



City of Olathe
City Planning Division

MINUTES

Planning Commission Meeting: December 10, 2018

Application:	<u>HL-17-004</u> Request for a nomination of a historical landmark designation to the Olathe Register of Historic Places for the City of Olathe Cemetery.
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Emily Carrillo, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, appeared before the Planning Commission, summarizing a request for nomination to the Olathe Register of Historic Places for the Olathe Memorial Cemetery, located north of downtown Olathe, bounded by East Harold, a tree line and residential neighborhood to the south, Woodland Road to the East, and Northgate Street to the west. The cemetery was established in 1965 and includes over 10,00 graves, as well as several monuments, memorials and mausoleums. A cremation garden was added in 2013. The cemetery was recently listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 2016, and the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Ms. Carrillo provided a background of the cemetery and various memorials located therein. She provided a visual of the design and layout of the cemetery. The area began as a 10-acre burial ground in 1865 and increased through three additions to its current form in 1955. A map provided a progression of development for this location. Ms. Carrillo noted that the historic chapel and shelter house is currently used as the cemetery office and is located on the southern portion of the grounds. The City of Olathe has owned and maintained the cemetery since 1879. She added that over 4,000 plots remain available and the cemetery continues to provide burials. Grant funding is provided by the Kansas State Historic Society, which assisted in doing a historical survey of the site, which led to the preparation of the national registry nomination, approved in January 2017.

Ms. Carrillo stated that the cemetery reflects important aspects of Olathe's history and contains graves of several persons or groups of persons of outstanding importance in the Olathe community. She reported that the Olathe Historic Preservation Board found that the property meets four out of five criteria for inclusion to the Olathe Register of Historic Places, as follows: It is associated with effects that have made a significant contribution to the broad history pattern of the city, county, state or nation; it is associated with a significant person or groups of persons in the history of the city, county, state or nation; it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, represents the work of a master builder or architect, possesses high artistic values, or represents a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship.

Ms. Carrillo reported that the Olathe Historic Preservation Board recommended approval of this application at their January 18, 2018, meeting. Based on these findings, staff recommends nomination of the subject property as a historical landmark designation on the Olathe Register of Historic Places.

Comm. Fry asked what criteria was not met. **Ms. Carrillo** responded that it was, "Yields or is likely to yield information important to pre-history or history." Comm. Fry asked that Ms. Carrillo

HL-17-004
 December 10, 2018
 Page 2

address the dissenting vote on the preservation board. Ms. Carrillo responded that the nomination on the floor at the time of that meeting was the eligibility based on the four criteria. One of the members felt strongly that it did not include all four and was only in favor of three of the criteria. Therefore, he was not in favor of the motion that was on the floor at the time of the vote.

Comm. Nelson commented that the Historic Preservation Board is not well known in the Olathe community, but appreciates that this a board that strives to honor Olathe's past. He thanks the board for their service and work in that respect. Comm. Nelson recalls that a nearby neighbor questioned whether this designation could have an adverse impact on surrounding residential. He asked Ms. Carrillo to respond. **Ms. Carrillo** said that at the public hearing of the preservation board, a member of the public spoke of a concern about the map that was sent out during the notification process, specifically if access to a property on north Chestnut would be an issue. They communicated it was not, but they also recognized that the map should be fixed to reflect that, and the property has been re-surveyed. Also, Ms. Carrillo noted that adjacent neighbors are not affected, but notification will be sent anytime anything is done. In summary, anything that happens on the Olathe cemetery property would not affect anything a neighbor might want to do with their property.

Comm. Rinke asked about benefits to being on the registry. **Ms. Carrillo** responded that at the local level, it's primarily recognition, as well as a streamlining of communication with neighbors. Also, at the state and national level, there are incentives, although there is not any right now at the local level.

Chair Vakas opened the public hearing. He noted that the applicant could not be present this evening but opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak. **Steve Christopher**, 15462 South Dice Lane, Olathe, approached the podium. He owns the property next door at 730 North Chestnut. He appreciates Comm. Nelson's acknowledgement of his previous comments. He notes that based on the re-survey, his concerns have been cleared up.

There was no one else wishing to speak on this matter. **Chair Vakas** called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion by Comm. Nelson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rinke, to close the public hearing.

Motion passed 7-0.

There being no further discussion, **Chair Vakas** called for a motion on this item.

Motion by Comm. Fry, seconded by Comm. Nelson, to recommend approval of HL17-004, per the following staff recommendations:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed nomination for the Olathe Memorial Cemetery located at 738 S. Chestnut (HL-17-004) to the Olathe Register of Historic Places.

Aye: Sutherland, Nelson, Rinke, Fry, Munoz, Corcoran, Vakas (7)

No: (0)

Motion was approved 7-0.