



118 Lion Blvd PO Box 187 Springdale UT 84767 \* 435-772-3434 fax 435-772-3952

**MINUTES OF THE SPRINGDALE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 AT 11:00 AM  
AT THE HISTORIC PIONEER CEMETERY NEAR THE CORNER OF PARADISE ROAD AND  
WINDERLAND LANE IN SPRINGDALE, UTAH.**

Meeting convened at 11:07 am.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Levin, Kathleen Kavarra Corr, and Jean Krause

**EXCUSED:** Kelly McKean

**ABSENT:** Mavis Madsen

**ALSO PRESENT:** Director of Community Development Tom Dansie, Town Clerk Darci Carlson, and Deputy Clerk Katy Brown recording. Please see attached list of citizens signed in.

**Motion made by Rich Levin to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 22, 2020; Seconded by Jean Krause.**

**Krause: Aye**

**Levin: Aye**

**Corr: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**A. Information/Discussion/Non-Action Items**

**1) Determination of a plan to document existing conditions in the Pioneer Cemetery:** Chair Levin offered the following dedication prior to the Commission's discussion:

*"We are here to pay our respects at this historic cemetery, that we may find ways to care for and improve its dedication to those passed who are laid to rest and interred at this historic site. We honor their legacy and invite their descendants and our community at large to honor their heritage."*

Ms. Corr noted that even before the early settlers came to what was now Springdale, the land belonged to Native Tribes. She felt it was important to include the memory of all the people who called this land home in any preservation work that would come.

Ms. Carlson welcomed the Commission and spoke to the purpose of the meeting. It was the Town's intention to resuscitate and preserve the cemetery to honor its history. Before any long-term goals or visions could be discussed however, it was crucial to gather an accurate account of the current cemetery conditions. Prior to any rehabilitation efforts, comprehensive documentation was the priority and would be required if the Commission were to apply for any grant funding in the future.

- Mr. Levin felt the Commission could benefit from cemetery preservation training. He felt confident that they could complete more superficial documentation tasks, but wondered if a professional consultant could be utilized for more specialized tasks, such as locating unmarked graves.
- Ms. Carlson mentioned that the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was an incredible resource for anything related to cemetery documentation and restoration. Prior to the meeting, the Commissioners had reviewed a video presentation offered by the State which provided an overview of cemetery documentation techniques. Ms. Carlson felt the Commission was more than capable of executing the documentation phase with some additional training from State personnel.
- Ms. Corr was more in favor of the Commission leading the efforts while sourcing community members for assistance rather than engaging an outside specialist with no personal investment in

the project. There had seemingly been a long line of outside consultants for various different projects in the Town lately. She thought it would re-energize Springdale residents to have a community oriented project to share in.

- Ms. Krause mentioned that the state funding grant application deadline had already passed, with the next deadline over a year away. She felt that in the meantime, the Commission could utilize as much training as possible and structure a solid plan for documentation.

Ms. Carlson was happy to reach out to personnel at the SHPO and schedule an in-person training. She recommended that Commissioners each source the community for more volunteers who could attend on-site training.

- Ms. Krause also mentioned the LDS church’s robust family history database and recommended reaching out to one of their specialists for help with birth, marriage, and death records.
- Ms. Brown highlighted the importance of letting the stories of the deceased come to life through their living descendants, many of whom currently lived in the canyon. Not engaging living decedents would be like flipping through a stranger’s photo albums without the subject being there to interpret the stories.

Ms. Corr hoped that future cemetery preservation efforts would be congruent with the natural surroundings and cultural identity. She hoped it could be kept peaceful, precious, and unique.

**Motion made by Jean Krause to direct staff to organize a training program involving local community members and utilizing resources from the State Historic Preservation Office, the LDS Family History Center, and the Zion National Park Museum Curator Catherine Everett to begin the process of collecting complete and accurate documentation of the conditions of the historic Pioneer Cemetery; seconded by Rich Levin.**

**Krause: Aye**

**Levin: Aye**

**Corr: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Levin asked the Commission to take a few moments of quiet reflection to walk the grounds and visit the graves. The Commission reported back after a few moments and some offered their impressions.

- Mr. Levin noted evidence of people currently attending to gravesides and a history of cemetery recognition demonstrated by existing plaques and monuments. He relayed an experience growing up where his father would read aloud the names of the people whose stories appeared in the newspaper obituaries. His father held the belief that speaking their names aloud honored the memory of their lives. He felt that the Commission would likewise honor those who had passed by thoughtfully executing this revitalization project.
- Ms. Carlson was deeply touched by the experience of synchronicity that had led the project to this point. She felt it was the right time, right place, and looked forward to assisting the Commission in their goals.

**Motion to adjourn at 12:00 pm made by Jean Krause; Seconded by Rich Levin.**

**Krause: Aye**

**Levin: Aye**

**Corr: Aye**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katy Brown, Deputy Clerk

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



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**ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**Please print your name below**

Meeting Springdale Historic Preservation Commission Date 9/23/2020

Name (please print)

*None*