

Calvary Cemetery of Manitowoc Committee

January 20, 2016

Attendance: Bill Gospodarek, Cal Wester, Cecilia Maurer, Deacon Bob Beehner

Also in Attendance: Jerry Schermetzler, Joan Cohen, Ken Brooks

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Deacon Bob Beehner. Deacon Beehner opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 20, 2015 was made by Ken Brooks, seconded by Bill Gospodarek, and approved by all.

Opening Listening Session: There were no interested parties present for the Open Listening Session.

Operations Update: Jerry Schermetzler stated Zabel Monuments has completed work on the Maternity of St. Mary's cemetery. Bill Gospodarek asked if there would be a huge marker placed at the cemetery. We owe respect to our dead. Cal Wester mentioned that a cross could be broken by vandals, but no one would be able to move a huge stone. The stone would have the names of the 190 people who are buried in the cemetery. Ken Brooks thought we could have a one-weekend fund raiser at church. Jerry Schermetzler announced the Maternity of St. Mary's cemetery will be 160 years old this year (1856).

Jerry Schermetzler handed out a sheet comparing numbers of the types of burials (traditional/cremains) for 2012 -2015, and the number and type of burial spaces sold in those years also.

Jerry Schermetzler handed out copies of pictures of an outdoor columbarium which looks roughly what the St. Francis columbarium will look like. The columbarium won't be built until we have the full amount needed in order to build. By law, we will have three years from the date of the first sale to build the columbarium. St. Francis columbarium will have 48 niches. It will be the color of the exterior of the Calvary Mausoleum building. Ken Brooks questioned if we will build one at St. Mary's Cemetery. Jerry Schermetzler said we would use an open spot that would have taken three cemetery spaces. If we built a columbarium in this area, it would contain 100+ people.

Jerry Schermetzler stated we could also think about having a columbarium built near the Holschbach section of Calvary Cemetery. Deacon Beehner said he thought building a columbarium will be a good investment. Cecilia Maurer stated the columbarium reminds her of the pet columbarium at Evergreen Cemetery. Jerry Schermetzler said every door of the columbarium will need to have a Catholic/religious symbol on it – cross, rosary, praying hands, etc. When the time comes, we'll engrave one with fictitious names and symbols so people can see what the columbarium door will look like.

Cecilia Maurer asked if the niches will be on one side only, and Jerry Schermetzler told the group the niches will be on both sides of the columbarium, and it will be set up so people driving by will be able to see the names.

Ken Brooks stated since getting on board with overseeing the operation of the cemeteries, he has much more interest in seeing them succeed. Jerry Schermetzler invited everyone on the cemetery committee to stop by and see the plaque we received from the Nomis Funeral Home and Cemetery News in Youngston, Ohio with the picture of the donor of the St. Gianna statue in Calvary Cemetery, Edward Ettner; Pfeffer Funeral Director Skip Pfeffer; Reverend Dave Pleier; and the statue of St. Gianna. The same picture was featured in the Green Bay Compass newspaper, the Herald Times Reporter, and on the front page of the national cemeteries magazine.

Marketing/Sales: Ken Brooks believes we need to get people to think of the future in regard to making burial plans. Bill Gospodarek suggested we have an open house for preplanning needs. Jerry Schermetzler said that didn't go over very well at KNoolwood when he was employed there. Cecilia Maurer said we had open houses before Jerry Schermetzler worked at Calvary, and people didn't come. Discussing death is difficult for most people.

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the Maternity of St. Mary's cemetery. Also, St. Peter's cemetery will be 155 years old. The church will have gotten the deed for Calvary Cemetery 150 years ago in 2018.

Jerry Schermetzler announced this year on Good Friday, March 25, we will light luminaries in memory of people who have died. This was very well attended last year, the first year it was done, and this year we will be adding St. Mary's cemetery in the luminary lighting. Also, 30 Chinese lanterns will be lit and sent upwards. Jerry Schermetzler said this year we are adding an inclement weather date which will be Friday, April 22. He is sending out letters inviting people to participate and purchase a luminary.

Deacon Beehner handed out Income and Expense, and Financial Position statements, and a detailed discussion followed led by Deacon Beehner and Ken Brooks.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

Ken Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cecilia Maurer seconded it. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Cohen