



Board of Public Works and Safety

Agenda Item

Cover Sheet

MEETING DATE: March 27, 2018

☒ New Item for Discussion

☐ Previously Discussed Item

☐ Miscellaneous

ITEM #: 9

INITIATED BY: Evelyn Lees

☒ Information Attached

☐ Bring Paperwork from Previous Meeting

☐ Verbal

☐ No Paperwork at Time of Meeting



TO: Board of Public Works and Safety

FROM: Evelyn Lees, Clerk *EL*

RE: Improvements at Riverside Cemetery

As the trustees of Riverside Cemetery, you should be kept abreast of recent and ongoing projects. Following is a quick summary.

- ❖ Last fall, the chain link fence from the maintenance shed west and then south to the southern boundary of the cemetery was replaced with the same black metal fencing used at the east and north sides. A long term goal is to replace the chain link fence along the south end of the cemetery with the same black metal fence, so the cemetery would be completely bordered with the same fencing. The final section will require prep work and funding, so I will work with the Street Department as resources become available.
- ❖ At the same time the fencing was replaced, we also had Babyland fenced in. Babyland was established and used in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. Nineteen infants are buried there, but only six graves are marked. Fewer and fewer people knew the boundaries, so we felt it was important to mark off the area. The fence was installed just west of the Veterans memorial, and soon a sign listing the babies' names will be installed.
- ❖ At your August 15, 2017 meeting you approved the application for State Heritage Cemetery signs. Two of the three signs have been installed, one at each entrance to the cemetery. The third sign will be installed soon, just outside the north side of the cemetery at the Riverwalk trail head.
- ❖ Last year, GIS took on the daunting project of mapping the entire cemetery. Shawn Louks has worked to enter the data, which has included probing the graves to make sure of locations. As he moved into the older parts of the cemetery, he discovered headstones that had fallen down and over time become covered with sod. He has been able to uncover the still legible headstones, which the Street Department will reset. So far he has

uncovered 32 headstones! He has completed GIS entry of most of the cemetery, with only the oldest part west of the old reviewing stand left to map. The information is given to Mike Morris and Rick Ehlin to prepare for the website. When the project is finished, anyone will be able to go to our website, click on a grave, and see information about the deceased and a picture of the headstone. Jacquie Thompson is also working to reorganize our paper records and match them with the GIS data. Thanks to their dedicated work, the project will be completed much sooner than anticipated.

The next project will be preservation and restoration of the markers, which we are researching. I will also work with the Street Department to update our fees for the cemetery, which have not changed since 2004.

An important function of the City is the preservation of Noblesville's history, and with the help of several people, we are making good progress at Riverside Cemetery.