



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Brad Reid, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: February 12, 2019

Reference: Discussion regarding the Rolling Oaks Memorial Center Cultural Garden.

2030: Sense of Community, Special Place to live

Introduction:

The Manager of the Rolling Oaks Memorial Center was approached by an individual representing a faith-based group that would like to purchase a dedicated section for their religious group or anyone that shares the same religious ideology. The number discussed was 1,000 burial spaces. In accordance with our current rules and regulations we could not proceed with this request without the required approval to amend our property purchase regulations. The request to purchase the burial spaces in the Phase II expansion, if approved, would significantly impact the proposed number of additional ground burial spaces.

Analysis:

Staff has carried out numerous steps to see if this request would be feasible in the upcoming expansion. The following action items have been taken:

- Met with the group's representative for request details and expectations.
- Looked at current Phase I inventory to see if the spaces were available.
- Looked at approved Masterplan to see if the new expansion would allow it and discussed implications.
- Multiple phone conversations with MKEC, the Architecture Firm in the process of designing the expansion. Identified an area that would accommodate the group's wishes. MKEC did add the area to a conceptual drawing for us to view.
- Visited DFW area cemeteries to look at their culture gardens and use industry knowledge to determine how to address the request.

Next Steps:

- Get definitive answer on how to proceed with this group's request and discuss future requests for similar gardens.

- Determine specific guidelines for cultural gardens in order to accommodate burial expectations.
- Determine if future cultural gardens can be developed outside of the Phase II footprint and what that would entail (i.e. grading, irrigation, lot pins, etc.).

Legal Review:

Legal review is not required at this time.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

Recommendation:

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends pursuing the addition of a 1000 space garden to the Phase II expansion and developing revised property purchasing policies to manage the details of group lot purchase requests.