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

Cemetery Preservation Plan

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- Evaluate the landscape. Assess landscape elements including the trees, shrubs, and plants, but the pathways, roads, benches and lighting of the cemetery. Think longterm 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.

- 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?

Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Community Meeting

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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?

- 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.

Projects

Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery Projects

1) Boundary Survey (Parcel 1 and Parcel 2)
- Per email from Andrew Carbaugh with C & A Survey on 01/30/2024;
- Initial estimate of $1,800 for a Boundary only survey of the two parcels.

2) Quarterly Community Cemetery Clean Ups

Identified Needs
- Monthly Maintenance Plan - Continuous Ground Maintenance
  - Tree Trimming and Clean-up
  - Dumpster and Trash Removal
- Headstones Cleaning and Restoration
- Benches
- Entrance Sign(s)
- Cemetery Arch Reconstruction
- Perimeter Fence / Security Video / Security Gate
- Paved Road(s)
- Burial Documentation / Listing / Directory
- Ground Penetrating Radar Location
- Question: Are Sidewalk(s) Needed?

History Designation/ Updates
- Citrus County Historical Society
- Historical Marker (Florida Historical Marker Program)
  https://dos.fl.gov/historical/preservation/historical-markers/
- 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/
- National History Marker Program

Fundraising Options
- Buy A Brick Program
- Kristy Kreme Doughnuts Campaign
- 2025 MLK Leadership Gala
- Ideas

Notes/ Next Steps: