

FRIENDS OF CRYSTAL MEMORIAL
GARDENS CEMETERY INC

COMMUNITY MEETING

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
COMMUNITY CENTER
95 THREE SISTERS SPRINGS TRAIL
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 34429



SATURDAY

February 17, 2024



TIME

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING INFO
AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE



TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

"Building a Stronger Future: Visioning and Ideas for the Preservation and Maintenance of our historic Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery"



For More Information

www.friendsofcmgcemetery.com



(352) 464-3393



FRIENDS
OF
CRYSTAL
MEMORIAL
GARDENS
CEMETERY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monique Bunch, Treasurer
David Davis, Secretary
Andrea K. McCray, President
Josh McCray, Vice President

Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Community Meeting

02/19/2024

Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Community Meeting

Meeting Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024 **Time:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendance

Name	Organization	Attendance
Monique Bunch	Friends of Crystal Mem Gardens Board of Directors	Absent
David Davis	Friends of Crystal Mem Gardens Board of Directors	Absent
Andrea McCray	Friends of Crystal Mem Gardens Board of Directors	Present
Josh McCray	Friends of Crystal Mem Gardens Board of Directors	Present
Jarrold Campbell	Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Board of Directors	Absent
Lynn Copeland	Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Board of Directors	Absent
Ricky Feacher	Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Board of Directors	Absent
Theodore Hopkins	Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Board of Directors	Absent
George Ann Jackson	Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Board of Directors	Absent
Strother (CJ) Natteal IV	Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Board of Directors	Present
Terri Moore	Community Member	Present
Coressa Natteal	Community Member	Present
Demetrius Canley	Community Member (via Zoom)	Present
Bertha Brooks	Community Member	Present
Sarah Brooks	Community Member	Present
Richard Brady	Community Member (via Zoom)	Present
Daniel Jenkins	Community Member	Present

**Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery
Community Meeting**

Meeting Notes

1. Participants were provided with a “Cemetery Preservation Plan” document, which follows and was also made available via Zoom.
2. Andrea McCray (Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens) opened the Community Meeting by clarifying that there are no efforts by the City of Crystal River to take ownership of the historic Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery, despite false communication spread throughout the community.
3. The **Current Projects for the Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens, Inc** are:
 - 3.1. Boundary Survey for both parcels of land for Crystal Memorial Gardens. (Information from Citrus County Property Appraiser’s Website)

Altkey	Parcel ID	Owner Name	Site Address	City	Short Legal	Est. Parcel Acres
2968621	17E18S210010 4300	CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS	9640 W GARDEN ST	CRYSTAL RIVER	TOWNSITE OF CRYSTAL PARK LOTS 430, 431, 432 & 433 DESC IN	3.67
2968630	17E18S210010 4560	CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS	9640 W GARDEN ST	CRYSTAL RIVER	TOWNSITE OF CRYSTAL PARK LOTS 456 & 457 DESC IN OR BK 449	1.84
Total Acreage for Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery						5.51

- 3.2. Quarterly Community Cemetery Clean Up – Our Next Scheduled Clean Up is Saturday, March 16, 2024, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Identified Needs for Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery

1. Monthly Maintenance Plan for Ground Maintenance
 - 1.1. Daniel Jenkins and CJ Natteal stated that they currently mow the cemetery twice per month.
 - 1.2. Andrea McCray asked if Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens could offer any assistance to them.
 - 1.3. Strother (CJ) Natteal IV walked out (and did not return), as he said that he did not like the way the conversation went last time with Andrea McCray.
 - 1.4. Daniel Jenkins said that he was happy to help and would continue to mow the grass at the cemetery twice a month. Andrea McCray stated that we would like to coordinate with them for the Quarterly clean up to prevent overlapping.
 - 1.5. Daniel Jenkins noted that sometimes a small donation is rendered towards gas. The donation does not cover their labor or volunteer efforts.
 - 1.6. Andrea McCray noted that the City of Crystal River has provided dumpster service and debris pick-up for Crystal Memorial Gardens at our request. The City does not want to leave the dumpsters on site continuously to avoid abuse.
 - 1.7. Andrea McCray noted that the City of Crystal River has a contractor who maintains their two cemeteries within the city limits of Crystal River.

2. The attendees of the community meeting agreed that the cemetery needs the following:
 - 2.1. Land Grading (For crypts and headstones that have sunken below ground)
 - 2.2. Headstone Cleaning and Restoration
 - Andrea McCray noted a meeting with Gary Ellis of Gulf Archaeological Research Institute. It is essential that headstones are cleaned by properly trained individuals with a certified method for preservation. Our cemetery is historic, and the headstones are precious artifacts.
 - A Cemetery Resource Protection Training is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th with the Florida Public Archaeology Network. This training is open to the public. You may register on our website at www.friendsofcmgcemetery.com.
 - 2.3. Benches
 - 2.4. Entrance Sign(s)
 - 2.5. Cemetery Arch Restoration
 - 2.6. Perimeter Fence and Security Gate
 - 2.7. Paved Road (all around Perimeter)
 - 2.8. Request Boundary Survey with Elevation
 - 2.9. Lighting
 - 2.10. Burial Research, Documentation, Listing, Directory
 - 2.11. Sidewalks (more information needed)
3. Check with Black Cemetery Network and Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) to see who has worked with Ground Penetrating Radar for a model for our Cemetery Preservation Plan.
 - 3.1. Andrea McCray - Check with Gary Ellis and Nigel Rudolph.
 - 3.2. Terri Moore – Check with Resource in Eatonville
4. Historical Designation / Updates
 - 4.1. Citrus County Historical Society
 - We need to update our historical facts within the county.
 - Terri Moore volunteered to contact and work with the Citrus County Historical Society, along with Josh McCray.
 - Andrea McCray can supply the information she has available. We are continuing to update our Historic Information and Family Lineage Information and welcome submissions.
 - 4.2. Historical Marker (Florida Historical Marker Program)
<https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/historical-markers/>
 - 4.3. Florida Master Site File Update - The Florida Master Site File is the State of Florida's official inventory of historical, cultural resources.
<https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/master-site-file/>
 - 4.4. National History Marker Program
5. Fundraising Options
 - 5.1. Buy A Brick Program
 - 5.2. Kristy Kreme Doughnuts Campaign
 - 5.3. 2025 MLK Leadership Gala
 - Tentative Date is planned for a Saturday in February 2025.
 - More information as it becomes available.
 - 5.4. Cookbook
 - Richard Brady volunteered to lead this effort.
 - More information as it becomes available.

Cemetery Preservation Plan

1. Create a master plan. When preservation of a cemetery comes into public focus, there is a sense that restoration work must be immediate. When cemetery preservation efforts are rushed, serious consequences may result. A wise first step in preserving an historic cemetery is the development of a Master Plan. Good plans include an integrated approach for gravesite documentation, treatment, and maintenance. It will include plans for landscape issues and establish a list of priorities.
2. Document the cemetery. Create a field survey sheet for the documentation of each grave site. If possible, store information in a computer database. Enlist others to assist in this documentation. It is important to provide volunteers with training on identification of monument types and ways to note condition prior to field surveys so that the information is consistent. Make sure that accurate inscriptions from tombstones are recorded. Try to identify the material from which the grave marker is constructed.
3. Assess the condition of gravesites. Inspect individual tombs on a regular basis for structural defects. Are the grave markers broken? Note the conditions of the tomb and its surrounding environment. Is standing water present that can aid in plant growth, or accelerate deterioration of masonry joints? Is vegetation growing on surfaces? What is the condition of the landscape around the tomb? Keep this information on your field survey forms.
4. Evaluate the landscape. Assess landscape elements including the trees, shrubs, and plants, but the pathways, roads, benches, and lighting of the cemetery. Think long term about the landscape. Will trees cause damage in the future? Are they healthy? Consider how the cemetery is currently used and determine circulation of people and/or cars within its boundaries. Consider security issues and the need for fences. Remember that landscape aesthetics have changed over the years. Don't try to apply your personal aesthetic to an historic cemetery.
5. Prioritize the work. Consider the needs of the particular cemetery and create a list of projects based on those needs. Is the cemetery secure? Has it been documented? Are all the graves identified? Are there tombs at risk of collapse? Is historical research needed? Keep in mind the need for both short-term and long-term efforts. Assess the resources you currently have available.
6. Consider treatments. Conservation of stone monuments, sculpture and ironwork is usually the last effort that should be undertaken. Know the strengths and limitations of people assisting in the preservation effort. Cleaning stones should be done with the gentlest means possible. Begin with water and a soft brush. Do not use household bleach or abrasive techniques. The repair of tombstones and monuments requires previous experience with historical materials and treatments. Only skilled conservators should undertake restoration of tablets and sculpture.

7. Examine maintenance issues. Regularly scheduled maintenance for the monuments and grounds of the cemetery is an excellent way to practice preventative preservation. Maintain the landscaping next to tombs. Keep in mind that caution must be used when operating power equipment near masonry or ironwork. Training for maintenance and ground crews will minimize damage to markers.
8. Seek professional assistance. Conservation treatments are frequently time consuming and expensive. Contract with people who have experience with historical materials and who respect the original fabric of the tombs. Ask contractors for details about their previous work. Can they provide a written plan for their proposed work that includes materials to be used in the treatments? Are they members of professional organizations such as the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)? Are they insured?
9. Involve the community. Seek volunteers within the community. Use the cemetery as an educational and historical resource. Consider involving elementary schools, high schools, and colleges in projects. Cemeteries can be places to learn about science, math, art, ethnography, and history. Involve the community in fund-raising efforts, such as annual cemetery tours.