.

Roll Call: Paul Swan, Jeff Stoppenhagen, Pat Healey, Stephanie Landry, Bill Taylor and Jeff Ferrera.

ABSENT: Penny Rzonka.

Guest: Service Director Chris Papp, David Ward, Brent Thorson, Mayor Mike Wheeler.

Approval of minutes

Feb. 23 minutes should also included the swearing in of Mrs. Landry. YAY: Swan, Stoppenhagen, Healey, Taylor and Ferrara. ABSTAIN: Landry.

Presentation by David Ward of Gravers & Ward

Gravers and Ward, a landscape architect firm, is located near Buffalo. It was founded by Earl Gravers in 1939. It began working on cemeteries in 1970, and that is now the focus of the business. The firm works on master planning of new sites and expansions of cemeteries. It designs columbaria and cremation gardens.

Ward displayed the company's work on a pair of cremation gardens in Erie, Pa., as well as plans for burial sites and a columbarium area in Oswego, N.Y. Cremation has been trending upward over the last 10 years.

Presentation by Brent Thorson of Eickhof

Eickhof is a small company in Minnesota. Its sole focus is to manufacture and ship columbarium niches around the country. Papp said Richfield currently lacks a facility for the interment of cremains, with the exception of the mausoleum crypt, which would be too much space. Wheeler said he would like to see a subcommittee for the columbarium plans like the village had for the cemetery rules.

Thorson displayed his company's work at Calvary Cemetery in Queens, N.Y. and Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church in Connecticut. In 35 years, Eickhof has created 1,400 installations around the USA. It has a collection of pre-assembled columbiaria in different shapes. It is delivered on a crane.

The next meeting of the Cemetery Board on April 21 will include a tour of both cemeteries.

Old business

Stoppenhagen said the board had a good discussion of the rules last night. He moved to submit them to Law Director Alex Cortes for review and editing.

Wheeler said he would talk to Swan and Stoppenhagen about the subcommittee. The mayor would also like the board to consider meeting twice a month for the next few months. So the board will have the cemetery tour meeting on April 21 and a regular Zoom meeting on April 27.

Swan adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman

Cemetery Board Secretary