

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Wesley McMahon, Chair
Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission

SUBJECT: Request to Reconsider the Designation of a Cemetery Champion Seat on the Commission

DATE: September 17, 2019

On September 17, 2019, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to forward to the Council the following request and recommendation:

In FY 2019, the Council decided to sunset the Cemetery Advisory Board, which ended on June 30, 2019. In order to assure that cemetery operations have adequate citizen input, the Council directed that one seat on the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission be reserved for a "Cemetery Champion".

The Commission has twice tried to fill the vacant Cemetery Champion seat. In both cases the available applicants declined to attend a Commission meeting when invited. The Council did appoint someone to fill the vacant seat in late FY 2019, however that person resigned prior to attending a meeting.

The Commission discussed the situation at our September 2019 meeting. We understand the spirit and intention of this seat as representing the interests of families with loved ones interned in our cemeteries, as well as citizens who value these lands for their aesthetic and historic value. We have community members who are ready to serve on the Commission but not as a "Cemetery Champion". During this time period of attempting to fill the Cemetery Champion seat we have been without a full Commission. We believe the Commission is capable of fulfilling this goal of representing cemetery interests without a designated seat and that the community and Town Council benefit from a full Commission. Because of this, we recommend that the Cemetery Champion seat be changed to a "regular" seat.