

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 4:00 pm, Landa Haus

1. CALL TO ORDER:

4:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of minutes from October 23, 2025

4. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Lois Schmick attended to get an update on Field of Graves and provide feedback for the committee.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

a. Field of Graves

Brenadette Faust provided a review of activities from last year, including the archaeological dig and the MHS partnership, followed by a presentation on current updates. The last update was in June 2025, at which time three design concepts were rejected. Based on direction and preferences expressed by the committee, two new concepts were developed. The updated concepts include a walkway from the central plaza connecting the pathway to interpretive signage. MHS also suggested above ground construction to limit ground disturbance, as directed by the Texas Historical Commission. A shell border design was presented with an idea to tie the number of shells to the estimated number of graves based on Presbyterian church records. A second design option was also presented, that included a gated area. The committee was asked to provide direction and feedback on the two concepts. Dana noted a preference for Concept 1 with a shorter walkway to further limit ground disturbance and also commented that Concept 2 would present seasonal challenges due to the lack of irrigation in the cemetery. Jillian shared that Concept 1 felt more welcoming. The committee voted to move forward with Concept 1. Once the concept is finalized, more detailed drawings will be provided, hopefully by the next meeting.

b. Soul Searching

The group discussed possible themes for Soul Searching 2026, with science/STEM being a top choice, and discussed possible soul ideas. Lynn gave feedback on potential ideas to help push cookbook sales. Committee members will discuss potential souls and do a walkthrough of the cemetery for more ideas.

6. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- A. Field of Graves
- B. National Register Nomination
- C. Cookbooks
- D. Soul Searching

7. ADJOURNMENT

4:50 p.m.