

Minutes of the Cemetery Committee: November 28, 2023

1. **Members Present:** Fr. Tony Fernando, Nicholas Podoll, Bob Lindow, Mark Carter and Stephen Gossen. Stephen Hankey was absent but sent in his inputs on the agenda that were presented to the committee members. After the opening prayer, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as written.

2. **Reports**

Summer Decoration Removal: Steven Gossen reported that the leftover decorations at the regular graves and the veteran grave decorative items were removed on October 28th. They were stored at the corner of the Cemetery for a year for people to pick them up. The crew also removed bushes and trimmed trees. It was brought to our attention that the cemetery grounds were not properly cared for in 2023. The ground keeper failed to complete the task. Or the grounds keeper did not receive proper direction on our expectations. Steve Gossen came forward to guide the ground keeper at Lakeside Cemetery and Nike Podoll at Woodlawn cemetery in 2024.

Woodlawn Cemetery Road Grading: Nike Podoll reported that Ben Haas graded the main road of Woodlawn Cemetery with gravel. He will smoothen the road in spring 2024. The committee approved to pay his bill of \$250 for the work done.

Report on Sale of Cemetery Lots and Burials: During the period of May - November 2023, one Traditional Cemetery Lots was sold at Lakeside Cemetery and two traditional Lots were sold at Woodlawn Cemetery. Two burials took place during this period: one in Lakeside Cemetery and the other in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Cemetery Finances for the Period of January 2023 – November 2023: Fr. Tony presented to the members of the committee the financial statements of Cemetery for the period of January 2023 – December 2023.

3. **New Business**

- 3.1 **New Altar at Lakeside Cemetery for Memorial Day Masses**

There was a good response to the Cemetery Mass celebrated at Lakeside Cemetery last Memorial Day. It was suggested to erect an Altar with the backdrop of the Calvary Scene with the Cross and Mary and St. John at the foot of the cross. There is a possibility of Bob Lindow' grandson doing a community service of building an altar at Lakeside Cemetery in spring. Steve Gossen will look into the estimate of Calvary Scene, something similar to Park Rapid's Catholic Cemetery.

- 3.2 **Transfer of Perpetual care money to CD**

We have invested our Perpetual care money of \$43,000 in CD with Crookston Diocesan Bank named as CCF (Catholic Community Fund). Bob Lindow motioned to transfer the surplus money from the checking account into well-paying CDs so that we will have enough savings in Perpetual Care Fund. The Bookkeeper will be directed to do this.

- 3.3 **Considering New Projects for the Upcoming Year**

Lakeside Cemetery chains need to be replaced. The committee recommended to replace the fence chains and spraying over it. Steve Gossen and Bob Lindow will work on it in spring. Woodlawn Cemetery road will be graded and smoothened by Ben Haas. Nike Podoll will take care of this project. If we find some donors to sponsor the Altar Project at Lakeside Cemetery, we may consider preparing the middle road area for possible regular mass space for Memorial Day Masses.

4. **Dates to Remember:** Memorial Day Mass at Woodlawn Cemetery: *Monday, May 27, 2024, at 9:00 AM*
Cemetery Spring Clean-up date - *Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:00 AM.*
Summer Decoration Removal date - *Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 9:00 AM*

5. **Next Meeting:** *Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:30 PM*

Recorded by: Fr. Tony