

## Hybrid Cemetery Strawman

May 31, 2020

### Note to Board Members about Strawman:

As part of the March 10 agenda packet, the Board received a document prepared by Caitlyn Hauke with a list of questions regarding green burials. At the March 10 meeting, Paula Maville suggested that the board review the questions individually and that Patrick and Caitlyn work together to address the questions directly pertaining to the cemetery team. Patrick provided Caitlyn answers to those questions in mid-May 2020. Those answers are provided in the document "*Green Burials Q and A, May 2020*" and is part of the June 9 agenda packet.

I prepared a strawman, or rough outline, on green burials after reviewing those answers and that is included in the June 9 agenda packet. This strawman is by no means inclusive or final; it is only an outline to help guide additional discussion.

My recommendation to the board when reviewing the packet documents is to review the "*Green Burials Q and A, May 2020*" first. Then review this document "*Hybrid Cemetery Strawman*".

### **Purpose:**

Provide a green burial / hybrid cemetery area to residents of Lebanon.

### **Location(s): West Lebanon Cemetery**

- Conduct a soil test at area being considered.
- Chapter 46.5 C Area must be surveyed and pinned per Chapter 46.5
- Determine number of grave sites to be used.
- Chapter 46.5.C. 2 The Board of Cemetery Trustees may designate areas in any cemetery, as space permits, to be laid out exclusively for cremation burials, and may by regulation establish applicable dimensional requirements therefor. *Does the Chapter need to be modified to state that the Board can establish Green Cemeteries exclusively?*
- Chapter 289 defines that cemeteries cannot be located with 100 feet of a dwelling or school or within 50 feet of a water source. *(Unclear if water source is a well or a stream)*

## **Requirements:**

- Must be citizen of Lebanon.

## **Body Preparation requirements and containers:**

- Bodies must be placed in a casket such as a rigid cardboard or pine box or other biodegradable material, such as wicker.
- Caskets are transported to the cemetery by the funeral home.
- Bodies are not embalmed.
- Shrouded only bodies are not permitted (bodies must be in a box).
- Condition of body to be buried?
- Addressing safety of city employees during burials?
- Are burials currently permitted in Lebanon using *concrete grave liners*? *These are available sealed and unsealed. Regulation does not state specifics.*

dChapter 46.7.G Permanent outside containers. In all interments, cremation or full, the remains shall be enclosed in a permanent outside container and which shall be installed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works personnel. The owner of the lot or his agent shall provide the container. The following are considered permanent outside containers: concrete boxes, copper or steel vaults or cremation urns designed to withstand the deteriorating factor of the elements of burial.

- How would the City accommodate an allowable non-vault burial within the UVJC today?

## **Grave Preparation:**

- Suggested graves size to be 8' x 12' and dug using conventional machinery.
- Depth of grave to be 3.5 - 4 feet.
- Caskets to be lowered by cemetery staff using conventional machinery.
- Graves to be mounded with at least 3 feet of fill (or other number as determined by cemetery staff) to accommodate settling.
- Adding mulch or lime to the soil would require additional fees.
- How would the City accommodate an allowable non-vault burial within the UVJC today?  
Public Works states that all burials done in the UVJC have at least partial vaults.

### **Costs and Administration:**

- Graves to be purchased using same deed and forms as conventional grave sites with the exception that an exact plot cannot be recorded.
- Purchase of a grave site does not provide a dedicated site for burial; only that the grave will be within the designated green burial area. This ensures that the equipment preparing the grave is on solid undisturbed soil.
- Final burial location within the hybrid cemetery area will be determined by Department of Public Works during the funeral preparations; the cemetery staff will determine best grave location based on current conditions and time of year (frozen ground vs soft ground), etc.

### **Maintenance**

- Hybrid grave costs will include perpetual care costs.
- No clear model for maintenance. Suggestions may include:
  - Maintenance on unused portions and no maintenance on used portions.
  - Public Works creates a grid pattern or pathways for the vehicles. There may be a few ways to do this, and it may depend on what makes the most sense logistically for Public Works.
  - Utilize goats/sheep to reduce the vegetation as was done on the Greenway

### **Monumentation**

- No clear model. Suggestions may include:
  - marking each space with a rock (balloon sized?)
  - no marker due to concerns about settling
  - engraved guide near burial area