



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
November 20, 2013**

TO: City Council
FROM: Cemetery Commission
PREPARED BY: Patty Lorick, Recreation Supervisor
SUBJECT: Alhambra Cemetery Trust Fund
DATE: November 14, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolution directing and requesting that the City Council appropriate funds in the Alhambra Cemetery Trust Fund for improvements to the Alhambra Cemetery and authorizing the expenditure thereof.

BACKGROUND:

The Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery is located on a knoll overlooking the Carquinez Strait and downtown Martinez. The Cemetery, established in 1851, remains an active site for burials of cremated remains and, in rare cases, full bodies. The Cemetery is the final resting place of Contra Costa County and Martinez's most notable figures, including Joseph Rutherford Walker and Carolyn Holpin, aka Pepinta, the Flame Dancer.

In the mid-1970's, the last remaining Alhambra Cemetery Association trustee passed away. Phyllis Wainwright, a local citizen, worried the land would be sold to a developer and petitioned the City to take over the Cemetery. The Cemetery ownership was transferred to the City in the late 1970's.

The Cemetery Commission was established in 1980 with the responsibility of overseeing the maintenance of the Cemetery, including two cemetery clean-ups per year. The Cemetery receives funding from tours of the cemetery and donations, as well as two Trusts that the City administers.

1. A bequest of \$35,000 from A. Joseph Tavan, in which the Alhambra Cemetery receives \$500 annually and St. Catherine's receives \$700. The City and St. Catherine's also shares equally each year of any interest received over \$1,200.
2. A perpetual trust of \$50,000 from Charles W. Haussman, in which the Alhambra Cemetery receives all accrued interest annually.

The City of Martinez administers both trusts, which includes accounting for accrued interest and disbursements as outlined above. The City charges no fees to either trust. The Alhambra Cemetery fund has a balance at this time of \$32,991 to be used for maintenance and restoration of the Cemetery. There is also \$2,850 in restricted funds donated to the Cemetery in memory of Phyllis Wainwright. Staff is working with the Wainwright family and the Historical Society on the spending of these funds in memory of Mrs. Wainwright.

The Alhambra Cemetery Commission, at its meeting on May 15, 2013, recommended an allocation of \$26,000 for the following four projects to be completed during FY 2013-14.

1. Retaining Wall at the Brown Mausoleum - The wall has failed and the Mausoleum is in danger of slipping down the hill. **\$15,500.**
2. Entry Gate – The current chain link gate fence is not aesthetically pleasing and does not properly honor those buried in the cemetery ancestors. The Commission, E Vitus Clampus and local volunteers have worked hard to clean-up the Cemetery grounds and an inviting gate would reflect the history and beauty of the setting. Total cost of **\$6,000.** City staff will install the gate.
3. Redwood Picnic Table – a redwood table near Potter’s Field which is forused for Cemetery Commission meetings, Cemetery clean-ups and third grade tours held throughout the year. Total cost of **\$942,** and includes the table, site improvements and installation.
4. Tree Replacement – to date, two trees have been planted to replace fallen or diseased trees. Ten more trees are scheduled for planting by the end of the year. The costs of the trees are based on the type and size. Species of the trees have yet to be determined, but the anticipated expense is approximately **\$3,500.**

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact to the Alhambra Cemetery Trust is \$26,000.

ACTION:

Adopt resolution directing and requesting that the City Council appropriate funds in the Alhambra Cemetery Trust Fund for improvements to the Alhambra Cemetery and authorizing the expenditure thereof.

Attachment:
Resolution

APPROVED BY:


Acting City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. -13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINEZ
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE ALHAMBRA CEMETERY TRUST FUND FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ALHAMBRA CEMETERY AND AUTHORIZING
THE EXPENDITURE THEREOF

WHEREAS, City is the owner of the Alhambra Cemetery ("Cemetery") which from time to time requires minor repair; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Martinez is the holder of funds set aside by the Tavan and Haussman Trusts for the purpose of performing maintenance and improvements at the Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the Martinez Cemetery Commission did on May 15 2013, consider improvements for the 2013/2014 Fiscal Year to the Cemetery and did recommend that funds be appropriated in the not-to-exceed amount of \$26,000 to perform certain works of improvement at the Cemetery as set forth in the staff report, and incorporated herein by reference (hereafter, the "2013/2014 Improvements"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Alhambra Cemetery Association did, by Resolution adopted on even date herewith, direct and request that the City of Martinez appropriate funds from the Alhambra Cemetery Trust for the purposes of performing the 2013/2014 Improvements as recommended by the Martinez Cemetery Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Martinez does hereby appropriate \$26,000 from the Alhambra Cemetery Trust and does hereby authorize the City Manager to expend such funds for the purposes of performing the 2013/2014 Improvements.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the day of November, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ