

Parish of the Precious Blood – Cemetery Council Minutes February 9th, 2017

The meeting of the Cemetery Council was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairperson George Baker at Holy Rosary Parish Center in Caribou. The meeting was opened with a prayer said by Fr. Labrie.

The following were in attendance:

- John Powers, St. Mary's
- Michael Lagasse, Business Coordinator
- Gregory Plourde, St. Theresa
- Bob LeBlanc, Holy Rosary
- Fr. Jean-Paul Labrie, Pastor
- Harold Cote, Sacred Heart
- Corrinne Pelletier, St. Mark's / OLL Portage
- George Baker, St. Mark's
- Herm Turcotte, Cemetery Operations
- Jim Pelkey, St. Louis

Absent from this meeting: Mike Tardif, Holy Rosary, Betty Thompson, Sacred Heart; Dan Lalonde, St. Louis.

It was motioned by Bob Leblanc minutes from October meeting be accepted as written 2nd by John Powers to accept the minutes as presented. So accepted by all and passed.

OLD BUSINESS: At our October meeting we could not finalize the Executive Core as George Baker was absent. Mike Tardif was nominated for the Chair and was willing to accept if George stayed as the Vice Chair. This was presented to George and he was in agreement. A motion was made to accept the new executive core as listed, Mike Tardif, Chair, George Baker, Vice Chair and Betty Thompson to remain as Secretary. Motion was made by John Powers and 2nd by Harold Cote. So accepted by all and passed.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Financial report was given by Business coordinator. Year to date as of 02/15/2017 the overall results show the cemeteries in the black by \$1,307.00. This is good we are heading in the right direction because at this time last year we were in the Red by (-\$20,485.00). A huge step in the right direction. By site St. Marks and Our Lady of the Lake Cemeteries were the only one with a deficit year to date all other sites income exceeds expenses.

DISCUSSIONS: Looking at the numbers presented the Business coordinator presented a recommendation for an increase in Cemetery schedule of fees ranging from 5 to 10% for services. We have in the past budgeted misc. income i.e. fundraising events to balance budget and they have not happened as needed. Each year we come close but always fall short of our goal to have a positive year. The only income we can count on is collections and our schedule of fees. We cannot control collection numbers but we can control our fee schedule. Last increase was made in 2013 and we need to seriously consider updating our fees. This can put us in higher cost area than other local cemeteries but we need to pay our expenses and need to focus on that rather than being competitive.

As we did not have a quorum at last meeting this item is presented again to the council for action. After discussion a motion was made by John Powers to accept the increase in fee schedule. This was 2nd by Harold Cote. So accepted by all and passed. The new schedule of Fees will go into effect on May 1st

2017 not to disrupt spring burial costs for those families who have already had a deceased member this winter.

CEMETERY OPERATIONS UPDATE: Herm Turcotte informed every one of the progress made this past year in getting the Parish Cemetery Database current. The progress made in entering data and getting old maps photocopied and updated.

Also George Baker gave a short summary of the plans for the old Sheridan cemetery this summer in an attempt to get mapped and know where the burial sites are. This effort will be done with ground radar and assistance from Professor Chen from UMPL.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th at 5:30 PM at Holy Rosary.

Closing prayer was said by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael Lagasse, Business Coordinator