

Cemetery Rules Review

Community Meeting

October 10, 2022

Zoom Meeting Chat

18:09:17 From PARD Justin Schneider : For those who joined late, there will be a question and answer period after the presentation. You can also type your questions in the chat at any time.

18:12:26 From Sharon Weintraub : Why not tell the truth. Your leaving out a lot of the NINE years of equivocation, broken promises, and bureaucratic delay by PARD. You ar leaving out huge chunks of the history!

18:13:51 From Sharon Weintraub : If you want the whole of PARD incompetence and corruption I have a detailed and well-documented website: saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com Includes a detailed timeline.

18:15:16 From Leslie Inman : I am confused on the bench, are you saying if the bench is there now it is ok? (Assuming it is safe and not falling apart)?

18:15:20 From Sharon blythe : Did I understand correctly the PARD Director has already approved the proposed rules in September 2022?

18:15:59 From Leslie Inman : Sorry, you are going very quickly. Is a gross to the side of the monument (between two monuments) going to be acceptable?

18:16:04 From Leslie Inman : a Cross

18:17:12 From Sharon blythe : Many people do not have the computer skills to use these computer based rules. What is your plan for these people.

18:18:47 From Sharon Weintraub : The 1978 rules are void. You cannot legally or morally retroactively apply new rules to existing gravesite memorials and gardens that PARD gave implicit and explicit permission for. See my website;<http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com>

18:19:39 From PARD Justin Schneider : Thank you for the question, Sharon B. Signs will be placed at the entrances of all five cemeteries.

18:19:55 From Sharon Weintraub : See the entire timeline. Once again PARD leaves lots of facts: <http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/p/time-after-time-current-as-of-september.html>

18:21:36 From Rita Ewing : I have two plots in AMP where only flat monuments are allowed. I was told that 2 burials of cremains are allowed in each space. I have now placed the headstones of mine and my current spouse. His spot is so far bel

18:22:20 From Lina Fisher : How would someone schedule a personal appointment with PARD to go through a gravesite for compliance?

18:22:59 From Rita Ewing : below mine that there appears to be no connection to us. I am told that the stone cannot be moved.

18:24:08 From Lina Fisher : Can you give a general overview of what the rules for benches are to be in compliance, and what the protocol is for removing those benches currently if they are out of compliance?

18:24:57 From Steven Weintraub : It sounds like her voice

18:25:19 From Steven Weintraub : No

18:25:22 From Leslie Inman : Can you post the phone number for her to call?:

18:25:58 From Sharon Weintraub : Your own Master Plan expressly states that PARD should NOT use mowers over graves. Your mowers rip up graves and damage gravestones. I have pictures of deep tire tracks left by your equipment on graves. Really respectful /s!:
<http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/p/not-so-benign-neglect.html>

18:26:19 From Sharon blythe : This is a very sad day for the cemeteries since the public has been left out.

18:26:43 From Bernard Mayoff : What maintenance does PARD do to gravesites? From the proposal, I couldn't tell what was family responsibilities, what is PARD responsibilities and what happens as time goes by.

18:27:22 From PARD Caitlen Hill : Cemetery Administration Office
Phone Number: 512-978-2320

18:27:25 From Sharon Weintraub : This is not a public meeting and you are not considering any public input. This is a farce!

18:28:40 From Sharon blythe : What about following State law on the City responsibility for the care of the cemeteries. Many comments online addressed this question.

18:29:14 From Sharon Weintraub : The phone number is not working, So flippin' typical of PARD.

18:30:50 From Sharon Weintraub : Just got through on number, and got recorded message that the office is closed and I need to call back!

18:31:25 From PARD Justin Schneider : The call-in number should be provided on the email you registered with. I'm looking for the information now.

18:31:43 From PARD Justin Schneider : Your Zoom registration should have the information for the call-in.

18:32:36 From PARD Lucas Massie : Zoom call in:1 346 248 7799

18:32:38 From Sharon Weintraub : What is PARD going to do about tilted and fallen gravestones? Is it going to follow state law? Of just let the cemeteries continue to deteriorate.

18:32:44 From PARD Boyce Freitag : Thank you very much. That means alot

18:32:59 From PARD Lucas Massie : Meeting ID: 870 4723 2877

18:33:28 From Sharon blythe : Mountain Larels are along MoPac

18:33:29 From PARD Lucas Massie : Meeting Password: 78731

18:34:15 From PARD Justin Schneider : Zoom phone: US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 720 707 2699, Meeting ID: 870 4723 2877, passcode: 78731

18:34:53 From Sharon blythe : Are the new rules in effect now?

18:39:44 From Leslie Inman : What is going to be done with the monuments laying on their sides. There is one on my daughters row which is dangerous. The person died decades ago and there is no family to take care of it

18:40:21 From Sharon blythe : October 11th is way too soon to give people ot respond. Listen to the public.

18:42:18 From Leslie Inman : Two: I was given permission for two items: 1. A bench at the foot of my daughters grave. We have signed paperwork that says it is ok. I was given permission for a different bench that I was told I could chain to a tree, which i did. Because I was given that permission, I had the one that was to be placed at the foot of the grave, on my front porch. I want to be sure if I remove the bench that is currently there that I will be allowed to put a bench, as was approved, at the foot of the grave. AGain, i was given permission in 2016 for this bench. I\

18:43:07 From Steven Weintraub : I would like to know how you can revise permissions given for gardens on my daughter's and parents graves that you gave permission for

18:43:21 From PARD Justin Schneider : Sharon B., the online comment portion has been available since September 6. This is the first step of comment period available. Once rules are submitted, an additional comment period will be available through the City Clerk's Office.

18:44:28 From Sharon Weintraub : Check out <http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/>

18:44:40 From Sharon blythe : I am tripping over fallen stones what are your plans to upright them for safety reasons.

18:47:06 From Sharon Weintraub : Under Section 713.011 (Maintenance Of Municipal Cemeteries), Texas Health and Safety Code, a municipality that operates or has jurisdiction over a public cemetery must maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare. This includes:

(b) A municipality's responsibility to maintain a cemetery under this section includes:

(1) repairing and maintaining any fences, walls, buildings, roads, or other improvements;

(2) leveling or straightening markers or memorial;

(3) properly maintaining lawns, shrubbery, and other plants;

(4) removing debris, including dead flowers and deteriorated plastic ornaments; and

(5) promptly restoring gravesites following an interment.

18:47:07 From Bernard Mayoff : Thank you.

18:48:43 From Sharon Weintraub : When do you plan on every complying with the October 17, 2013, City Council resolution?

18:50:44 From Sharon Weintraub : The 1978 rules are void, nil, and unenforceable. Quit cting like they are valid.

18:51:42 From Lina Fisher : Just to be clear, one plot can't have both a bench and a headstone?

18:52:05 From Sam Scheer : When will the water system be turned back on?

18:52:09 From Sharon blythe : Tonja explanation of what the City is responsible for is incorrect. I wrote the State law Health and Safety Code 713.011. What Tonja said is not what the legislature intended at all.

18:52:14 From Sharon Weintraub : Your own 2015 Master Plan expressly recommends that you DO NOT mow over graves, but use a light-weight trimmer instead.

18:52:53 From Sharon Weintraub : The contractor was your agent and you ratified the permission by taking no action.

18:53:45 From Tracy Cornelius : Have the bathrooms been opened? (the permanent ones?) at Austin Memorial Park?

18:54:01 From Steven Weintraub : The permissions were giving by the people who were in charge (even if it was a contractor - they were your representative). Are you recinding the permission you previously gave

18:54:06 From Sharon Weintraub : Your own Master Plan states that PARD should encourage gravesite gardens to limit watering and maintenance. So what is the purpose of the Master Plan?

18:55:04 From Leslie Inman : I was there Saturday night and the sprinklers were on in section 5

18:55:15 From Sharon Weintraub : I have made a public information request regarding the water main breaks at Austin Memorial Park:<http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/p/not-drop-to-drink.html>

18:56:27 From Sharon Weintraub : The Master Plan recommended replacing the lawn with native turf and plants. Once again you have ignored the plan you paid or with taxpayer dollars.

18:57:50 From Sharon blythe : When are you going to have a real public meeting on the rules?

18:58:27 From Sharon Weintraub : Actually, AMP is open 24 hours because the low back fence allows people to easily access the cemetery. There is no security or protection at the cemetery.

19:01:30 From Sharon Weintraub : You haven't been willing to work with the pubic for over NINE years!

19:01:53 From PARD Justin Schneider : Sharon B., I'm not sure what you mean by a real public meeting.

19:02:39 From Sharon Weintraub : Once again, your 2015 Master Plan recommends stone border and curbing!

19:02:56 From Sharon blythe : Justin, this is not a public meeting since no signs were put out at the cemeteries. Elder cannot use computers.

19:04:25 From Sharon Weintraub : I am somewhat computer literate and I could not even get this Zoom meeting to work correctly. A lot of people in Austin do not have computer skills or Internet access.

19:04:48 From PARD Justin Schneider : Thank you, Sharon. I'm happy to talk about community engagement processes at another time. We face challenges with all forms of meetings, which is why we try to provide opportunities to comment online as well as to review the rules in person at the office.

19:04:59 From Sharon Weintraub : How much did the 2015 Master Plan cost? has it ever been implimented?

19:05:37 From Bernard Mayoff : Well run meeting. Thank you.

19:05:49 From Sharon Weintraub : How are they supposed to know that the rules ae available at the office. thee are no notices I know of at the cemeteries.

19:05:50 From Sharon blythe : Put signs out saying the rules are being rewritten and in the office.

19:07:15 From Sharon blythe : Will the chat comments be included on the web page?

19:07:22 From Sharon Weintraub : You never responded to my comments on earlier rules in January and July 2018.

19:07:58 From Sharon Weintraub : Report what question?

19:08:02 From PARD Caitlen Hill : Cemetery Administration Office Phone Number: 512-978-2320

19:08:49 From Lina Fisher : I think a broad question is how will people be notified if they were given prior permission to do something with a gravesite and the new rules will retroactively not allow it?

19:09:59 From Sharon Weintraub : In 2018, I twice responded to proposed rules in 2018 and never got a response. <http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/p/january-11-2018-comments-regarding.html>; <http://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/p/june-23-2018-comments-regarding.html>

19:10:06 From Sandra Reynolds : How about installing a hand washing facility at the portable toilet?

19:10:18 From PARD Justin Schneider : Thank you for the comment, Sandra.

19:10:52 From Sandra Reynolds : What can we do when the grass is waist high?

19:11:03 From Sharon Weintraub : PARD has admitted in the past that its record keeping is so poor often does not know who owns a space.

19:11:03 From PARD Justin Schneider : Sharon W., those questions were withdrawn, so if you have any additional questions about the current proposed rules, we can address those.

19:11:32 From Sandra Reynolds : Is there any security at the cemetery?

19:11:56 From Sandra Reynolds : You missed the question about handwashing at the cemetery portable toilet.

19:12:00 From Sharon Weintraub : I was pointing out they no one ever responded previously I was promised a response and never got one.

19:12:43 From Sandra Reynolds : Nope. On Sept 13 the grass was knee high, and by Sept 27 it was waist high. No cutting was done all that time.

19:13:38 From Sandra Reynolds : Great. No security. All staff is gone by 4 but it's open until 7.

19:13:48 From Sharon blythe : The city has hand washing stations under the street overpasses and there is not water to them.

19:14:04 From Sharon Weintraub : There is nothing at AMP, and the back area has a 4-foot chainlink tha is easily climbed over.

19:14:31 From Sandra Reynolds : There are handwashing stations all over town with portable toilets. This is unacceptable.