

## **Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission**

Meeting: May 16, 2026

The meeting of the Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission was called to order today shortly after 9:00 a.m. at the Carter House in Elkader.

All commission members were in attendance: Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members David Beck, Paul Young, Ellen Collins and Bruce Collins.

**The agenda** for this meeting was reviewed. Ellen Collins made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; David Beck seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**The minutes** from our last meeting on April 11, 2026 were sent to the commission members prior to this meeting and summarized by Secretary Bruce Collins at this meeting. David Beck made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Paul Young seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

For the Treasurer's Report, Bruce Collins reported that two disbursements were made from the county funds, \$567.10 to Clay Bolsinger for his work on the Barnum-King grave stones and \$39.00 to Ellen Collins for mileage reimbursement, leaving a remaining balance of \$593.85 in that account.

The Commission's bank balance at Freedom Bank remains the same as reported last month: \$1,424.26.

### **Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Grant**

Commission member Paul Young on April 22<sup>nd</sup> forwarded an email he received from Gretchen Corcoran the Grants Manager for the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque that our commission received a grant for \$2,000 from that organization and there would be an awards ceremony on

May 19<sup>th</sup> with the request that at least one person from our commission attend that ceremony.

At our meeting it was agreed that Lee Embretson and his wife, Paula, would attend this awards ceremony representing our commission. It was suggested by a commission member that Paul Young attend this ceremony since he was the one that did most, if not all, the work for to obtain the grant, but Paul said he would prefer to have Lee represent our commission at this event.

Jennifer Garms, the county auditor, has the \$2,000 check from this grant and asked if our commission wants the check deposited in the county's account or if we, our commission, wanted to deposit the check in our account at Freedom Bank. It was the consensus to deposit the check in our account at the Freedom Bank.

### **Barnum-King Cemetery**

Lee Embretson reported that Leon Manning from Three State Stone Resetting will be working on setting the gravestones for the Barnum-King Cemetery back in the restored section of the cemetery. *(Clay Bolsinger, who did the work "glueing" the stones together, is not experienced in setting the stones in the cemetery.)*

A motion was made by Ellen Collins to advance up to \$500 to Leon Manning for supplies and materials for his stone setting work at Barnum-King if he requested that advance. Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A discussion followed related to the grounds maintenance at the Barnum-King Cemetery. Lee Embretson suggested that maybe his grandson, Zane Embretson, could mow the cemetery. David Beck made a motion to pay Zane Embretson \$125 each time the cemetery was mowed and that mowing would be done each time with the prior approval of Lee Embretson. Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

## **Eastman Cemetery**

In a discussion of the Eastman Cemetery, Lee Embretson said maybe his grandson, Zane, could also mow this cemetery. There also was discussion related to the difficulty of mowing this cemetery and of different ways to access the cemetery.

Paul Young has been in discussion with Scout Troops about having someone do maintenance work at this cemetery as an Eagle Project. Scout Quentin Torkelson from Farmersburg may be interested.

## **McClelland Sign**

Prior to this meeting a draft for a sign related to the McClelland grave site was emailed to all commission members. The proposed sign would be 24"W x 20"L for a price of \$158.33. Several additions to the wording were suggested by commission members and those additions were made to a draft presented at this meeting. Paul Young made a motion to have the sign made with the suggested additions if the landowner agrees to permit the sign. David Beck seconded the motion and the motion passed. Lee Embretson will follow-up with the landowner related to getting permission to install the sign.

## **Flags for 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

Related to our scheduled event on June 27th in Reed Cemetery located in Sperry Township honoring the veterans of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, David Beck will be ordering flags, one for the cemetery and others for the corners leading to the cemetery.

## **Other Ideas and Concerns**

Under this topic of other ideas and concerns, Paul Young suggested doing an assessment of pioneer cemeteries, evaluating work that could/should be done at each of them and then preparing a plan of action to do that work.

All commission members thought this was a good idea and, going forward, a plan that should be pursued.

Another issue that was briefly mentioned was pursuing a grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Commission.

### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

Our next meeting was scheduled for Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>

Approximately 10:15 a.m. Bruce Collins made a motion to adjourn; David Beck seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Bruce Collins  
Sec/Treasurer  
CCPCC