



Minutes
Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board Regular Meeting
Monday, December 5, 2025 - 8:30 a.m.
City Commission Room 205
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, MI

1. Call To Order

Linda Buchanan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Linda Buchanan, Vice Chair Linda Peterson; Board Members Laura Schreiner, Margaret Suter

Absent: None

Staff: City Clerk Bingham

3. Introduction of Guests

Cheri Arcome, Creative Collaborations, David Carter, Carter's Preservation, and Paul Connell, former GCAB member, were acknowledged.

4. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: by Buchanan, seconded by Schreiner:
To accept the minutes of October 3, 2025.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. New Business

A. Presentation from Creative Collaborations and Carter's Preservation

Ms. Arcome and Mr. Carter presented the item and answered questions from the Board.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- If a funeral is occurring in one section when Mr. Carter is on-site, he performs repairs in a different section so as not to disturb the proceedings.
- Board members have received positive feedback about the maintenance of the headstones.
- It seemed that photographs of the cleaned and repaired gravestones were being uploaded to the Find a Grave website.

Public Comment

Paul Connell asked about causes of gravestone breakage.

B. Fiscal year 2026-2027 recommended cemetery budget requests

CC Bingham and Ms. Arcome presented the item and answered questions from the Board.

MOTION: by Buchanan:

All in favor of agreeing that these items should be put forward as budget requests.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

C. Follow up on columbarium opportunities

Mr. Connell introduced the item. Mr. Connell, CC Bingham, and Ms. Arcome answered questions from the Board.

Board members raised the following points during discussion:

- Since storage of maintenance items would still be an issue, the gazebo/columbarium combination might not be able to replace the garage.
- The gazebo/columbarium combination could likely be built smaller or customized in other ways.
- The gazebo/columbarium combination was attractive.
- The Board must determine whether this is something the Board is interested in pursuing before Mr. Connell does further work.
- While nice doors could be added to allow for storage, people may be disinclined to use the columbarium if they knew storage items were co-located there.
- There might be better locations available.
- It would be important to figure out what the breakeven investment and the potential profit would be.
- It could be possible to have smaller niches throughout the Cemetery.
- Per the information provided by CC Bingham, the Commission seems to have a number of pressing financial priorities at the moment.
- It would be difficult to ensure that all the niches would be sold.
- People usually expect to pay less for a niche than a plot.
- The City would not likely be interested in demolishing the garage at this moment since there are competing financial priorities.
- There may be a need for places to put cremated remains in the Cemetery in addition to what is already allowed in a regular plot.
- It might be possible to build a columbarium in phases, and to see how the first phase sells.
- DPS told the Board at the May 2025 meeting it likely could not have less storage on-site than the garage already accommodates.
- The area by the garage is not a large area.
- It would be necessary to know the annual maintenance costs for maintaining a columbarium.
- The possibility of creating a columbarium is likely a longer-term exploration.
- Mr. Connell received thanks for his efforts so far, and would be returning with cost estimates.

The Board lost quorum at 9:41 a.m. The Board regained quorum at 9:43 a.m.

D. Future Business

- a. February 6, 2026
 - i. Board Member Portal — How to use digital packets
 - ii. Rules and Regulations Review & Look at Goals/Priorities for 2026
 - iii. Board Composition (Requested by the Chair)

7. Reports

- A. Update from Museum Director Leslie Pielack (when applicable)
- B. Update from the Clerk's Office
- C. Financial Reports
- D. Cemetery Sales and Activity
- E. City Manager's Reports

8. Open to the Public for Matters Not on the Agenda

9. Board Comments

Chair Buchanan described her efforts to recruit new members to the Board.

10. Adjournment

The Board motioned to adjourn at 10:07 a.m.


Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk


Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist