



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

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Future of Cemetery Office and Services Announced

Lansing to Partner with Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries for Efficiencies and Services to Public

Lansing – Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and Loretta Stanaway, President of the Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries today jointly announced a plan to ensure appropriate cemetery services are provided for those utilizing City of Lansing cemeteries, and to ensure that the City of Lansing can efficiently and effectively utilize staff for service to the public.

The City of Lansing will be moving its staff and administrative services related to Lansing's cemeteries from the building at 1709 E Mt Hope to the Foster Community Center. The move would create efficiencies within the Department of Parks and Recreation by allowing staff at Foster to do cemetery work along with their daily duties at Foster. This will also allow better customer service to those looking to purchase a plot or who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Once vacated, the Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries will utilize the building at 1709 E Mt Hope as an office. They will utilize volunteers who can work with those in need, and escort these customers through the cemetery to present options for the burial of loved ones. Once decisions are made, financial transactions of buying a plot or columbarium would still be conducted with City of Lansing staff, either by mail or electronically or in-person at Foster in accordance with best finance practices.

To better accommodate the needs of disabled or senior citizens, the Administration has agreed, when needed, to make space available on the first floor of Foster Community Center very near the entry from the handicap ramp. The city will examine the possibility of removing the existing double doors at that ramp entrance and replacing them with a single door wide enough to accommodate all wheelchair sizes. This transition will take some time to implement but will be accomplished as rapidly as possible.

"I am happy that we will be able to provide the best possible service for our residents and customers," said Mayor Andy Schor. "This partnership between the City of Lansing and the Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries will ensure those in need of burial services will be served, and will ensure that the City of Lansing can efficiently utilize staff in the best possible way."

"The Mayor and I struck a good compromise and I'm grateful that he and Director Kaschinske took the time to listen to our concerns," said Loretta Stanaway, President of the Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries.

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