

**MINUTES
REGULAR CALL MEETING
HIGHLAND CEMETERY BOARD
April 13, 2011**

The Chairman, Chris Elledge, called the Regular Meeting of the Highland Cemetery Board to order at 2:10 p.m., Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 at the Highland Cemetery Office. Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board as required by State Law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chris Elledge, Raymond Jackson, and Robert Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Kim Shahan, Parks and Recreation Director
Gerald Catlett, Parks and Grounds Administrator
Azalee McGahee, Cemetery Sexton
Debbie Griswold, Recording Secretary

VISITORS: Dale F. Scott, Secretary of the Comanche County Veterans Council

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CALLED MEETING OF JANUARY, 5TH, 2011. Elledge asked for consideration of the minutes of the Regular Called Meeting of January 5th, 2011, and they were approved as written.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

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NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, ON BECOMING A PARTICIPATING LOCATION FOR WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA. (PRESENTATION GIVEN BY DALE F. SCOTT, SECRETARY OF THE COMANCHE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL.

Elledge introduced this item for discussion and asked the members for their review and consideration for discussion and approval as appropriate.

Scott provided background information on the Wreaths Across America program. This project began in 1992 when 5000 wreaths were placed on gravesites of our Veterans at Arlington National Cemetery by the Worchester Wreath Company. Last year this program placed 216,000 wreaths on Veteran's gravesites across America.

Scott stated to become a participating Cemetery, there must be; 1.) a Location Leader 2.) a drop off site for the wreaths 3.) and personnel to place and remove the wreaths from the veterans gravesites. These wreaths are only laid out for one month, December 10th – January 8th. There is a simultaneous National Ceremony in which the Ceremonial Wreath is laid at the participating cemeteries. Cost for sponsorship of a wreath is \$15.00 and the participating sponsors must be a non-profit organization. The non-profit groups will profit \$5.00 from each wreath sale. There is no cost for shipping the wreaths to a location.

Scott suggested contacting local Boy Scout troops for assistance if Highland Cemetery is interested in

becoming a participating partner. He also stated he is asking for participation from the Highland Cemetery Board, not the City of Lawton employees.

Shahan voiced concerns about large trucks delivering wreaths to the cemeteries and the possible destruction to the roads within Highland Cemetery grounds.

Scott stated the Location Leader would organize and locate a delivery site, which could be a centralized location for Comanche County since there are other cemeteries participating in Comanche County.

Elledge raised the question about who receives the funds and how the funds would be handled.

Scott stated all funds are sent to the National Organization.

Shahan stated he would present to Council if the Board agreed to participate in this program. Shahan also stated he would be willing to help get this information out to the public once a Point of Contact was designated if the Board was in agreement to participate in this program..

There was continued discussion among the board members, staff members and Dale Scott regarding this project.

After no further discussion, a motion was called.

MOTION by Elledge; SECOND by Williams, to approve Highland Cemetery as a participating location for the Wreaths Across America project.

AYES: Elledge, Jackson, Williams. NAYS: None. MOTION CARRIED

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COMMENTS/DISCUSSION/ADJOURNMENT

There were no other comments or discussion and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
CHRIS ELLEDGE, CHAIRMAN
HIGHLAND CEMETERY BOARD

