

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 26, 2025 @ 4:00 pm, City Hall

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

4:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

X	Lynn Thompson (Chair)	X	Cynthia Foster		Jeff Bransford (Park Staff)
X	Dana Watson (Vice Chair)	X	Jillian Bliss	X	Samantha Morrison (Park Staff)
	Kyle Coker	X	Chad Donegan (Park Staff)		Gene Bagwell (Cemetery Manager)
X	Connie Krause		Geronimo Aguirre (Park Staff)	X	Hunter Haberly (Cemetery Sexton)
X	Jan Kingsbury		Shari Silvio (Park Staff)	X	Bernadette Faust (TCI)

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes from April 24, 2025

4. **CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Citizen Attendance: Loyce Schmick

Loyce expressed interest in the *Field of Graves* project, citing a family connection through her great great-grandparents who are buried there. She is considering a donation and has previously spoken with Jeff Bransford about it.

5. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

a. National Register Nomination of the New Braunfels Cemetery

Katie Totman is still working on the National Register Nomination. She had delayed sending the form to the committee, hoping to complete it on her own, but will let the group know if she needs assistance. The committee has requested to review the nomination before it is submitted, so Chad will reach out to Katie and ask her to send it out for review prior to submission.

b. Field of Graves

Bernadette provided an update on the MHS design concept and opened the floor to discuss design inclusions. She conducted research using Oscar Haus' *History of New Braunfels* and church cemetery records. Recommendation: Use these records as the foundation while also acknowledging unknown names. Chad discussed previous MHS design submissions that were rejected and emphasized the need for a better approach to inclusivity. Group deliberated on the implications of listing only some names, potentially alienating families. Bernadette emphasized balancing the project's budget with its goal to honor the unmarked graves.

All members agreed to proceed with a design that focuses on the collective story rather than listing specific names. The memorial will include a reference to the cemetery database for those interested in learning about individual names. Final designs will be presented to the committee for approval.

c. Cemetery Software

Natalie provided an informational packet but was unable to attend. The group will review the materials and discuss at the next meeting.

d. 2025 Soul Searching

Tour planning begins in July. Golf carts are reserved and paid for. Tickets go on sale August 15th.

Script progress: Lynn has finished hers; Dana has one left, and Connie is also working on hers.

The tour route and entertainment options were discussed, including the possibility of a skit by Jillian and Jan has volunteered to take over sponsorship efforts in July

Important Dates: Run-through scheduled for Tuesday, September 30th (calendar invite to be sent). At the next meeting the group will finalize soulmates, complete scripts, and further discuss props.

e. Gate at the New Braunfels Cemetery

The new cemetery gate has been installed and is fully operational.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- A. National Register Nomination
- B. Field of Graves
- C. Reprint of the Cookbook
- D. Comal Cemetery Street Signage
- E. 2025 Soul Searching

6. ADJOURNMENT

5:19 pm