



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Study Session

## Item -2

### Presentation on Cemetery Planning

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy, Parks & Recreation Director

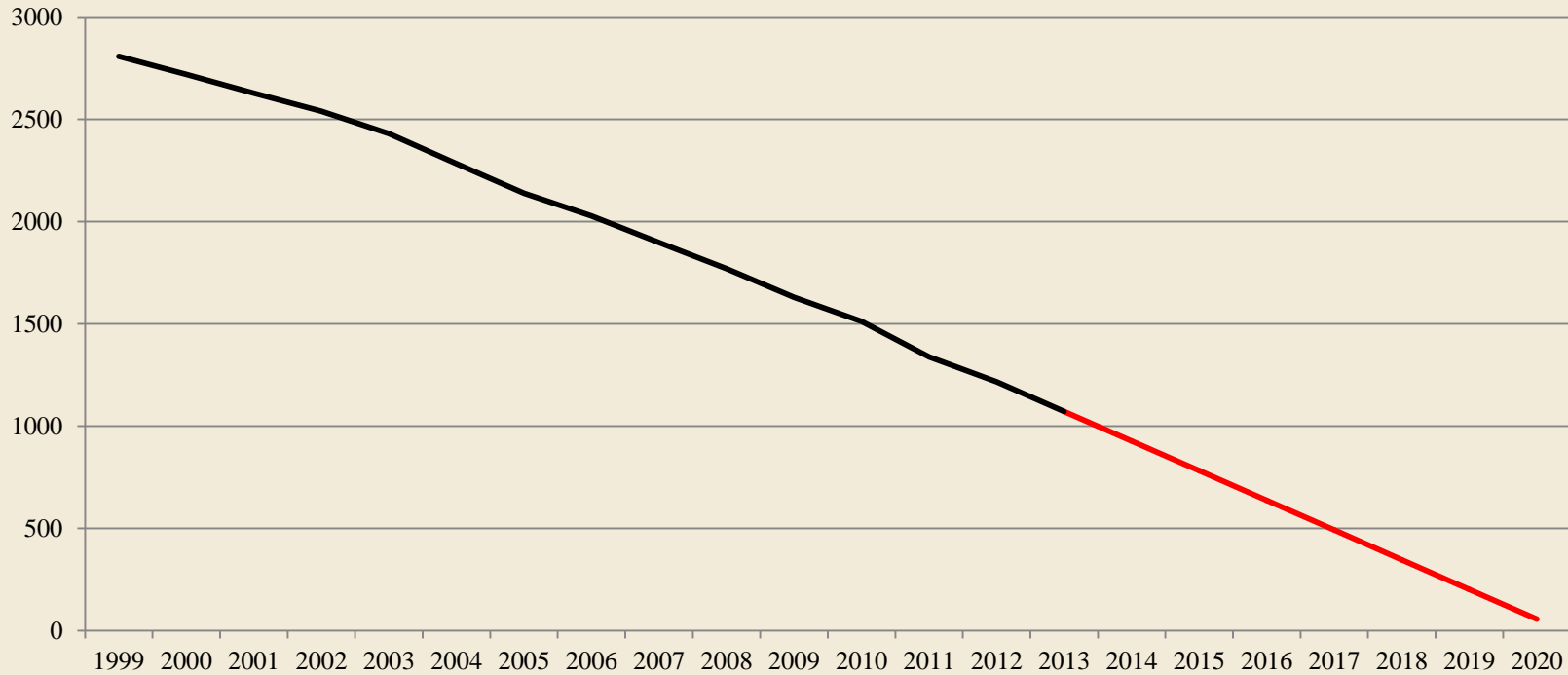


## Grand Island Cemetery – Brief History

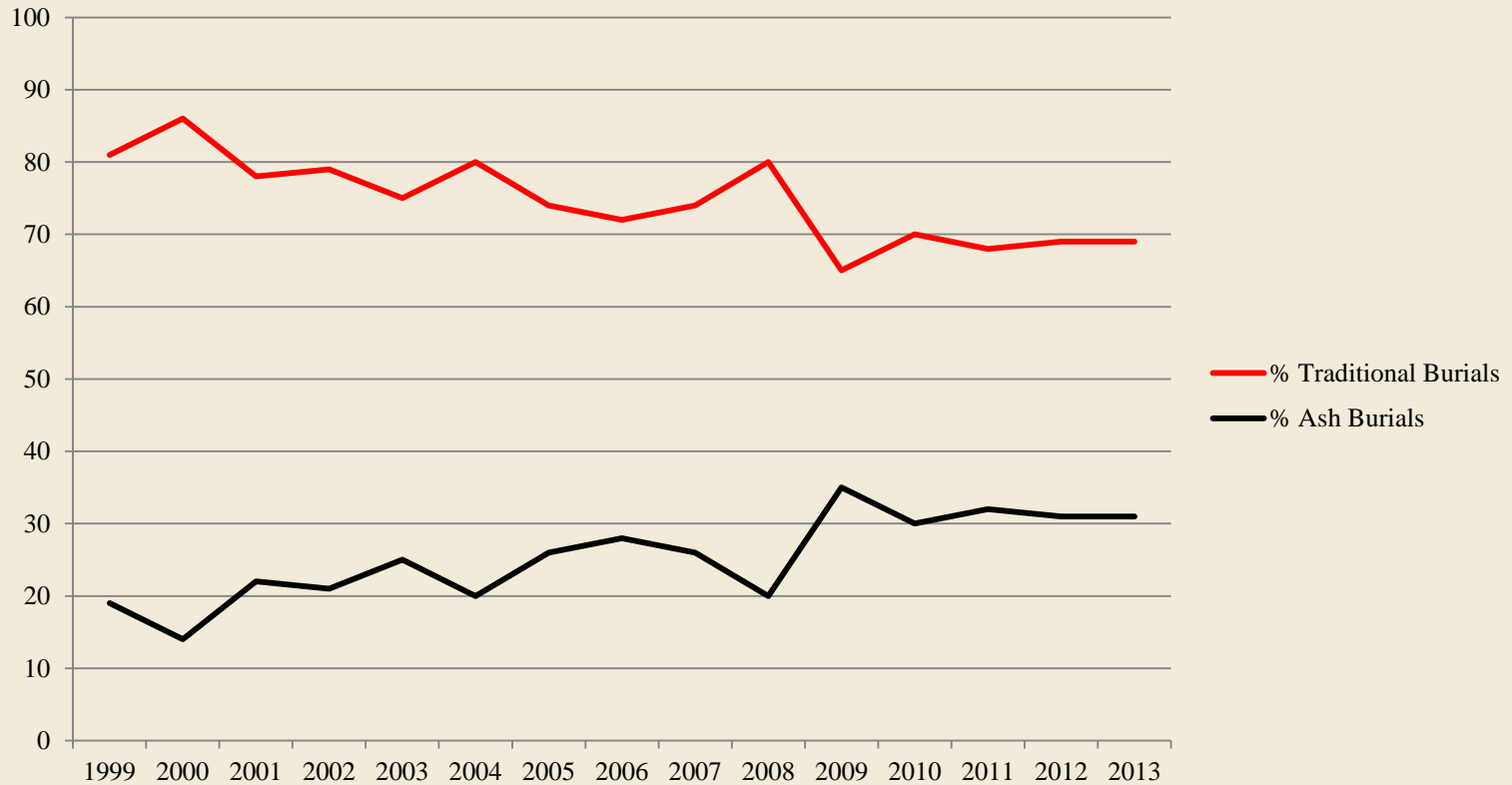
- 🇺🇸 The Cemetery was started in the 1860s with 20 acres south of Stolley Park Road – privately owned.
- 🇺🇸 The City began cemetery operations in 1897 when Council approved the acquisition of the private cemetery. At the same time Council approved the “new” cemetery to the north of Stolley Park Road.

- ➊ Foreseeing future needs, in June of 2000 City Council authorized the acquisition of 22 acres of land just north of the cemetery formerly known as the Webb Sale Barn.
- ➋ The property was purchased with the Cemetery Reserve Fund for \$345,000.
- ➌ Resolution 2000-307 states ‘that the property will be used for athletic fields until such time as it is needed for cemetery use.’

## Total Lots Available



## Percentage of Traditional & Ash Burials



## Short Term Ideas

- Construct columbarium system
- Estimated construction cost is about \$15,000 per 50 niche unit



- Request that City Council change City Ordinance requiring flat markers in Section J. Allowing upright headstones would not increase the total available spaces, but would increase selection.
- Another alternative is to discount the price of the flat marker section.

## OPTIONS

### Develop Webb Road property

Pros: Close proximity – efficient use of staff and supplies

Cons: Eventual loss of athletic fields

### Acquire alternate cemetery expansion location

Pros: Keep athletic fields

Cons: Repay cemetery trust fund and acquire land

Likely increased operational cost to manage remote site

### Do not expand the cemetery operation

Pros: Keep athletic fields

Cons: Repay cemetery trust fund

New cemetery lot sales will eventually conclude

- On January 28, 2014 the hiring of a consulting firm to complete a cemetery master plan was put on hold.
- The recommendation is to continue down that path in order to have a professional analysis and provide strategic direction.
  - Evaluate current cemetery and operations
  - Alternate site recommendations
  - Phased cemetery master plan including construction cost estimates



## Grand Island Cemetery Data

Year	Traditional			Lots Sold	Total # of		
	Burials	Ash Burials	Total Burials		Lots	Revenue	Expense
1999	127	30	157	88	2853		
2000	130	22	152	92	2761		
2001	142	40	182	87	2674		
2002	122	33	155	106	2568		
2003	123	41	164	110	2458		
2004	126	32	158	146	2312		
2005	125	45	170	110	2202		
2006	126	49	175	130	2072		
2007	138	49	187	129	1943		
*2008	122	30	152	139	1804	*\$ 117,674	\$ 469,815
*2009	105	57	162	118	1686	\$ 86,596	\$ 524,305
*2010	121	53	174	173	1513	\$ 106,221	\$ 504,318
*2011	129	61	190	123	1390	\$ 109,410	\$ 439,096
*2012	96	43	139	144	1246	\$ 100,542	\$ 421,059
*2013	116	53	169	174	1072	\$ 121,745	\$ 443,465

\*Fiscal Calendar

\*Includes \$14,403 FEMA Deposit  
for Ice Storm Damage

RESOLUTION 2000-307

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2000, by Resolution 2000-177, the City of Grand Island authorized the acquisition of approximately 22 acres of land formerly known as the Webb Sale Barn property as an addition to the Grand Island Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the property will be used for athletic fields until such time as it is needed for cemetery use; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2000, by Resolution 2000-245, the City of Grand Island repealed Resolution 2000-177 based on two of the three property owners requesting that the acquisition be restructured to allow them to give their interest in the property to two local non-profit corporations which will in turn sell the property to the City for the same terms as were originally agreed; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 10, 2000 for the purpose of discussing the proposed acquisition of property; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price of the property is \$345,000; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement for Warranty Deed has been prepared by the City Attorney's office for such acquisition of property from Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Grand Island, Nebraska, a Nebraska nonprofit corporation, and Jerome W. Niedfelt and Doralene F. Niedfelt, husband and wife, to the City of Grand Island.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island is hereby authorized to acquire approximately 22.283 acres of property from Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Grand Island, a Nebraska nonprofit corporation, and Jerome W. Niedfelt and Doralene F. Niedfelt, husband and wife, as set out in the Agreement for Warranty Deed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agreement for Warranty Deed for such conveyance of property is hereby approved; and the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute such agreement on behalf of the City of Grand Island.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska on October 10, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form   ▼     
October 5, 2000       ▲   City Attorney

Entered as Instrument No.  
0200010542

STATE OF NEBRASKA )  
COUNTY OF HALL ) SS

00 DEC 5 PM 2 28

*Kathy Brash*  
REG OF DEEDS

CASH 1550

CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

REFUNDS:

CASH \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

• This Space Reserved for Register of Deeds •

Return to:  
RaNae Edwards  
City Clerk  
PO Box 1968  
Grand Island, NE 68802

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the conveyance of an approximately 22.28 acre tract of land in an area bounded to the north by the Union Pacific Railroad mainline, to the east by Webb Road, and to the west by U.S. Highway 281, to the City of Grand Island, a municipal corporation, from Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc., a non-profit corporation, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Grand Island, Nebraska, a Nebraska non-profit corporation, and Jerome W. Niedfelt and Doralene F. Niedfelt, husband and wife, shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions of an Agreement for Warranty Deed dated October 4, 2000.

Such real property is comprised of a part of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Twenty Four (24), Township Eleven (11) North, Range Ten (10) West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. in the City of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the east line of said East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ), said point being Fifty Five and Eighty Nine Hundredths (55.89) feet south of the northeast corner of said East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ), said point also being on the southerly right-of-way line of the Union Pacific Railroad; thence running southerly, along and upon the east line of said East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ), a distance of One Thousand Two

Hundred Thirty Two and Ninety Eight Hundredths (1,232.98) feet; thence deflecting right 92°32'47" and running westerly, a distance of Six Hundred Forty Six and Forty Five Hundredths (646.45) feet; thence deflecting right 86°15'11" and running northerly, a distance of Thirty Three and Fifty Seven Hundredths (33.57) feet; thence deflecting left 86°15'11" and running westerly, a distance of Five Hundred (500.0) feet to the easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 281; thence deflecting right 86°15'11" and running northwesterly, along and upon said easterly highway right-of-way line, a distance of Four Hundred Forty Seven and Forty Two Hundredths (447.42) feet to a point on the southerly right-of-way line of the Union Pacific Railroad; thence deflecting right 59°57'57" and running northeasterly, along and upon said southerly railroad right-of-way line, a distance of One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One and Thirty Four Hundredths (1,351.34) feet to the point of beginning and containing 22.283 acres, more or less.

Said tract also being described in Deed Record 89-105407, Hall County Register of Deeds Office as being:

All that part of the Southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 10 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., lying South of the right-of-way of Union Pacific Railroad and North of the North boundary of a tract of ground deeded to Harold R. Johnson, described in Book 155 of Deeds, Page 222, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Hall County, Nebraska, and East of the Easterly boundary line of U.S. Highway 281, all in Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska.

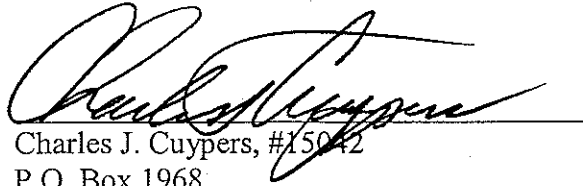
Due to the municipal funding used for such transaction being paid from the Cemetery Fund, the conveyed property shall be utilized for the expansion of the city cemetery at such time as is necessary for such expansion. The property may be utilized on an initial basis for athletic fields as determined by the City of Grand Island Parks and Recreation Director.

In the event such property is not needed for cemetery uses, the property may be used for other municipal uses as determined by the City Council; provided that the purchase price, plus interest, shall be reimbursed to the Cemetery Fund in which the initial funds were provided.

200010542

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA,  
A Municipal corporation,

By:



Charles J. Cuypers, #15042  
P.O. Box 1968  
Grand Island, NE 68802-1968  
(308) 385-5444, ext. 130