

1 River Heights City Planning Commission
2 Minutes of the Meeting
3 November 19, 2013
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5 Present: Commission members: Jim Royle, Chairman
6 Rex Davidsavor
7 Danny Petersen
8 Patti Seeholzer
9 Lorin Zollinger

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11 Council Member Blake Wright
12 Recorder Sheila Lind
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14 Others Present: Cathy Wood, Cemetery Planning Consultant
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17 Motion #1

18 Commissioner Petersen moved to “approve the minutes of the November 5, 2013
19 Commission meeting.” Commissioner Davidsavor seconded the motion, which carried.
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21 Proceedings of the Meeting
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23 The River Heights City Planning Commission met at 7:00 p.m. in the Ervin R. Crosbie
24 Council Chambers on November 19, 2013.

25 Adoption of Prior Minutes: Minutes for the November 5, 2013 Planning Commission
26 Meeting were reviewed.

27 **Commissioner Petersen moved to “approve the minutes of the November 5, 2013
28 Commission meeting.” Commissioner Davidsavor seconded the motion, which carried.**

29 Discuss a Possible City Cemetery: Councilmember Wright introduced Cathy Wood, a
30 cemetery planning consultant. She was the Brigham City Cemetery sexton for 30 years. She
31 has had a lot of experience and has much knowledge about cemeteries. Councilmember
32 Wright asked her to come tonight to discuss good cemetery planning, to help the city get going
33 in the right direction. After they have some ideas they’ll talk to Providence about their desire
34 to be involved.

35 Cathy Wood said she was involved in starting the Utah Cemeteries and Parks
36 Associations. She has also been involved in Spatial Generations, a burial mapping program. She
37 can contact them if River Heights is interested in their services. She discussed with the group,
38 the set up of Brigham City’s cemetery.

39 Ms. Wood discussed funding under the perpetual cemetery fund. In Brigham City the
40 funds are only able to be used after they drop below 50% of something. Twenty five percent of
41 each plot sale was put away for maintenance. They have a columbarium for over 1,000
42 cremation internments. She described the granite walls and how it's made. It saves money and
43 burial space. It has paid for itself because they put the money away each time they sale a nitch.

44 They also have an infant burial area. She explained how it is set up.

45 Ms. Wood suggested always running the roads east and west which makes it easier to
46 access the graves in the middle of a section. They leave the outside 20 feet of each section to
47 sell last so they can access easier.

48 Their cemetery is next to a ball field. They have taught the ball players respect for
49 graveside services by having them stop their game during the prayers. They have a lot of
50 walkers that come through. They deter and report vandalism.

51 Ms. Wood said Perry City is upset because they have to pay a higher rate for a plot. But,
52 its Brigham City taxes that pays for the upkeep. They have a lot of 3rd generation people come
53 back to Brigham City to be buried. If they have ownership of property or reside in Brigham City
54 then they are given the resident rate. They have the mortician prove this by showing their
55 receipt.

56 Brigham City has a historic cemetery tour every September. She discussed things they
57 have done that bring the community together in support of the cemetery. They involve middle
58 school age kids, which has kept the vandalism down.

59 Councilmember Wright asked Ms. Wood how River Heights could incorporate a
60 columbarium or 'nitch wall' and an infant area. Ms. Wood said the nitch wall could be on a
61 corner or it could be started in the second section. She suggested not to price all the nitches
62 the same. The lower ones don't sell as fast so they price them for less.

63 Ms. Wood discussed the infant area. Babies are buried 2 feet down because they don't
64 have the equipment to lower an infant casket down 6 feet.

65 Ms. Wood discussed initial set up. She said they need a good GPS system. Corner
66 markers are set up. They filled Dixie cups with cement to mark the corners in the newer area.
67 Start with the park area and sprinkler lines. It's best to avoid cutting sprinklers when digging
68 graves. She cautioned that contractors don't always do things right.

69 Caselle has a cemetery module but it doesn't use a GPS system. It's not as accurate and
70 may not hold all the needed information as the system they use. She can call David Day to see
71 if there are any grants available. JUB also has a good system.

72 The city needs to decide whether they want to allow upright or flat headstones. There
73 are benefits to both. It's work to keep the grass from growing over the flat stones. Brigham
74 City has an ordinance on how high the stones can be. They also require six inches of cement
75 around each stone. They don't allow open holes in the base/mow strip or planting. They do
76 allow tree donations, but the city determines where it can be planted. The easier the

77 maintenance, the better it looks. They also don't allow glass, wires or shepherd hooks,
78 although, hooks are allowed for Memorial Day and Christmas only.

79 Councilmember Wright said the city needs to decide on how much park space they
80 want, if any. They need to decide how much money they have to get started. Ms. Wood can
81 help sketch ideas with the Commission. Keith Christensen can help with the layout. Ms. Wood
82 reminded, the more they can develop in sprinklers and grass upfront, the less it will cost down
83 the road since costs will go up over time. She discussed an active sports area next to a
84 cemetery.

85 Councilmember Wright stated they were thinking more of a passive park. There might
86 be a parking problem for active sports.

87 Councilmember Wright suggested the Commission brainstorm some ideas with Ms.
88 Wood. Brigham City allows 4'x10' for adult plots and 2'x5' for infants. She suggested getting
89 the Commissions ideas before they sit down with Keith Christensen.

90 Councilmember Wright reminded that the city has had pressure from developers to buy
91 the 3 ½ acres of property. He'd like to see it saved for perpetuity. He feels having a plan in
92 place will help future administrations.

93 Councilmember Wright will find a map of the area for the Commission to discuss and
94 sketch. He will also send it to woodcathy@hotmail.com so she can write down her ideas. Ms.
95 Wood was thanked for her time and willingness to help River Heights.

96 Councilmember Wright reported that the City Council adopted all the ordinance
97 changes the Commission suggested. They had discussion concerning on-street parking but
98 didn't come up with a better solution.

99 The Christmas Party planning is underway. Commissioner Royle is going to work on
100 entertainment.

101 The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Jim Royle, Chairman

Sheila Lind, Recorder