



**FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA
CITY HALL – 1104 MAPLE STREET
JULY 8, 2021 4:30 PM**

Members: Austin, Bridges, Crawford, Dexter, Elfers, Haase, Hoard, Huffington, Johnson, Tompkins

Staff Liaison: Derek Barry

Topic: Forestry & Parks Commission Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sumnerwa-gov.zoom.us/j/4457822286?pwd=ZEIQT3VocW1RbFN0Tk8vT212Z0podz09>

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CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Austin, Bridges, Crawford, Dexter, Elfers, Haase, Hoard, Huffington, Johnson, Tompkins

COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. Approval of June 2021 Forestry & Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
2. Draft 2021 Cemetery Master Plan

REPORTS

1. Parks Master Plans - Update
2. Main Street Vision
3. Senior Center Tree Removal

ADJOURNMENT

Forestry & Parks Commission Meeting

6/10/2021

Zoom

Meeting called by: Derek Barry

Type of meeting: Forestry & Parks Commission

Facilitator: Derek Barry

Note taker: Derek Barry

Attendees: Commissioners Bridges, Crawford, Dexter, Huffington, Johnson, Kenna, Tompkins, Community Services Manager Derek Barry, Parks Supervisor Dan Gates

Minutes

Agenda item: Approval of May 2021 meeting minutes

Presenter: Derek Barry

Discussion:

Approved the minutes of the May 2021 meeting.

Conclusions:

Approved

Agenda item: Park Land Donation

Presenter: Derek Barry

Discussion:

Staff presented the Qunell Park land donation and the process in which it took place. This included identifying areas of town that were underserved and working with property owner to help fill that need. Staff explained this land donation happened quickly and that we will be discussing the process of developing that land in the coming months.

Agenda item: Cemetery Master Plan

Presenter: Derek Barry

Discussion:

Staff shared a brief history of the 1997 Cemetery Master Plan and what the 2021 Cemetery Master Plan is intending to do. The draft plan will be sent to Forestry & Parks Commissioners to review for discussion at the July 2021 meeting.

Agenda item: Parks Master Plans

Presenter: Derek Barry

Discussion:

Staff asked Commissioners to visit the Seibenthaler and Bennett property sites to get a vision for what the parks could and should be. The planning for these parks will include a lot of community and stakeholder outreach. As the planning becomes more active updates will be given at the meetings. Eventually 2-3 concepts will be narrowed down to a preferred concept for phasing and cost estimates.

Agenda item: Commissioner comments

Presenter: Derek Barry

Discussion:

Commissioners discussed a proposal to not allow smoking in parks. Staff will be presenting this to the CD Director, City Administrator and Mayor for further consideration.

Agenda item: Staff Comments

Presenter: Derek Barry

Discussion:

Staff gave a brief update on the public restrooms being back in the neighborhood parks. There are still logistical issues in getting the gates automated.

Draft 2021 Cemetery Master Plan

INTRODUCTION

LOCATION

Located 10 miles east of Tacoma and 30 miles south of Seattle, the City of Sumner is part of the south Puget Sound region that was originally inhabited by the Coast Salish, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Although located within an urban region, the city is somewhat separated from other communities by agriculture land, rivers, and hills. Urban development continues to increase, and with it the City's and the region's population.

In addition to providing typical City services such as streets, water, sewer, parks, and police protection, the city owns and operates a cemetery which serves the city and the east Pierce and south King County area. As the region and City grows, the demand on all services including cemetery services increase.

With a total of 45.4 acres, the Sumner Cemetery is located west of SR-167 and west of the City of Sumner proper. The cemetery is bisected by Valley Avenue East with the "Pioneer" Cemetery located on the north side of the street and the "New" Cemetery located on the south side of the street.

CEMETERY HISTORY

"As the pioneer families settled in the valley, some of the families' children died bringing into question where they should be buried. Four children were buried at what is now North Puyallup. In time, a road was planned to pass over the burial sites. In response, Isaac and Mary Woolery donated 2 acres from their farm claim to create a cemetery in order to have a place to move the children's bodies. Three of the four families elected to move their children's remains. In 1864 the Pioneer Cemetery was established. Several men incorporated the Pioneer Cemetery on April 23, 1877 and formed the Puyallup Valley Cemetery Association. In 1902, the "Town" section of the cemetery was added. William Woolery, son of Isaac Woolery, acted as sexton for the Pioneer Cemetery until the two sections were united. Sumner took over management of the cemetery in the 1920's. Up until 1925 the cemetery was rather uncared for. Mayor Lewis Ryan appointed Dewey Coffman as the first Caretaker to clean up and maintain the cemetery grounds." -Amy Ryan, The Sumner Story

In 1943, 11 acres were purchased across Valley Avenue East to form the Pioneer Cemetery. In 1947, the "New Sumner Cemetery" was dedicated with the guidance of Caretaker Ivan Swarthout. The early development consisted of a flat marker section, a raised marker section, a cemetery office, and a monument to honor our VFW veterans which greeted you at the entrance. A few years later an Urn Garden, a Catholic section, and Babyland were opened. The Garden Mausoleum opened in 1958, the Chapel Mausoleum in 1971, along with the Companion Double Depth section. The Rose Garden section opened in 1982 and the section 219 urn garden in 1995.

A second entrance was created in 2007 west of the original entrance. A new upright monument full burial section was complimented by the installation of six large banks of cremation niches. In 2016, the Heritage Farm cremation garden was established, and in 2017 the cemetery office was updated to include a more comfortable meeting space and an ADA accessible restroom.

PURPOSE

To address future development of cemetery property and outline strategies to accomplish them. The 2021 Master Plan includes a summary of the 1997 Cemetery Master Plan, what was forecasted, what was accomplished, and what we learned from it moving forward. The plan will include a list of our current structures and burial sections. It will include details of our environmental features as well as a description of the demographic memorial/burial trends in our region and how we will plan to address our future development to meet those trends.

SUMMARY OF THE 1997 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The 1997 Cemetery Master Plan called for the construction of a series of mausoleum buildings in a courtyard setting near the existing Chapel Mausoleum. It identified how all existing reserve property should be developed in each of the plan's four phases.

Phase I, (1997-2002) called for the construction of the first of three new mausoleum buildings to include a courtyard with a fountain. This phase also included a large berm with crypts on the south end of the property near SR-167. A few smaller improvements were called out for the Pioneer Cemetery. None of the projects in Phase I were completed.

Phase II, (2002-2007) called for updating the Cemetery office to include an ADA restroom, constructing a wall along Valley Avenue East in the Pioneer Cemetery, planting of trees in Pioneer Cemetery and paving to areas that were part of Phase I. Three major projects were completed during this time including opening a second entrance with paving to the Cemetery Office, creation of an upright marker burial section between the new entrance and the office and a series of granite niches directly west of the office.

Phase III, (2007-2012) included seven items that were never started. The goals included follow up on earlier projects that were not accomplished.

Phase IV, (2012-2017) called for mitigation to the wetland area, the sale of the rental house (removed in 2007), and construction of a "view Cremation Garden". In 2016 the Heritage Farm cremation garden was created and in 2017 the cemetery office was remodeled to make a more inviting space to meet with families and included an ADA accessible restroom.



Figure 1 Entrance to the Heritage Farm cremation garden.



Figure 2 View from the Heritage Farm cremation garden

SITE LAYOUT

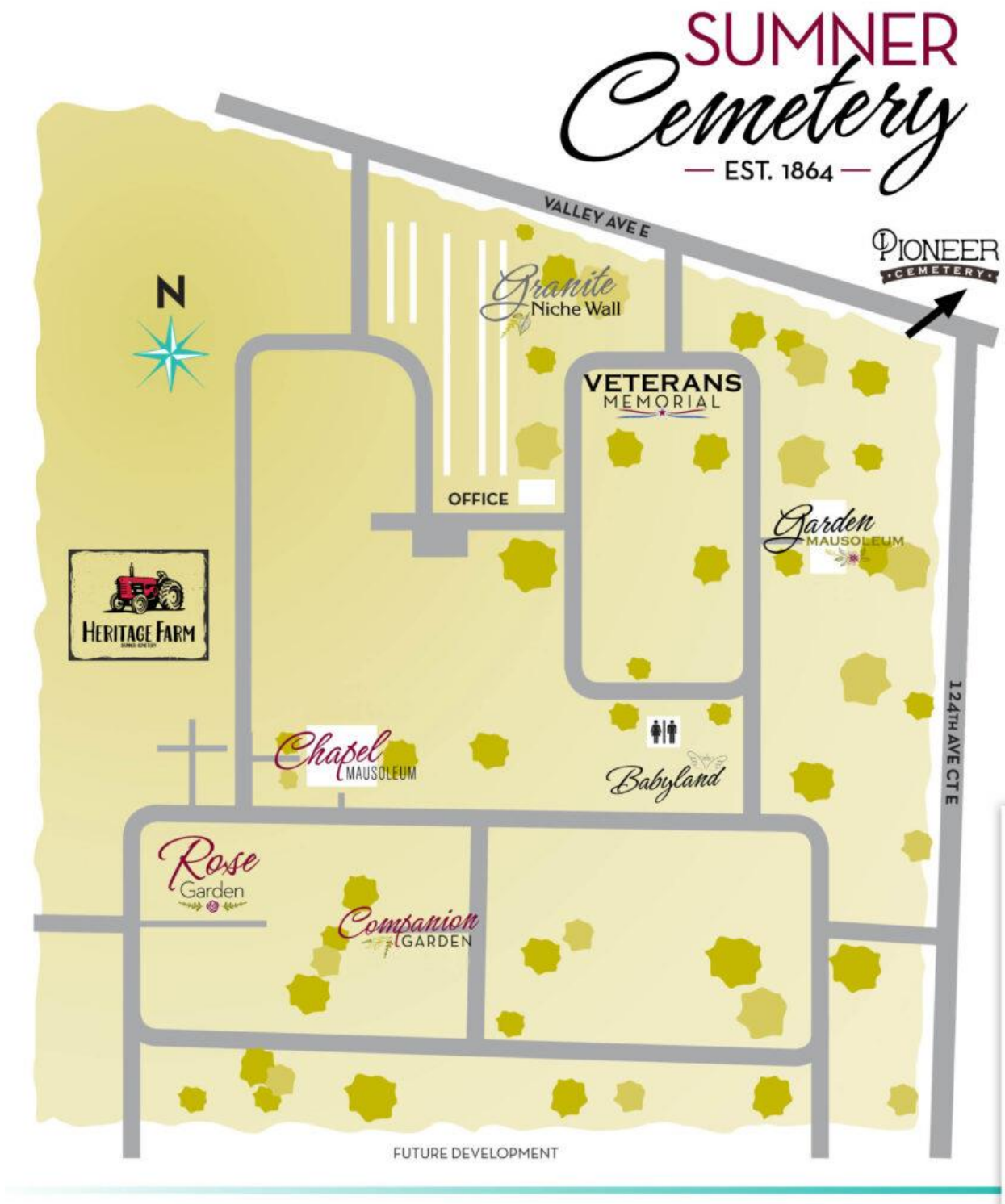


Figure 3 Map of currently developed areas of the Sumner Cemetery.

Existing Structures

In the Pioneer Cemetery lies the old unused office building from 1937 and the more ornate headstones. The Powers Funeral Home Woodlawn Abbey Mausoleum & Crematory lies immediately adjacent to the Pioneer Cemetery but is not located on City property.



Figure 4 The Pioneer Cemetery being watered in the morning.

The New Cemetery includes an office, restroom, shop and two mausoleums. The Garden Mausoleum was dedicated in 1958. The Chapel mausoleum was constructed in 1971.



Figure 5 The Cemetery Office shortly after being remodeled.



Figure 6 Cemetery Office gathering area.



Figure 7 Cemetery Office showroom.



Figure 8 Garden Mausoleum.

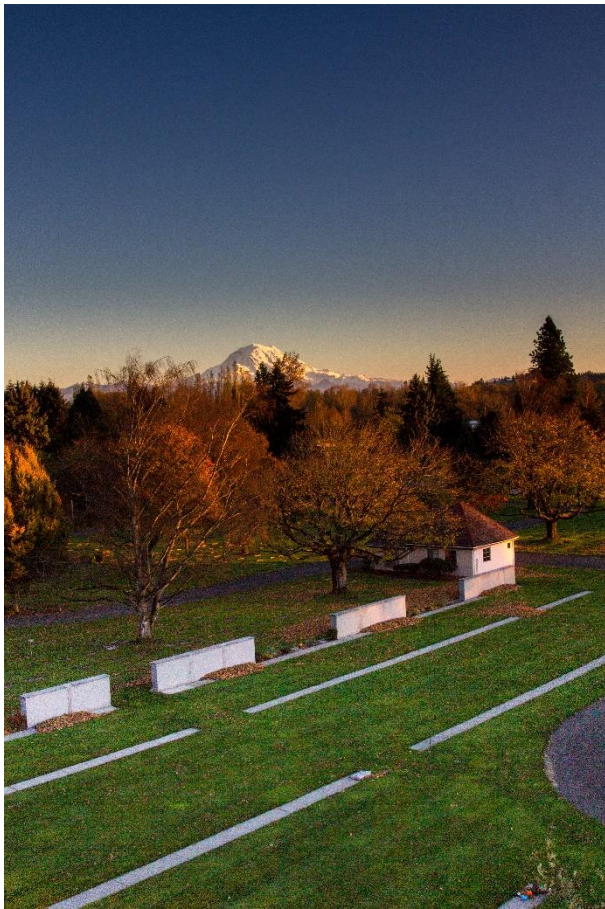


Figure 9 Autumn sunset above the Cemetery Office.

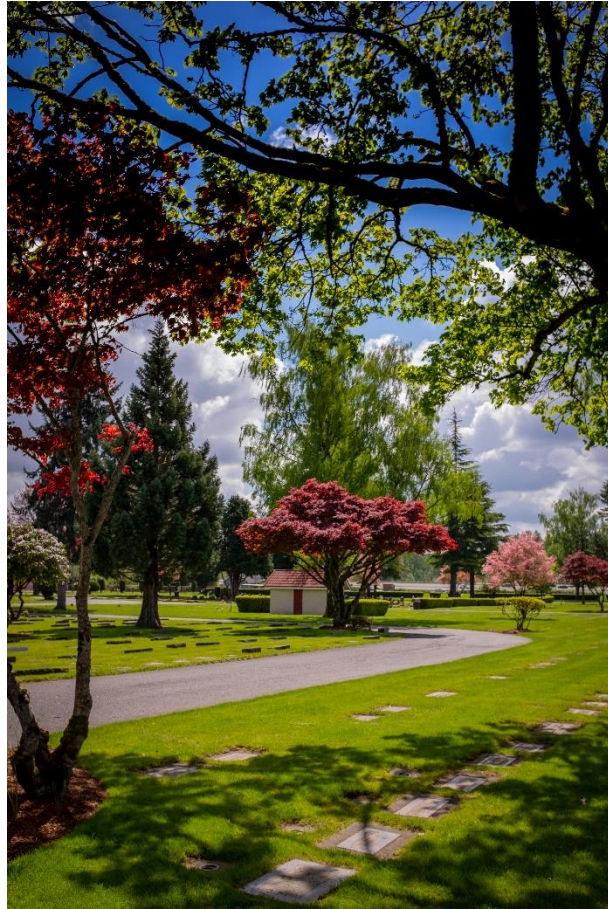


Figure 10 Cemetery grounds.

Land and Mausoleum Capacity

The cemetery provides a variety of burial options including an open mausoleum (Garden Mausoleum), an indoor mausoleum (Chapel Mausoleum), a Rose Garden, and Companion Garden for double depth burial, an urn garden, and traditional burial plots. In the developed portions of the cemetery there is adequate capacity for full-size ground plots. Niches could also be added in freestanding niche walls in the currently developed portion of the Cemetery or in expansion areas.

Utilities

Water is provided from an on-site well. Irrigation pipes provide water to the landscaped areas of the developed cemetery property. Detailed irrigation plans are in Cemetery office files.

No sewer lines have been extended to the cemetery site. A septic field lies adjacent to the east side of the Cemetery office.

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

Soils

The predominant soil type for the entire cemetery is Puyallup fine sandy loam. This nearly level soil is well drained. Slopes are 0 to 3 percent. Permeability is moderately rapid. The effective rooting depth is more than 60 inches. Surface runoff is slow, and there is a slight erosion hazard.

Soil limitations include potential problems with shallow excavations because the cutbanks cave. The soil type is generally favorable for constructing small buildings and local roads and for recreational development. It has a low shrink-swell potential and a moderate potential for risk of corrosion to steel or concrete.

Hydrology

The Cemetery property, like most property in the valley, is considered an aquifer recharge area. The depth to ground water is generally less than six feet. It is not located in a flood plain.

A stream is found on the undeveloped western portion of the cemetery property. It is considered a type 4 stream by the State Department of Natural Resources (Official Water Type Map, April 1992). A type 4 stream is a natural water body that are perennial or intermittent, but which influence the downstream water quality of higher-class streams. City of Sumner wildlife habitat area regulations require a 50-foot setback from the ordinary high-water mark of Type 4 streams. A lesser setback of 25 feet may be allowed if stream enhancement is provided.

Wetlands

One wetland (totaling 2.04 acres) is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The wetland was delineated in 2015 and reconfirmed and rated in 2020. The wetland receives water via a

historical stream and culverts, directing water southward towards Highway 167. The wetland surrounding the streambed contains palustrine emergent with some scrub-shrub and aquatic bed vegetation. The wetland is classified as a Washington Department of Ecology and City of Sumner Category II riverine wetland that is dominated largely by invasive reed canary grass and yellow flag iris. The wetland provides moderate levels of water quality, hydrologic, and habitat functions. As part of a cemetery expansion several years ago, a portion of the wetlands was filled (approximately 0.25 acres) under a U.S. Army Corps Nationwide Permit #26.

Surrounding Land Use

The Cemetery is an island of incorporated land that is separated from the rest of the city by about ½ mile. The unincorporated land in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery is a mix of single family residential, businesses, and the SR167/410 freeway to the south. The zoning within Pierce County is largely Moderate Density Single-family residential (MSF) and allows for single-family developments at 5-7 dwelling units per acre. The Pioneer Cemetery is near an area zoned Employment Center that allows commercial and light industrial uses.

Future development in the areas near the cemetery would require urban services such as water and sewer to be extended. The area is also within the City of Sumner Urban Growth Area, therefore, the property between the cemetery and the rest of the city could be annexed at some time in the future. Within the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan surrounding area is zoned for Low Density Residential and allows for mostly single-family residential uses similar to the County.

The current and long-term land uses surrounding the cemetery will continue to be lower density residential development.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The State of Washington ranks third in the nation in cremation percentage (78.7%) behind Nevada and Oregon. The Puyallup Valley is slightly behind this trend at around 65%. The trend toward cremation versus full burial is increasing and the plan is to create new ways to attract this growing cremation market. *2019-Cremation Association of North America

Given increasing trends toward more cremations the need for mausoleums and crypt space dropped dramatically and the development rate of full burial space is much slower than what was projected. This Master Plan reflects changing demand for full burial space by keeping the reserve space available for future use as trends and needs change. Vacant areas near developed portions of the Cemetery will be utilized with complimentary uses.

"Green Burials" are an emerging trend in the market today. Green burials are more natural and environmentally friendly than more conventional modern burials. There are a few requirements for a Green Burial; no embalming is used and there is no liner or vault. There is no requirement for a casket, though if one is desired, it must be made of pine, other soft wood, or wicker. The body is shrouded at an approved funeral home. A green funeral is also a little different as the family is allowed to take part

in the procession to the graveside as well as help lower the body into the grave and take part in the actual burial, if so desired. Green Burial sections are left in a more natural state, cared for by hand without much power equipment. They are bordered by native trees, shrubs, plants, and wildflowers.

The Sumner Cemetery is well positioned to offer the green burial option to the region. There are currently only six cemeteries offering Green Burial options in the state; three are north of Redmond while the other three are south and east of Vancouver. This puts the Sumner Cemetery right in the middle, centered in the South Puget Sound region. Green burials will likely grow in popularity as it becomes a more environmentally attractive option. A Green Burial alternative is an opportunity to provide a much-needed service while introducing others in the area to the charm of our community.

With the growing trend of cremation, we currently have three different options for families to choose from. Heritage Farm is a ground urn burial option set in a garden like setting in a theme to honor our farming history. This section is set in an area that will allow for future growth for 20 or more years. The Granite Niche Wall is located near the cemetery office and offers single and companion niches with inventory to last another 25 years at the current pace of sales. This series of niche walls could have additional banks placed behind them in the future to double the number of niches we have installed currently. Thirdly, we have Glass Front Niches in the Chapel Mausoleum. These offer a personal option where you see the urn through the glass and are allowed to add a small photo and keepsake item. Again, we could create an outdoor courtyard in the future to allow for the installation of many more niches.

MARKETING AND SALES

While Sumner remains a traditional small town, the cremation to burial rate continues to trend toward cremation. Our goal should be to create spaces that accommodate all these trends and their necessary price points. We must be prepared to provide markers and vases to be a lasting tribute in all our grave spaces. These spaces need to consider the long-term maintenance required and how much time is required day to day to keep up.

There should be a marketing plan and it should be visited often. A municipal cemetery has the advantage of being able to have many skilled members who can assist in the success of the plan. The Community Development Department, the Communications Dept. as well as others that can shine a light on the benefit of using Sumner Cemetery and promoting not only the beauty of the grounds but also the many options available for memorial. There should always be a sense of trust that the tradition of caring for the community will continue into the future. We will continue to offer our preneed Trust for those wanting to take care of all the future costs. We have done a good job of creating multiple price points for our cremation as well as the full burial market. The important ingredient is the way in which the grounds are kept. This is our strength and will ensure our success as we move forward in the future.

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

STATE LEGISLATION

Title 68 of the Revised Code of Washington includes regulations addressing cemeteries, morgues, and human remains. Key sections address the operation of cemeteries by municipalities as well as the regulation of private cemeteries, and these are discussed below.

Cities may enact ordinances regulating or prohibiting the establishment of new cemeteries or expansion of them. Planning commissions can make recommendations to legislative bodies regarding the regulation of cemeteries. Current zoning code regulations specifically allow cemeteries, public or private, in all zones by conditional use permit, except the Low-Density Residential District where it would be allowed by conditional use permit under the category "public facilities." The LDR District chapter should be amended to include the specific category "cemeteries" in the list of uses allowed by conditional use permit. The Sumner Cemetery is zoned LDR-12, and Cemetery expansion into unplatted areas would require a conditional use permit.

Every cemetery is required to survey and subdivide lands into sections, blocks, plots, avenues, walks, or other subdivisions. In case of a mausoleum or columbarium maps delineating sections, halls, rooms, corridors, elevations, and other divisions with descriptive names or numbers are to be prepared. Maps are required to be recorded with the County Auditor. Maps may be amended if the changes would not disturb interred remains. After filing the maps with the County, a cemetery is allowed to sell and convey plots. As discussed previously, the city has several plat maps of the Pioneer and New Cemetery, but not all have been recorded with the County. It is recommended that the Pioneer Cemetery and New Cemetery be surveyed, and new maps recorded with the County to address the actual development of the cemetery which has differed somewhat from previously recorded maps. In addition, maps of the mausoleums will need to be recorded with the County.

Cities may provide for a cemetery board to be appointed by the Mayor. In 1980, the City formed a Cemetery Advisory Committee in accordance with Chapter 2.72 of the Sumner Municipal Code. This Advisory Committee has been participating greatly in the preparation of the Cemetery Master Plan to be completed in the Fall of 1996.

There are detailed State requirements regarding the establishment of cemetery improvement funds, and care and investment funds which are described later in this report.

Cemetery districts are allowed to make joint purchases. The city may want to inquire if this also allows municipal cemeteries to make joint purchases. There are several municipal cemeteries in south King County and northeastern Pierce County. Joint purchasing of supplies or equipment could result in cost savings for all participating cemeteries. Joint purchasing between City departments could also be considered such as between the Sumner Cemetery and Sumner Public Works Department.

State laws also address civil penalties for cemetery vandalism and defacement. The City may wish to

reference these in its own regulations, as well as consider additional security measures.

CEMETERY OPERATIONS

Sumner Cemetery operations are governed by various ordinances and codified in Chapter 8.04 of the Sumner Municipal Code. The Chapter addresses the ownership of lots, records of ownership, fees, interments, disinterments, care and improvement of the cemetery, decoration, and other items.

CEMETERY STAFF

One cemetery administrative specialist and two groundskeepers serve as full-time primary staff for the facilities. In addition to maintenance, the cemetery staff schedules and witnesses burials, and markets the facilities on a limited basis. This staff level currently maintains 27 acres of the total 45+ acre Cemetery property. Additional staff support is provided by the Community Services Manager (program oversight) and Finance Department (payroll and accounting). As newer portions of the Cemetery are developed, staffing changes may be needed to ensure adequate services and care.

CEMETERY FINANCE

The Cemetery functions under a financial structure which is currently comprised of two funds: Cemetery Operations Fund, and the Cemetery Endowment Fund. Since the inception of the Cemetery in 1902, the Cemetery's financial and funding structure has varied significantly. In addition to the above funds, there have been created over the years several other funds including a Cemetery Improvement Fund, Perpetual Care Fund, a Cemetery Development Fund, and Cemetery Extension Fund.

The Cemetery operates as a business through an enterprise fund and budget where revenues from the sale of burial plots, vaults, markers, crypts, niches, and various services are established to help cover the costs of operation. The revenues that have been distributed into the operating fund and development fund have fluctuated significantly over the years. The revenues derived from other sales and services are deposited entirely into the Cemetery Operating Fund.

The Cemetery Endowment Fund appears to have been created to provide for the perpetual care and operation of the Cemetery. The intended use of this fund has been to operate off the investment interest generated from fund balances once the revenue base ceases to exist upon full build out of the Cemetery.

The Endowment Fund is currently set up as a trust fund with income generated from investment interest and proceeds from cemetery plot sales used to perpetuate the care and operation of the Sumner Cemetery.

OVERALL ECONOMIC POSITION

In analyzing the financial condition of the Cemetery, it is necessary to look at the status of all existing funds. There has been marginal stability in the financial operations over the many years of the Cemetery's operation, although there have been some favorable signs of improvement to the cash flow the last few years. History has shown that the Cemetery operations has had to either borrow from other funds periodically, be subsidized by the General Fund or modify the amount of proceeds from Cemetery sales and services to keep the Cemetery solvent. It is anticipated that the General Fund will continue subsidizing the operations of the Cemetery into the future.

Although sales at the Cemetery have continued to fluctuate, the trend is to continue to see a continuation of growth in interments at a slow to moderate rate. Much of the growth in the future is highly dependent upon future enhancements to Cemetery facilities and services.

Maintaining a competitive rate structure for sales and services provided at the Cemetery are necessary to maintain economic viability. As a result, a comparative rate analysis has been conducted to examine the Sumner Cemetery's rates with other cemeteries within the region. This rate comparison indicates that the Sumner Cemetery lags some of the surrounding cemeteries, thus leaving some room for a rate adjustment.

Reasonable and responsible growth in the future enhancements and capital development of the Cemetery facilities and land should be one of the primary objectives for the city. The creation of the Cemetery Development Fund appears to have been established for funding such improvements by functioning as a capital asset fund.

As the Cemetery begins to run out of space for burial plots, the Development Fund shall provide the funding source for improving the Cemetery to provide more plots, mausoleum, and gardens. To date, this relatively small funding source has only generated \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually from investment income and 20% of the proceeds from lot sales. The revenue source to fund the planned improvements was removed in 2018 to provide additional funding to the Operations Fund. That decision should be revisited and the 20% of the lot sales proceeds would help fund future improvements.

The "Cost, Revenue and Capacity Analysis" section of this report describes the costs and revenue resources for the future expansion and enhancement of the Cemetery. Since the capital improvement projects will be costly, it will be necessary to track the percentage of revenue coming from future lot sales and distributed into this fund, especially if the debt financing of those projects is to be paid from this fund.

The Cemetery Endowment Fund currently receives revenues from investment income and 10% of the revenue generated from lot sales. The Cemetery has sufficient property for future development well into the next century and beyond. The question that remains is how much money needs to be accrued and sustained in this account to satisfy the financial needs to perpetuate the operation of the Cemetery.

FINANCIAL CONCLUSION

Although the heritage and sentiment of the Cemetery are of utmost concern, the Cemetery still needs to run efficiently and professionally as a business for it to effectively survive. Maintaining a competitive rate structure, enhancing, and expanding the Cemetery facilities and services, controlling operational costs, and implementing marketing strategies will result in further strides toward a stable, and attractive Cemetery operation to be sustained on a perpetual basis. To meet these objectives, a few changes and improvements need to be implemented with the funds and financial structure of the Cemetery.

The Cemetery Operating Fund needs to increase its revenue resources to ensure a stable financial base and maintain sufficient cash flow. The Cemetery Development Fund requires a specific delineation of purpose which should be to fund the future capital improvement of the cemetery. To accomplish this goal, there will need to be a realignment of revenues being distributed into this fund as the Cemetery increases its funding of capital improvement projects. The Cemetery Endowment Fund should continue to be utilized for the purpose of accruing revenue for funding the perpetual operation of the Cemetery; however, the amount of revenue needed to accomplish this goal is so speculative, since the Cemetery is decades away from being fully developed, that there is no reasonable way of determining the amount of funds needed to perpetuate the Cemetery's operation at this time.

SUMNER CEMETERY MASTER PLAN

VISION STATEMENT

THE COMMITMENT

The Sumner Cemetery provides a range of burial services, a place for reflection, and a source of genealogical data, all in a historic and park like setting. For the future success of the cemetery, we recognize the importance of our customers, the need to continue improving services, our obligation to be financially responsible, the necessity of marketing, and the unique role the cemetery plays for individual and community remembrances.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer service is essential for the success of the cemetery. We meet with families, often when they are most vulnerable and are needing a guiding hand. Thankfully, the pricing for goods and services is set by committee and we do not have the pressure to sell that most experience at the funeral home. Because of this, we can offer our products and services while trust is gained with each customer. We strive to say “yes” as often as possible while adhering to our regulations.

MARKETING

As a municipal cemetery, we must always be sensitive as we attempt to reach out and promote ourselves. Our new cemetery website is inviting, user friendly and helps with marketing challenges. One important thing we will continue to do is bring the cemetery to the community by engaging in unique ways. We do this through helping in the community, offering after hours planning, a float in a parade, or even an old truck driving around town that makes the historic connection to the cemetery and days gone by.

COMMUNITY

The Sumner Cemetery began in 1864. Many of the early settlers in the Puyallup valley are buried here. The cemetery has been managed by the City of Sumner since approximately 1925. We feel it is a great responsibility to honor what was started so long ago. It is quite common for cemeteries to care for newer sections while allowing the older area to get less maintenance attention. At the Sumner Cemetery we give our Pioneer section the same level of care as the rest of the cemetery. Much pride is taken in the care and management of the cemetery as it is our connection to the past and our responsibility for the future.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

- Strive to be on the forefront of current trends as we care for and serve the community in the disposition of human remains.
- Provide impeccable customer service – doing our best to say yes as families plan their services and memorials.
- Continue the high standard of grounds care and maintenance knowing the impression well-kept grounds leave on our visitors.
- Be wise stewards of the property we have, both the developed as well as undeveloped sections.
- Be willing to assist the community in areas not associated with the cemetery – sharing our skills and strengths with others.

POLICIES

- The creation of Heritage Farm and “The Reserve” - Sumner’s Green Burial ground are examples of looking at not only a popular option but something we can accomplish with the space and resources available.
- While some families take a hands-off approach and let funeral directors, clergy, and others take care of their loved one – We also want to support those who are beginning to take a more personal role in the funeral process.
- Strive to maintain the cemetery grounds with an eye for detail. Continue to adapt new solutions to old irrigation systems and care for tools and equipment.
- Preserve the undeveloped pastureland to the south of the cemetery for strategic uses.

OBJECTIVES

- Continue staff development and encourage attending appropriate conferences and classes.
- Network with others in the industry – Including funeral directors.
- Create media to show the importance of ritual.
- Provide tools to help families find the level of involvement in their funeral service.
- Continue to develop individual strengths.
- Assign tasks that encourage a sense of ownership.

- Purchase equipment to make work more efficient. Network with other grounds maintenance workers
- Our short-term plan – 5 years, shows how we have designated space in the already developed unused areas. These include a future addition to the nearly full Babyland, The Rose Garden double depth section, and an area dedicated to the concept of a personal mausoleum type courtyard.
- Host non-funeral events at the cemetery to share the beauty of the Cemetery in a different light. This must be done with care knowing the sacred intent of the cemetery, but much could be done to draw people to its beauty.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The priorities for the 2021 Cemetery Master Plan will guide development and success of the Sumner Cemetery over the next 20 years. To be effective, the priorities must be continually evaluated and updated as trends emerge and the need to address them arises. The priorities include current projects already under way, a short list of possible options to address property shortages in sections that are nearly full such as Babyland and the Rose Garden. The maps on the following pages show these improvements are currently underway and sections have been designated within the already developed areas of the cemetery. These include a section set aside to create an addition to Babyland, a double-depth section like the Rose Garden, and an area designated for personal mausoleums in a courtyard type setting. The Figure XX shows other opportunities such as a Chapel/Reception building and a Veterans Plaza.

These improvements can be coordinated with the Biennial Budget cycle to break up these improvements and show the necessary funding/revenue to fund and complete each project.

DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

2019-2020

- Additional glass front niches for the Chapel Mausoleum were installed in 2020.
- Irrigate Heritage Farm
- Plant screen trees along Highway 167 and along west side to screen Heritage Farm

2021-2022

- Add a berm to Heritage Farm, Tulip- north of the tractor area.
- Create “Timber Berm” at Heritage Farm
- Plant screen trees along Highway 167
- Explore Pet Cemetery
- Explore the cost and reward of building a Chapel/Reception building
- Create Green Burial area and offer Green Burial option

2023-2024

- Complete the paving for the section 229 oval and plat out section for plots.
- Build Flag Pavilion inside new entrance as a welcoming gateway.
- Explore developing the Babyland addition

2025-2026

- Evaluate and adjust timeline to current needs and trends.