

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



CEMETERY RULES PROJECT

MCDoux PRESERVATION LLC
SUMMER 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Burial traditions, grave decorating practices, cultural relationships with ancestors, and varying expectations for the appearance of cemeteries have gradually changed since Austin was founded and its first city cemetery established in 1839. Throughout the past 175 years, the City and Austin's citizens periodically have had to resolve situations in which the practical realities of cemetery upkeep were in tension with the (no less important) cultural and emotional relationships that the living maintain with the deceased. This is even more complex today, as Austin's population becomes more diverse.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

PARD is committed to ensuring a positive experience for the community in Austin's public spaces. For the past few years, PARD has been working with citizens to resolve differing, strongly held opinions about grave decorations in city cemeteries and to find a way forward that respects the beliefs of grieving families as well as the practical needs of cemetery maintenance staff.

PARD began, in Fall 2013, to publicize its plan to begin enforcing rules adopted in 1978 regarding cemeteries, which include restrictions on grave markers, plot enclosures, furnishings, decorations, and other items. This effort was focused on Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. In some cases, lot owners have placed benches and other items outside the boundaries of the spaces that they own. Furnishings and decorations also may become deteriorated over time, and subsequently must be removed by Cemetery maintenance staff. The Fall 2013 enforcement effort, which included removal of decorations and other items deemed out of compliance with the existing rules, was met by opposition from some lot owners, particularly those with burial lots in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

Austin City Council subsequently directed the City Manager, and by extension, the Parks and Recreation Department's Cemetery Administrator, to evaluate the City's existing rules regarding grave ornamentation and to determine whether those rules were appropriately sensitive to both the needs of families to memorialize loved ones in ways appropriate to their culture, as well as the needs of the City to maintain the cemeteries. SMITH/Associates, a public engagement consulting firm, was hired to assist the Cemetery Administrator with this activity. Following a series of data collection activities, the SMITH team worked with the Cemetery Administrator and staff to draft revised rules, which were then presented to the public and to the Parks and Recreation Board in June 2014.

Between October 2013 and June 2014, the City hired a separate consulting team to develop a Cemeteries Master Plan. The scope of work for that plan, which was established in Fall 2013, included a review of the cemetery rules and the development of a dispute resolution process. The master plan team was not involved in the SMITH project, beyond sharing information. The two projects were conducted simultaneously but separately.

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In July 2014, PARD tabled the development of revised rules and asked the master plan team to analyze the public response data collected by SMITH, as well as the existing rules and proposed revised rules, and best practices related to grave ornamentation, and to provide this report of findings and recommendations.

This report includes a review of burial and grave ornamentation practices currently visible in Austin's five city cemeteries, including a discussion and examples of non-compliance with the existing rules; an exploration of religious and traditional cultural practices, based on the current demographic makeup of Austin's population; an assessment of the data collection process and revised rules, and an analysis of the public response to the existing and revised rules. Based on that information, we have provided suggestions for involving a culturally diverse working group in the further, consensus-based development of new grave ornamentation rules, criteria for the evaluation of draft rules, and potential alternative solutions to the many issues still unresolved.

CONCLUSIONS

Austin's five city cemeteries include many examples of burial practices that have evolved, falling into and out of fashion over time. This includes both historic and contemporary practices in grave ornamentation. Some of these are religious or traditional in nature, and some have developed organically, in the absence of rule enforcement over several decades. Some citizens specifically purchased burial spaces in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery because of its eclectic atmosphere, particularly in the center sections of the cemetery. Many people who have decorated graves in those sections are vehemently opposed to any changes. However, other citizens find these often-exuberant and plentiful decorations and benches to be distasteful and disruptive to their own visits to the graves of loved ones.

This issue is further complicated by the great demographic shifts in Austin's population since 1978. Whereas then most residents were white/Anglo, today the Mexican American population has grown dramatically and is on track to exceed the Anglo population in several years. The city's Asian population has also increased significantly. Both Latino and Asian cultures traditionally maintain an ongoing relationship with their deceased loved ones, and express this through decorating graves, placing grave goods, and making offerings, not only on holidays and special occasions, but also year-round. These memorializations are viewed by some Anglo and African American citizens as "gaudy" and out of line with their expectations for what a "proper" cemetery should look like.

Citizens often have opposite views about what a cemetery should look like or who may not understand another culture or religion's traditions. Typical responses during the public engagement process included:

- The existing rules prohibiting grave decorations should be enforced, and limited or no decorations should be allowed.
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- The existing rules are overreaching; lot owners should be able to place anything they want on the space that they have purchased.

Citizens also expressed concerns about how the rules would be implemented, and how decisions could be appealed. Specifically, stakeholders expressed that:

- The City needs to have a process for noticing lot owners in advance before removing items from graves.
- The City should provide a process by which lot owners can request exemptions from a rule, based on religious or traditional cultural practices, and appeal the decision of the Cemetery Administrator.

Citizens continue to express fundamental differences of opinion regarding the level of decoration that is “appropriate.” Additional work will be required in order to build consensus among a diverse group of stakeholders who represent the City’s current population.

No “best practices” were located regarding grave ornamentation rules, as each city clearly establishes the rules that make sense for its particular population and natural environment. This reports suggests best practices in the areas of:

- Beginning to enforce previously unenforced or inconsistently enforced rules
- Enforcement
- Reaching consensus
- Requests for exemption or variance to a rule
- Appeal and dispute resolution

Going-forward recommendations include:

- Give lot owners sufficient notice to retrieve any items that they may have placed outside the burial space(s) that they own, then remove items to storage for a reasonable reclamation period.
 - Establish criteria for evaluating proposed new rules related to grave ornamentation.
 - Establish a multi-cultural working group to determine whether grave decoration and planting should be regulated and, if so, what specific restrictions should be placed on those activities.
 - Make a good-faith effort to notify lot owners of changes to the rules prior to implementation, and explain the rationale behind the rule changes.
 - Enact a process for requesting accommodations for religious or traditionally held beliefs, or other exemptions or variances to the grave ornamentation rules, as well as an appeals process.
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INTRODUCTION

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) establishes rules and policies governing the operation of municipal cemeteries and the responsibilities of those individuals who own burial lots or interment rights. The current rules, which were adopted in 1978, include limits on the marking and or ornamentation of gravesites; however, those limits were unenforced for many years. Following an attempt to begin enforcement of gravesite ornamentation rules in Winter 2013–2014, PARD conducted a public engagement initiative, intended to find a balance between the City’s need to appropriately maintain the cemetery and the needs of cemetery visitors to memorialize and commemorate loved ones in ways that respect their cultural traditions. That process dovetailed with the development of the City of Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan. This report summarizes the data collected during 2014 and presents best practices and criteria for the evaluation of alternative solutions.

The number and general coverage of decorative items in some locations within Austin’s cemeteries has created a challenge for maintenance staff, who are charged with mowing and trimming grass. One particular issue is the condition of benches, which are not always well maintained and must be removed by cemetery crews when they become broken or deteriorated. It can be difficult for City Cemetery staff to contact the owners of burial spaces regarding the clean-up or removal of out-of-compliance items. Prior to 2013, next-of-kin information was not recorded consistently, if at all, and many space owners have not maintained up-to-date contact information at the Cemetery offices. Conducting the research needed to locate owners or heirs would be an enormous and costly task.

Research during the development of the Cemeteries Master Plan did not determine conclusively when the City first established rules for grave ornamentation; early-1900s rules simply governed the conduct and attire of cemetery workers and visitors. Also unknown is whether, to what extent, or for how long the 1978 grave decoration rules were enforced. The City’s Public Works Department managed the cemeteries until 1987, when that responsibility was transferred to PARD; that department contracted cemetery maintenance and management to InterCare Corp. from 1990 to 2013. Based on available documentation, one may reasonably conclude that grave ornamentation was not actively regulated for most of the City’s history, and that the decoration of graves has been and continues to be practiced in all five City cemeteries.

In October 2013, PARD Cemetery Management announced its intent to perform consistent enforcement of the existing rules, giving several months’ notice through the placement of signs at cemetery entrances. Some community members expressed concern that the existing rules were outdated and did not allow for appropriate cultural expressions of grief and commemoration.

Subsequently, the City Manager (and, by extension, the PARD Cemetery Administrator) was directed, by Council resolution, to engage the community in a review and revision of the rules and regulations. SMITH/Associates, Inc., a public engagement firm from San Antonio, was contracted to conduct several meetings in May and June 2014, during which attendees were able to provide

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feedback on existing rules. A revised set of rules was then drafted and, in July, circulated for review and comment. PARD chose to conduct further analysis of the rules and regulations in Fall 2014/Winter 2015.

Since the master plan scope of work already included a review of the rules for grave ornamentation, PARD asked the master plan team to expand their scope of work. McDoux Preservation (which had been leading the public engagement portion of the cemeteries master plan process) drafted a revised scope of work, to include an analysis of the data gathered through the SMITH/Associates public engagement process, a new review of best practices, the development of criteria for the evaluation of alternatives, and a few examples of such alternatives. That work is the focus of this report; it has been completed separately from the master plan but may be appended to it at a later date.

Following the completion of this project, the City will be responsible for developing and bringing forward any proposed revisions to the existing rules and regulations governing grave ornamentation.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

This project expanded the scope of work related to rules in the original Cemeteries Master Plan agreement. The Cemetery Master Plan scope of work included the following tasks:

- Review the current cemetery rules and procedures and evaluate compliance issues related to grave ornamentation and the installation of unauthorized site furnishings, such as privately-purchased benches. Recommendations shall have consideration for maintenance implications as well as sensitivity towards the needs of cemetery users to memorialize and commemorate loved ones.
- Make recommendations to guide the development of a dispute resolution process to be integrated into cemetery policies.

The expanded scope of work for the Cemetery Rules project, which included both of these tasks, as well as additional activities, is described below.

Data Analysis and Report of Findings

This project began with a review of the history of grave ornamentation in Austin's city cemeteries and an exploration of the different burial practices that might be observed in Austin cemeteries today, based on the changing ethnic and cultural makeup of the population, which has changed dramatically since the existing rules were introduced in 1978.

That background information provided a context for the examination of the current rules pertaining to gravesite ornamentation and levels/examples of compliance and non-compliance in all five of

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the city cemeteries. Although the enforcement of existing rules and proposed revised rules were intended to apply only to Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery, new burials are still taking place at Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, and Plummers Cemetery. Any enforcement of new or existing rules could later be extended to all five cemeteries, so all of the historic city cemeteries were examined. Photographs, which document conditions out of compliance with the rules, are not intended to embarrass any lot owner, and were selected from the more than 4,000 images captured during the master plan team's grave marker conditions assessment in April 2014.

After establishing the nature of the rules and the specific conditions to which they might apply, McDoux reviewed and summarized the work completed by SMITH/Associates in Spring/Summer 2014, including their project methodology and activities, comments received from the public during the data collection period, the process used to develop draft revised rules, and comments received from the public following the presentation of revised rules in June 2014. For this task, McDoux utilized information provided by SMITH/Associates and cemetery staff.

In addition to the data gathered by SMITH/Associates, the Cemetery Master Plan team had received its own rules-related feedback from the public during the master plan development process. McDoux reviewed this additional data and incorporated it into the summary of public comments presented in this report. As the comments revealed, the community did not reach consensus regarding the revised rules.

This project also included benchmarking against other communities that may provide models for the City of Austin's cemetery rules and policies. McDoux identified representative/example communities for benchmarking, researched grave decoration rules in cities and states with demographics similar to Austin, as well as across the United States, and concluded that there are no "best practices" in the area of gravesite ornamentation, because each city develops (or does not develop) rules that are highly specific to their population, environment, and needs. As an alternative to providing grave decoration best practices, McDoux provided a best-practices framework for resolving rules-related conflicts in culturally diverse communities.

Finally, McDoux reviewed the original cemetery rules and the draft revised rules prepared in Summer 2014, and identified areas of concern and/or conflicting opinions, as provided by City staff, the Cemetery Master Plan team, and members of the public. (This task was part of the original Cemetery Master Plan scope of work.)

Solution Development

In order to provide an objective, transparent process for the evaluation of alternative solutions, McDoux developed a set of evaluation criteria based on the information gathered through the

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SMITH project, master plan project, and development of this report. Several example solutions were developed to test the criteria and to demonstrate the evaluation process.

The original Cemetery Master Plan scope of work included the development of a dispute resolution process. The greatest area of need is for the establishment of a process by which lot owners can request accommodations for religious or cultural reasons, and an appeals process in the event that the accommodations request is denied. A sample policy/process has been provided, with the understanding that the City of Austin's own dispute resolution specialists will determine how best to modify and/or implement such a process and share this information with members of the public. PARD staff will manage the public input/solution development process and formal administrative rules adoption process.

Communication

McDoux worked with PARD staff throughout this process to integrate project status updates into the ongoing public engagement components of the Cemetery Master Plan, including city/project website updates, monthly newsletters, email blasts, and Master Plan community meetings, as required in the original Cemetery Master Plan scope of work. However, this Cemetery Rules project focused entirely on data analysis and solution development and included no in-person meetings with cemetery staff or the public.

USING THIS DOCUMENT

This report presents a brief history of grave ornamentation in Austin city cemeteries, as well as the cultural traditions visible in the cemeteries today; this information should help establish a foundation of understanding between different cultural communities. A review of best practices can be a starting point for discussion, moving forward, as can the criteria for the evaluation of alternatives and the examples provided. This report is designed to prepare the reader, whether City staff or community member, for participation in future discussions of these issues and the development of potential solutions.

All photographs are by McDoux Preservation unless otherwise noted.

GRAVE ORNAMENTATION TRADITIONS

Burial traditions, grave decorating practices, cultural relationships with ancestors, and varying expectations for the appearance of cemeteries have gradually changed since Austin was founded and its first city cemetery established in 1839. Throughout the past 175 years, the City and Austin's citizens periodically have had to resolve situations in which the practical realities of cemetery upkeep were in tension with the (no less important) cultural and emotional relationships that the living maintain with the deceased. This is even more complex today, as Austin's population becomes more diverse.

EARLY CEMETERY CUSTOMS

Were citizens today transported back in time, they would likely find the City Cemetery of the 1850s and 1860s completely unacceptable by today's standards. The earliest burial area in Oakwood Cemetery was almost certainly scraped or swept entirely clean of grass, in keeping with Southern tradition in the mid-1800s. Those early settlers, for their part, would likely view modern grass-covered cemetery grounds as disrespectful and a poor reflection on the families of the deceased. Similarly, the elaborate monuments of the Victorian era, once a testament to the status of the deceased's family and a way to honor one's loved ones, were in the early 1900s thought to be garish and lacking in artistry or refinement; fashions had changed, as they do, and in those years, clean lines and modern designs were preferred. Today's citizens are far enough removed from both eras to appreciate Victorian funerary sculpture as well as the streamlined markers and monuments of the twentieth century.

In the Upland South Folk Cemetery tradition, Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex were laid out primarily in family lots, which often were bounded by stone or concrete curbing and contained large monuments as well as individual grave markers of various designs. It is not unusual to find stone or concrete curbing or slabs over individual graves within a family lot that itself is surrounded by curbing or other enclosures.



(Left) Family plot, with multiple curbs and plantings; (right) family plots with modern fencing and gravel cover; both at Oakwood Cemetery

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In addition to grave/plot fencing, trellises, arbors and furnishings were installed at Oakwood Cemetery throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and these items are now considered historic resources, even when constructed with relatively common materials.



(Left) Pipe and wire fence around grave; (right) chair and pedestal table; both at Oakwood Cemetery

The practice of enclosing family lots or individual graves was both practical and probably necessary in the nineteenth century; for many years, the maintenance of cemetery grounds and the care of graves were left to individual family members. Enclosing lots or graves would have made it easier to manage and maintain those clearly demarcated areas.

CHANGING FASHIONS IN CEMETERY DESIGN

The American Association of Cemetery Superintendents, established in 1886, held annual conventions for the purpose of educating members and “elevating the character of cemeteries in this Country.” Almost immediately, the superintendents’ desire to “elevate the character” of cemeteries under their control came into conflict with the desires of individual lot owners. In 1896, Matthew P. Brazill, superintendent of Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, wrote:

The lot owner cannot fail to see the marked improvement in our cemeteries of late years. This is because the education of the cemetery official has been going forward with uniformity on a new and improved plan. Our cemeteries assume more of the appearance of the park and garden and exhibit more and more the most approved ideas of art in memorial stones while discouraging and prohibiting what is unsightly and inartistic. This is simply keeping pace with other institutions which lead in modern civilization and mark its growth. The cemetery, the dearest spot on earth to most people, ought not be neglected in this forward march of progress, but should receive its due attention and be made to exert a humanizing if not a Christianizing influence. The condition of our cemeteries has been taken as a mark of our civilization. I think it was Benjamin Franklin who used these memorable words, "Show me your cemeteries and I will tell you what I think of your people."

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But how can all of this marked improvement be kept up if the lot owner will not cooperate with those who have made cemetery improvements in their most modern form a special study.

Boards of trustees make rules for the mutual advantage of lots and lot owners and insist on strictly enforcing these rules that the cemetery may be conducted on the latest and most approved plan. Yet the latter regard as unjust and arbitrary the very rules that were made for their benefit. This shows the want of education. If the cemetery were to be conducted after the notion of every individual lot owner what an unsightly pile of confusion we would have; hence all well conducted cemeteries insist on enforcing strictly the rules laid down for their management, treating all parties alike, whatever their business or station in life.

The difficulty of getting lot owners to comply with cemetery rules is most noticeable in cities of mixed nationalities. Some of these people bring their old customs and prejudices from their native country and it seems morally impossible to get them to conform to improved American ideas in cemetery management. Hence the position of our American cemetery superintendent is often a very disagreeable one.

The tendency to violate rules or to avoid conforming to them is the principal difficulty we find with lot owners.

Filling their lots with unsightly stonework without a particle of concern for good taste. Making high mounds over graves and ornamenting them with tin boxes, shells and other domestic relics from the kitchen and the nursery. This is most unbecoming and excites feelings of impatience or disgust in people of good taste who frequently ask the question: why do you allow this desecration of the cemetery? We can only answer that our lot owners don't know any better. Then why don't you enforce the rules? they ask. Perhaps our rules are too liberal and don't go far enough in prohibiting this kind of nonsense.

We know that the finest cemeteries are those that have the strictest rules and insist on their being observed without fear or favor, while cemeteries that allow lot owners too much of their own way are repulsive and unsightly.¹

By the early 1900s, in many cemeteries, the “problem” of decorating graves (including both grave goods and the associated permanent installations on and around graves) was considered solved. In 1906, J. J. Stephens wrote that,

¹ Matthew P. Brazill, “The Education of Lot Owners,” *AACS Proceedings of the 10th Annual Convention*, September, 1896, published by the International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association at <http://www.iccfa.com/reading/1887-1899/education-lot-owners>.

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For the benefit of the young man, and the new members, I should like here to enumerate some of Satan's vexations that the older members had to encounter, before and since the inception of this organization. But I am delighted to report at this time that most all of these annoyances of the devil are now things of the past.

There was the hedge fence, the iron fence and the post and chain fence, the small wooden fence around single graves, the stone coping, shells, toys, toy houses, glass globes, tin wreathes, tripods, wire arches, gravel walks, terrace lots and all the other old tin and glass ware they did not want at home they took out to the cemetery.²

Mr. Stephens also deplored the early monuments and markers that were “mutilated by all sorts of lettering, emblems, and epitaphs,” triumphantly stating that,

In the twenty years past, the influence and better judgment of the superintendent alone has been very marked indeed, so that we now have monuments with character, grace, dignity and true art, and with no lettering on them but the family name. So you can readily see we have succeeded in driving Satan away from the monument.

Of course, today, those Victorian-era markers, monuments, and related items that Mr. Stephens considered “annoyances of the devil” are considered valuable historic resources. Similarly, the mounding of dirt, sweeping or scraping graves clean, placement of shells or gravel on graves, etc., are now recognized as long-held cultural traditions.

The City of Austin in the late 1800s employed a *sexton*, a cemetery caretaker who initially was responsible for conducting interments, as well as locking and unlocking cemetery gates and maintaining cemetery buildings and roadways. Over time, the management of cemeteries became more professionalized. The City Sexton and his workers took on more responsibilities, including planting shrubs and trees and performing general maintenance. Eventually, most cemeteries adopted the concept of *perpetual care*, relieving family members of the responsibilities of maintenance and management in exchange for an annual fee. (Today, the perpetual care fee is paid in full when the lot is purchased.)

The use of and attitudes toward vegetation also has changed dramatically over time. The *Democratic Statesman* newspaper, on October 31, 1871, applauded the City Sexton and Austin citizens for “beautifying with evergreens and flowers the lasting resting place of the dead” and encouraged them to continue “until every grave is circled with flowers and shrubs.” The rest of the

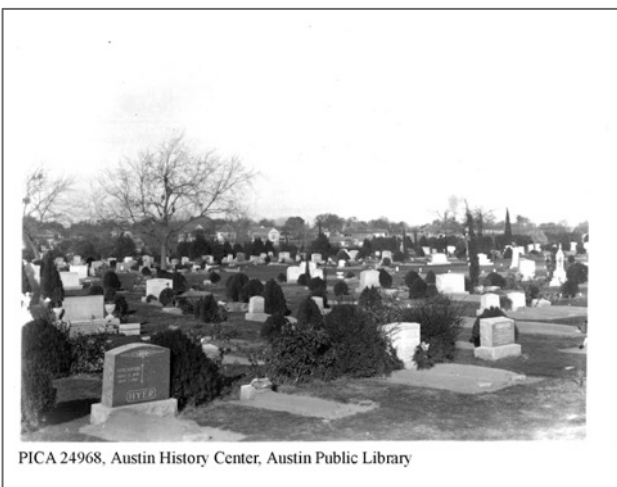
² J. J. Stephens, “Satan in the Cemetery,” *AACS Proceedings of the 20th Convention*, August, 1906, published by the International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association at <http://www.iccfa.com/reading/1900-1919/satan-cemetery>.

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cemetery would likely have been swept clean of grass or covered only with native grasses and groundcovers.

In 1909, then-Mayor A. P. Wooldridge set aside two percent of ad valorem taxes for cemetery beautification; among the improvements made were “clearing, trimming, and planting vegetation,” activities that had started the previous year. The beautification of Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex was assisted by the ladies’ Oakwood Cemetery Association, an organization that was active in the first decades of the twentieth century, not to be confused with earlier cemetery associations that primarily sold burial plots.

The planting of grass in the cemetery, necessitating the need to mow and trim, likely did not take place until the 1930s, when lawn grasses were developed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Even through the 1920s and 1930s, however, graves in Austin were kept clean, as shown in the photos of Oakwood Cemetery Annex, below.



(Left) Although these photos are undated, grave markers are not: (left) the grave marker of Otis Hyer, who died in 1926; (right) the marker for George Henry Christian, who died in 1937 (Austin History Center)

While only a few graves are swept clean in Austin’s cemeteries today, the curbing, fencing, and otherwise enclosing of graves and lots continues to be practiced, as does the covering of individual graves or larger plots with decorative gravel, concrete, stone slabs, ground covers, or combinations of these materials. While these practices may be considered primarily decorative or a convenience for family members, they nevertheless represent the continuation of centuries-old traditions.

Likewise, the practice of planting shrubs, bulbs, flowers, and trees at gravesites has continued relatively unabated. The image above left, probably captured in the 1930s or 1940s, shows a shrub or tree at nearly every gravesite in the Annex. Historic plantings at Oakwood Cemetery are now themselves considered historic and may contain rare examples of heritage bulbs.

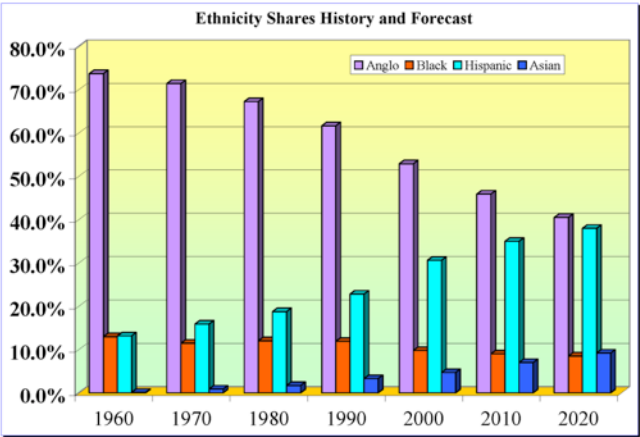
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ETHNIC AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Many grave ornamentation practices that can be observed in Austin’s city cemeteries, both historical and contemporary, are associated with cultural or ethnic groups.

The cemetery rules adopted in 1978 were very much oriented toward the expectations of the white Anglo community, which at that time made up a clear majority of Austin’s population, and the middle-class African American community, which had largely adopted similar views of what a “proper cemetery” looked like. At that time, the Mexican American and Asian populations of Austin were proportionally relatively small and likely were still seen as outsiders. At that time, nearly 40 years ago, the rules adopted probably adequately reflected the general preferences and attitudes of the city’s population.

Today, Austin’s population is vastly different. No one ethnic or demographic group makes up a majority of the population, and (according to the City of Austin Demographer) Latinos may equal or surpass Anglos in number by 2040; most Latino residents of the city are of Mexican American descent. The Asian community (primarily people of Chinese, Vietnamese, and Indian descent, with smaller numbers of Taiwanese, Korean, and Filipino immigrants) has grown significantly faster than any other ethnic group in Austin, and that trend is expected to continue.



Demographic changes in the City of Austin’s population, 1960–2020 (forecast) (City of Austin)

Given these significant demographic changes over the past four decades, the City of Austin is right to consider gravesite ornamentation rules that reflect the customs and needs of the current population to commemorate loved ones in a manner that is appropriate for that person’s culture. It is hoped that the information provided in this report may serve as a starting point for making people aware of the rich and diverse ethnic traditions on view at Austin’s city cemeteries.

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Decoration Day

Throughout the South, Decoration Day was (and, in many rural white communities, still is) an annual event where families gather at community cemeteries to clean, maintain, and decorate graves in honor of their ancestors. Picnic lunches, church services, and social activities were often part of Decoration Days.³



Orphans decorating their fathers' graves in Glenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia, on Decoration Day. The Illustrated London News, 1876 (Beacon Senior News)



Contemporary celebration of Decoration Day at Bivens Chapel Cemetery, Jefferson County, Alabama (Encyclopedia of Alabama/Alabama Center for Traditional Culture)

³ Joey Brackner, "Decoration Day," Encyclopedia of Alabama, May 29, 2009 (<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2316>).

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African American Burial Customs

African Americans often marked graves with *grave goods*,⁴ including shells, pottery, glassware, toys, and household items; sometimes, these things were deliberately broken or damaged. Items white in color (including rocks, shells, and pottery) and those associated with water were especially common. These practices likely reflected African and West Indian customs and spiritual beliefs, as well as traditions that developed in communities of enslaved people.⁵ These traditional practices almost certainly were of no concern to white cemetery superintendents in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, who (as evidenced by the authors quoted on previous pages) likely saw the offering of grave goods as an incomprehensible habit of dumping unwanted household items.

Ornamental plantings on or near African American graves were often symbolic, reflecting the distinction between the body and the living spirit.⁶ In some cases, plants like yucca were used instead of durable markers. Dr. Lynn Rainville, who has studied African American cemeteries throughout American history, notes that the twentieth century preference in white America for lawn-park cemeteries “leads to a misconception that an overgrown cemetery that is not mowed, planted with grass or enclosed by a fence is ‘abandoned.’ In many cases, these informal burial grounds may represent deliberate articulations of a unique cultural identity and a particular philosophy toward death and burial ... the overall impression in many African American cemeteries is a greater focus on the natural landscape, rather than sterile, pruned lawns.”⁷



Graves with yucca and perennial flowers at Plummers Cemetery

⁴ The term *grave goods* describes items buried with the deceased or items left on the grave, typically personal possessions or things that reflect the interests of the deceased during his or her life. In Asian cultures, these may include *offerings* intended for the benefit of the deceased in the afterlife. Items not associated with the deceased are more properly called *decorations*.

⁵ John Michael Vlach, *The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts*, (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1990), 139–147.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Lynn Rainville, “Landscape: African American Cemeteries in Albemarle and Amherst Counties,” http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/cem/AACemeteries_Landscape.shtml.

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Mexican American Burial Customs

Mexican American traditions reflect the importance of family and include a strong and ongoing relationship with the deceased. Probably the most visible evidence of this is *Días de los Muertos*, or the Days of the Dead, is a Latin American celebration of remembrance that originated in Mexico. Marrying Aztec, Mayan, and Catholic customs, it is celebrated on the Catholic holidays of All Hallows Eve (October 31), All Saints Day (November 1), and All Souls Day (November 2). Many families clean graves, make temporary altars, and leave offerings such as photos of the deceased, toys, memorabilia, food, candles, sugar skulls, paper or candy skeletons, Mexican marigolds (the flowers of the dead), and other decorations. Parties and festivals with music, food, and drink celebrate life; families engage in activities that were enjoyed by their deceased loved ones. Through these respectful—but not mournful—rituals, the dead remain a part of the living community. In Austin, *Días de los Muertos* is now celebrated as a two-week-long, unifying, multi-ethnic event.

While *Días de los Muertos* is a prominent holiday, many Mexican Americans decorate graves not only to commemorate holidays and special occasions, such as birthdays, but all year long. The family is at the center of Mexican culture, and grave decorating rituals allow family members to maintain relationships with those who have passed before them. These rituals often last for several hours and involve eating, sharing memories, playing and listening to music, singing, and dancing. Those activities, at home or in the cemetery, are appropriate cultural expressions of remembrance.

Both ancestor worship and the leaving of grave goods or offerings are ancient pre-Colombian traditions that have survived to the present day. Grave markers often contain *nichos*, small niches into which items can be placed; these represent caves, which ancient Mesoamericans considered gateways to the world of the dead. Offerings made inside the caves were thought to help open those gateways and permit the deceased to pass. Other grave goods often include fresh, paper, or silk flowers, arranged in bouquets or wreaths; sports-themed items; *cascarones* (confetti-filled eggs); and images of *La Virgen de Guadalupe*. The ritual of visiting the grave and leaving offerings brings together family members, reinforcing the centrality of family within the community.⁸

⁸ Marta Salazar, *Life in Death: Mexican American Grave Decorating and Funerary Rituals*, Thesis, Texas State University–San Marcos, 2009, 38–407

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(Left) Graves at San Antonio Cemetery, Penitas, Texas (Anne Shelton Vance); (right) San Fernando Cemetery No. 2, San Antonio, Texas (mysanantonio.com)

As the Mexican American population of Austin has increased—from just over 10% in 1960 to nearly 50% today—the presence of regularly or continually decorated graves has almost certainly increased in city cemeteries. This change can be seen particularly in Evergreen Cemetery, which was historically an African American burial ground but in recent years has—in the newer sections—become the resting place for many Latino and Latina Austinites.

Asian Burial Customs

The city's Asian population is also growing rapidly, and many of those cultures maintain burial traditions that include grave offerings. This is especially evident in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, which contains Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese grave markers. Ancestor worship rituals common to many Asian cultures include sweeping or cleaning the grave; placing offerings of flowers and food; burning incense; and sometimes burning paper replicas of money and other objects. Death anniversaries are often marked with memorial rituals, as are holidays; some of these include Qingming, or Tomb Sweeping Day, which takes place on April 5 each year and is celebrated in China and Korea; as well as Chinese New Year, Korean New Year, and *Chuseok*, the Korean harvest moon festival.

Jewish Burial Customs

Traditionally, a Jewish cemetery was separated from other burial grounds with a fence, as is present in Oakwood Cemetery's Beth Israel Cemeteries 1 and 2. At Austin Memorial Park, the boundaries of the Congregation Agudas Achim Cemetery (Section 6) and Temple Beth Shalom (Section 14) are instead partially demarcated by trees and hedges. While many Jewish congregations or individuals do not place flowers on graves, it is customary to care for the gravesite and for visitors to place a pebble or stone on the gravestone to mark their presence. (These stones are not considered “decorations.”) In the Congregation Agudas Achim Cemetery, several gravesites include plantings over the grave, curbing around the grave space, and either bare dirt or mulch

GRAVE ORNAMENTATION TRADITIONS

over the grave. A few benches and potted plants (but not artificial flowers) are present in this section. A plain wooden bench may be part of the Jewish tradition in which mourners sit on small stools or benches, although the practice of *sitting shiva* (a period of structured mourning) takes place at home.⁹

Islamic Burial Customs

According to information provided by the Islamic Center of Greater Austin website, Islamic tradition does not include decorating graves or leaving grave goods.

Burial Customs That Have Developed in Austin

In Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, many families have created their own decorating traditions. In addition to leaving grave goods, people have placed site furnishings, erected trellises and arbors, affixed decorations to or hung them from nearby trees, and created plot enclosures and/or covers using a variety of materials. Many of the additions are colorful; some are designed to move in the wind. Every section in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is decorated with artificial flowers, planters of all sorts, statuary, benches, and plantings of flowers and shrubs. Several sections include grave markers that are most certainly larger than the maximum sizes stipulated in the published cemetery rules.

One stakeholder remarked during the master plan process that he and his wife specifically purchased lots in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, and in particular, Section 5, because of the decorations. They purchased those lots in the late 1990s. On the other hand, Cemetery staff report that some pre-need customers ask when the next section will be opened, as they do not like all of the decorations in Section 6, where lots are currently being sold.

Decorations and grave furnishings are present mostly in newer sections of the newer cemeteries. Over time, as family members and friends age, they may visit a grave less often; younger generations likely do not visit the graves of long-dead ancestors. In a mobile society where it is common for people to move away from their hometowns, few family members may be left to visit graves and place decorations.

⁹ "Sitting Shiva," Shiva.com, <http://www.shiva.com/learning-center/sitting-shiva>.

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PARD publishes a set of rules and regulations for cemeteries and burial activities, which were originally adopted in 1978. This section includes a list of those rules pertinent to grave ornamentation, as well as a discussion of the existing conditions in the cemetery that currently are out of compliance with those rules.

LIST OF APPLICABLE CEMETERY RULES

The headings and numbers shown below reflect those of the original document. *Note that only those items related to grave ornamentation are included here, and each section may or may not contain additional information. See Appendix A for the full text of these rules and regulations.*

Definitions

(Items 1–4 are not applicable to grave ornamentation.)

5. The term “Memorial” shall mean any marker, monument, headstone, tablet, or other structure, upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or partially therein for identification or in memory of the interred.
6. The term “Space” shall mean the area normally designated for a single interment.

Instructions for Space Holders and Space Holders’ Rights

(Note that the term space holder is used in this section to mean owner.)

1. Burial vaults, either partially or entirely above ground, are prohibited.
2. A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for all adult interments. Sections 9, 9A, and 10 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Sections D and E at Evergreen cemetery are exempt from this provision.
3. Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cemetery, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.
4. Only one casket will be permitted in each grave. In the event cremation is utilized, a maximum of four (4) interments will be permitted in one (1) space.

(Items 5–6 are not applicable to grave ornamentation.)

Memorials

1. All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.
2. Only one memorial will be permitted on one grave space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more grave spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with

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adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the grave space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.

3. Space or lot corner markers will be set flush with the turf.
4. Flush type Memorials—
 - The marking of each space or grave in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish, and construction as indicated in this section.
 - Flush type memorials shall be made of granite, marble, or cast bronze installed on granite, marble, or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4”).
 - Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6”) and shall be smooth on all sides.
 - All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2”) of sand for cushioning and leveling.
 - The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10”) less than the grave space width.
5. Above Ground Materials
 - In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used.
 - All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite, or similar permanent type stone.
 - Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions:
 - The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18”) in width.
 - The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42”).
 - The length shall be at least ten inches less than the grave space width.
6. Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.

Memorial Foundations

1. The size of concrete foundations for all above ground memorials shall be 1” larger in length and width than the size of the base.
2. The top of concrete foundations shall be from 1” to 2” below the top of the ground to allow for adding cement grout to level the memorial base.
3. Concrete foundations shall be a minimum of 8” thick and have perpendicular sides and flat bottom.

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4. Excavations for foundations for above ground memorials shall be a minimum of 10" deep from the top of the ground. If the memorial base is two feet (2') or more in length, there shall be one 6" diameter round hole dug 18" deep (or to rock) below the bottom of the excavation at each end of the excavation.
5. Concrete for all memorial foundations shall be 1 part cement, 2 parts sand, and 4 parts gravel.

General Regulations

(Items 1–5 are not applicable to grave ornamentation.)

6. No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway, or street.
7. The Superintendent has the authority to enter upon any space and to remove any objectionable thing that may have been placed there contrary to the regulations and may remove any dead or damaged flowers, trees, shrubs or vines.

(Items 8–11 are not applicable to grave ornamentation.)

12. The construction, installation, or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.
13. The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.
14. Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.
15. Placement of potted plants, cut flowers or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.
16. In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.
17. In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long-lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.
18. If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.

(Items 19–22 are not applicable to grave ornamentation.)

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DISCUSSION OF CURRENT RULES AND ISSUES OF COMPLIANCE

The current cemetery rules related to grave ornamentation are summarized below. A discussion of each summary statement, with photographs illustrating examples of non-compliance as observed in April 2014, follow the summary of rules. *Please note: these rules statements are, in many cases, paraphrased and may include a portion or all of a single rule or may summarize several rules.*

Because most of the burial lots in Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, and (to the best of our knowledge) Plummers Cemetery have been sold, and only a few burials take place in those cemeteries each year, it may be inferred that these rules primarily apply to Evergreen Cemetery and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. No distinction between active and relatively inactive cemeteries is made in the current rules document. The proposed enforcement effort and draft rules revision was limited to Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery.

Many of the lots, markers, curbing, and other historic resources within the three older cemeteries do not comply with the existing rules, and one would not wish to modify those cemeteries in order to bring them into compliance, as that would necessitate removing the physical resources that contribute to those cemeteries' historical and cultural significance. It is important to note, however, that out-of-compliance modern materials and resources continue to be introduced into the three older cemeteries, including new and replacement markers and monuments, curbing and other plot enclosures, grave coverings, plantings, and decorations both temporary and durable.

Without extensive photographic documentation of all five cemeteries during the 1970s, when the existing rules were adopted, it is impossible to say whether the rules were reflective of then-current practices or aspirational—an attempt to impose order on cemeteries which, at that time, may have been viewed as cluttered. Numerous stakeholder and staff accounts note that the practice of decorating a grave seems to be generally short-lived, taking place more often immediately after a funeral and becoming less and less frequent or regular over time. If that is, indeed the case, then today, the presence or lack of decorations on 1970s-era graves likely does not reflect whatever was happening in the cemeteries during that decade.

In most cases, the purpose of these rules seem to be two-fold: first, to present a picture of conformity within the cemeteries, in which markers and monuments are visually similar and the surrounding environment is relatively featureless, and second, to facilitate the ease of mowing and maintenance of lawn grasses by cemetery staff. A discussion of community feedback related to these rules is presented in later chapters, but it should be noted that the potential replacement lawn grasses with native grasses, which require less mowing and trimming, (as recommended in the Cemeteries Master Plan) may relieve the burden of maintenance.

Most gravesites in Austin's city cemeteries comply with most or all these rules. The following pages illustrate what non-compliance looks like in city cemeteries, as observed in April 2014.

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A. No installation or placing of any temporary or permanent above-ground items, with the exception of monuments and markers.

The master plan team visited all five historic city cemeteries in the spring (not long after the Christian holiday of Easter, which was celebrated on April 20, 2014) and also visited Evergreen Cemetery in the fall (the day after *Días de los Muertos*). Holiday and other decorations were observed during both visits, particularly in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery, which are more active than Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Annex, or Plummers.

A number of gravesites appear to be out of compliance with Rule 3 (Instructions for Space Holders) and Rules 6 and 12 (General Regulations), which are summarized in the statement above. Artificial flowers, grave goods, decorations, statuary, planters, benches and chairs, trellises and shepherd's hooks, curbing and plot enclosures, and other items are present, particularly throughout the newer sections of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. Benches, chairs, and trellises are discussed in Item H in this section.



Examples of the typical level of decorations observed in April 2014: (left) Evergreen Cemetery; (right) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

Artificial Flowers

Artificial flowers are the most common grave decoration found in the city cemeteries and can be found in all five historic cemeteries. Rule 16 (General Regulations) states that they may be placed only for holidays and must be removed after 30 days. Very few artificial flowers appeared to be faded or dilapidated during McDoux's visits to any of the cemeteries. In some areas of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, remnants of artificial flowers appeared to have been run over by mowers.

The rules do not state where artificial flowers may be placed. All statements about placement refer to potted plants or cut (natural) flowers. In practice, artificial flowers are generally placed in vases or planters integral to the grave marker, in separate vases or planters used as decoration, or inserted into the ground next to the marker or otherwise within the grave space. These variations are found at all of the cemeteries.

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Containers with artificial flowers: (left) set into ground near grave of child who died in 1927, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section E; (right) in vases integral to grave marker, one of which has been broken off, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 3



Artificial flowers inserted into the ground: (left) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 1; (right) in various vases and planters, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 5A

Decorations/Grave Goods

Other items placed on or near grave markers include memorial medallions, flags, statues, figurines, crosses, natural stones, knick knacks, solar lights, decorative garden stakes, holiday decorations, stuffed animals, and other miscellaneous objects. The size, number, and variety of these items on a single gravesite ranges from few to many. Items seem to be more prevalent on recent graves and the graves of children and young people, but decorations can be found on other graves as well. In some cases, these items are placed within a *hornito* (enclosure), creating a shrine to the deceased.

While the number of graves with decorations or grave goods other than artificial flowers is quite small, the amount of items on those decorated graves tends to be fairly significant.

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(Left) Grave with figurines and other items, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 5; (right) statue with glass bottle, Evergreen Cemetery, Section K



Typical decorated graves: (left) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 11; (right) a smaller collection of items: (right) Evergreen Cemetery, Section J



Hornitos, or grave markers that enclose a space for grave goods: (left) at the grave of a veteran, Evergreen Cemetery, Section J; (right) at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 11

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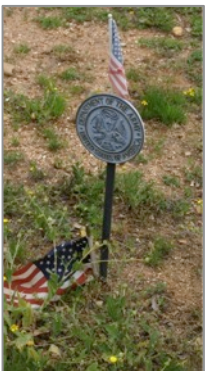


Asian grave markers with integral altars in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, shortly after Tomb-Sweeping Day (April 5); decorations include incense and candle holders used in memorial rituals

The Texas Rangers provide metal crosses as grave decorations. Memorial medallions on stakes indicate membership in various organizations.



Texas Rangers crosses: (left) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 1; (right) Oakwood Cemetery Section 2



Memorial medallions: (left) US Army, Evergreen Cemetery, Section H; (center) Daughters of the American Revolution, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section A; (right) Modern Woodmen of America, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section A

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Statuary

Statuary (not permanently affixed to or integral to a grave marker) was observed on only a few gravesites in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. Statuary was, of course, a key component in Victorian-era funerary sculpture, and many examples are present in Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex. Austin Memorial Park Cemetery contains a few grave markers with integral statuary. No statuary was observed at Plummers Cemetery.

The size of statues varies. They are often placed on or next to grave markers. Almost all of the statuary observed in Evergreen Cemetery and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is religious in nature.



Statues: (left) of angels at Evergreen Cemetery, Section D; (right) of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 11.

Planters, Vases, and Plantings

Planters and vases, designed to hold living or artificial plants or flowers, are often an integral part of a grave marker. Other planters and vases may be placed on or near a grave marker, or at the foot of the grave where a footstone might otherwise be installed. Some historic and contemporary planters have been set into the ground, usually between or next to headstones. Planters and vases may be made of a wide variety of materials, ranging from marble, granite, and bronze to terra cotta, ceramic, glass, plastic, or concrete. Concrete planters are often of the lawn-ornament type, molded to resemble a basket or other item. However, concrete masonry units placed near grave markers also have been used as makeshift planters, particularly in Evergreen Cemetery (see next page). Plantings also are made within plot enclosures or simply in the ground, neither of which comply with the existing rules.

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(Left) Planters at the entrance of the Hogg family plot, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 3; (right) planter box set into ground between markers at Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section A



(Left) Various plantings, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 9; (right) plantings within plot enclosure, Evergreen Cemetery

Curbing and Plot Enclosures

Traditionally, in Austin cemeteries, family lots and individual graves (both within and outside family lots) were bounded by curbing, fencing, or other types of enclosures. This practice has continued to the present and can be seen in all of the five city cemeteries. Within recent years, modern fencing has been erected in Oakwood Cemetery, and new granite curbing has replaced original material around at least one family lot.

Plot enclosures may be placed at the outer boundaries of the grave space or family lot, or on a smaller area within those boundaries. As in the past, plot enclosures are often used to visually and physically separate cemetery lawn from ornamental plantings.

Materials used to enclose plots (or portions of them) range widely: carved stone or poured concrete curbs, landscaping timbers, cut stones, commercially produced bricks or pavers, natural rocks,

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metal fencing, landscape edging (metal or plastic), and hedging are all common. None of these materials are in compliance with existing rules.



Curbing and plot enclosures in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery : (left) landscape timbers, Section 5; (right) cut stones, Section 8

- B. Only one memorial (marker) per grave space; a family memorial additionally may be placed on two or more grave spaces (lots).**

Many graves throughout the city cemeteries are marked with both headstones and footstones, and therefore do not comply with this rule. Both historic and contemporary graves are marked with footstones inscribed with the deceased's first name, initials, or signifiers such as "mother."



Footstones: (left) "Daddy," above adjacent headstone, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 1; (right) "Daddy" and "Mama," Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section A

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In some cases, this combination includes one commercially produced grave marker and one Veterans Administration (VA) marker, placed as a footstone.¹⁰



(Left) VA markers as footstones, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 1; (right) VA marker attached to upright private monument, AMPC Section 11

Family-name monuments are prevalent throughout Austin's city cemeteries. In some cases, these are quite large, particularly in Oakwood Cemetery Annex and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. The placement of these markers is allowed by the existing rules.

C. The size of markers is regulated. All sizes shown below are described as width (left to right), length (front to back), and height/depth (upper surface to lower surface). Note: These terms (length, width, height, depth) are not defined in or consistent with the current rules document.

C. 1. The width of all markers is limited to 10" less than the width of the grave space (allowing 5" on either side).

Non-compliance with this rule does not seem to be an issue in any of the cemeteries. It was likely included to ensure that visitors, and weed trimmers, could easily pass between grave markers.

A typical individual grave space in Austin's city cemeteries is 42" wide (left to right) by 10 feet long (head to foot), which would limit the width of a grave marker to 32" for a single space; family markers could be up to 74" (6+ feet) wide for a double space, or up to 158" (13+ feet wide) for a family lot containing four spaces in a lateral row (as opposed to a rectangle of multiple rows). Few

¹⁰ The VA will provide at no cost a marker for eligible veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose graves already are marked with a privately purchased headstone or other marker; the VA marker may be installed separately (for example, as a footstone) or attached to a privately purchased headstone. Both types of installation were observed at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

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markers of these extreme sizes were observed in any of the cemeteries, probably due to cost and/or the availability of stones of that size.

While nearly all modern graves are in compliance with this rule, a few markers likely push these boundaries. While the Master Plan team did not measure these markers during our conditions assessment, photographs show the widest markers observed in April 2014. However, as these photos show, travel through the cemetery is not impeded by these markers, despite their size.



Two especially wide markers in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: (left) Section 5 and (right) Section 11

C. 2. Above-ground markers (not flush) may not be more than 42" high.

This rule does not clearly define how height is measured: one assumes that this measurement may be made from the surface of the ground to the highest surface of the marker following installation. Both historic and modern markers taller than 42"—some installed fairly recently—are present in Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.



Recently installed markers that exceed 42" in height: (left) Danny Camacho stands next to a replacement marker placed at Oakwood Cemetery (City of Austin); (right) former Mayor of Austin Roy Butler's marker at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

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It is possible that this rule was intended to ensure a clear view across the cemetery, emphasizing the landscape and design rather than drawing the viewer's attention to any particular monument. However, the presence of historic-age markers that exceed 42" in height, in all of the cemeteries except Plummers, as well as the presence of trees, would only create such a clear *viewshed*¹¹ in a limited number of locations. It is not clear what this rule would accomplish in 2015. In addition, enforcing this rule would prohibit the installation of any new tall monuments in Oakwood Cemetery, as well as markers such as the one for Mayor Roy Butler (previous page).

C. 3. The base shall not measure more than 10" front to back.

This rule is likely intended to ensure the maintenance of clear areas for walking and mowing. Most modern grave markers that are placed upon a base appear to comply in spirit, if not exactly in size, with this rule.

One complicating issue regarding the size of marker bases has to do with the stability of markers, particularly tall markers, as the soil below their foundations expands and contracts unevenly, causing shifting of the marker out of level, either from left to right or front to back. These conditions are evident in many of the cemeteries. The center of gravity (center of mass) of a headstone remains low, and unlikely to fall over, as long as most of its mass is positioned over the base. Once the marker as a whole has been displaced to such an extent that most of the mass of the headstone (and, therefore, its center of gravity) is positioned outside the footprint of the base, it is much more likely to shift, slide, or topple. This problem is compounded in cases where an insufficient amount of structural epoxy (monument adhesive) has been used to attach the headstone to the base.

¹¹ A *viewshed* is an area visible to the human eye from a fixed point. This term is commonly used in urban planning and landscape design. Sometimes, viewsheds are regulated; for example, In Austin, no buildings may be constructed within a certain area that obstruct the viewshed of the State Capitol building.

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Epoxy appears to have been applied only around the perimeter of headstones in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: (left) in Section 5; (right) in Section 1

While it is neither within the scope of this report to calculate the limits of stability for various sizes of headstones and bases at different degrees of displacement from level, to measure the range of degrees of displacement from level found throughout the cemeteries, or to appropriately investigate the installation protocols of monument companies, the City of Austin likely would be well-served to pursue such investigations and determine maximum combinations for the size of base, height of headstone, and amount of epoxy that could help to prevent the toppling, shifting, displacement, and other issues found in the cemeteries.

With that said, this report does not intend to imply that any of these items are to blame for existing conditions as pictured above, or that the enforcement or lack of enforcement of the existing rules might or might not have had any effect whatsoever on those conditions.

In situations where no marker base is present, it is unclear whether this rule would be interpreted to apply to the footprint size of markers in their entirety. All five cemeteries contain graves covered with bodystones or slabs made of stone or concrete, both historic and modern (1990s–2000s).



Modern grave covers longer than 10" front to back: (left) bodystones, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 1; (right) granite slabs, Evergreen Cemetery, Section B

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(Left) Concrete slab, flush with ground, at Evergreen Cemetery, Section C; (right) concrete pavers over grave at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 11

If the intent of the rule is to prevent obstructions to walking or mowing, any of these (with the exception of the flush concrete slab, above) would be out of compliance.

Because the installation of bodystones and slabs has been practiced throughout Austin's history, it is likely that some families would want to continue these traditional burial customs. In cases where this practice has been substituted for the sweeping of graves or mounding of dirt over graves, based on the long-held Southern belief that allowing grass to grow on a grave is disrespectful, it seems that these more-permanent options might be preferable in terms of maintenance and/or appearance.

C. 3. Flush markers must be at least 4" thick and placed on a base at least 6" thick, over a minimum of 2" of sand. These markers are intended to be installed so that the top surface of the marker is flush with the turf.

This rule (as written) would only apply to stone markers, since cast bronze markers are about 1½ inches, not four inches, thick.

However, both stone and bronze flush-style markers are installed on concrete foundations constructed above the surface of the turf. This is evident even in sections where all markers are intended to be flush, although much more prevalent in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery than in Evergreen Cemetery, the only two cemeteries with sections dedicated to flush markers.

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Flush marker installed above ground: (left) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 11; (right) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 5A (the flush marker section)

It appears that the size of flush markers is relatively standard in compliance with this rule, although some above-ground markers are of a size and shape that lead the observer to wonder whether they were intended to be installed flush or above ground. The installation of flush markers by monument companies, however, is not always consistent or in compliance with this rule.

Note that the examples shown above are also out of compliance with the rules pertaining to the size/dimensions of marker foundations (see Item E on page 34).

D. The materials to be used in markers is limited to marble, granite “or other durable type stone”; flush markers also may be made of cast bronze.

Markers made of a wide variety of materials and found objects are present throughout the cemeteries. Evergreen Cemetery and Plummers Cemetery particularly—but not exclusively—include a wide variety of handmade markers that add to the historical significance of those cemeteries. Non-commercial markers, particularly those crafted with wood, concrete, tile, or welded metal, may be a culturally significant resource.

Note that the presence of handmade markers does not necessarily reflect an inability of the surviving family and friends to purchase a commercially produced marker; the act of creating a grave marker oneself may be an act of love and remembrance. Some handmade concrete markers are clearly the work of a single artist or craftsperson, whose work may be culturally significant to the history of Austin’s cemeteries, particularly for the African American or Mexican American communities.

With that said, some handmade or found-object grave markers may be the only option for families who cannot afford to purchase a commercially produced stone or bronze marker, or may serve as a

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temporary marker while a permanent one is being produced. Other families may prefer to mark a grave with a found object, such as a natural stone, or a handmade or artist-made marker.



(Left) Funeral home marker as only grave marker, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 1; (right) handmade and found-object grave markers, Evergreen Cemetery, Section D



(Left) Found objects as only grave markers, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 5; (right) handmade metal cross, AMPC, Section 9

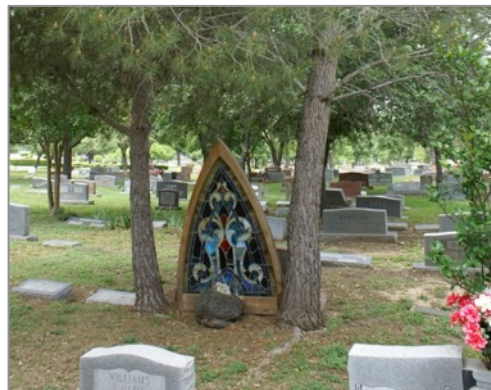


Handmade grave markers at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: (left) Section 10; (right) Section 9

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Handmade grave markers: (left) wooden cross at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 9; (right) tiles and bricks with handwritten inscriptions at Evergreen Cemetery, Section D



(Left) Many markers in this design, clearly by the same artist, are present in Evergreen Cemetery and other city cemeteries. They typically feature cast glitter; historically, reflective or glass objects on or as part of grave markers are part of the African American cultural tradition. (Right) A stained glass marker at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 4

The City should clarify how the term *durable* is defined. SMITH team project notes indicate that limestone is not considered durable, although some relatively recent monuments and marker bases in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery are made of limestone. Both smooth and highly fossilized varieties have been utilized.

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E. The minimum size, shape, and type of material used for foundations is stipulated.

The existing rules do not require the use of concrete foundations, but rather define the dimensions, materials, etc., should concrete foundations be used.

It is not within the scope of this report to investigate whether recent foundation installations comply with this rule; however, given the conditions visible in the cemeteries regarding shifting and tilting markers, a first step may include an random-sampled evaluation of exposed foundations to determine if they meet these criteria.



Visibly thin exposed foundation, Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 2

Many historic and contemporary markers were placed with no base; these typically include tablet markers, crosses made of wood or metal, and found objects used to mark graves. Crosses, such as the one shown below, are especially common markers for Latino individuals.



(Left) Wooden tablet marker, Oakwood Cemetery, Section 1; tile cross, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section B

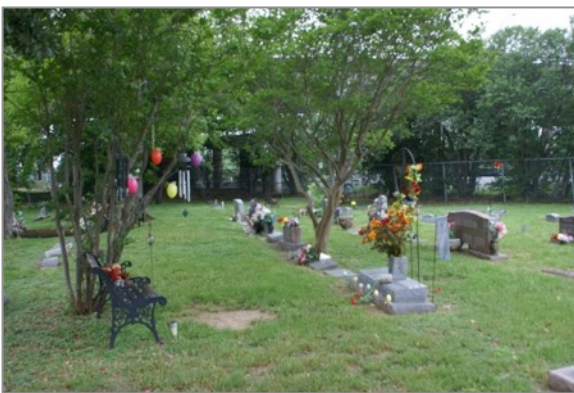
EXISTING CEMETERY RULES

- F. The rules prohibit the leaving of “boxes, shells, toys, or discarded glassware” on graves or in walkways or streets.

Grave goods (items related to the life of the deceased) and other decorations are primarily found in the infant section and newer sections of Evergreen Cemetery and in Sections 5, 6, 9, and 10 in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Toys and stuffed animals are commonly left on children’s graves. Stuffed animals with Christmas themes (such as reindeer or teddy bears with Christmas ribbons) were observed in late April. These had weathered and faded a bit by that point. Other graves, decorated for Easter, looked fresh one week after that holiday.



Christmas decorations: (left) stuffed reindeer left at infant grave in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 9, seen here in April 2014; (right) candy canes and other decorations in infant section, Evergreen Cemetery



Easter decorations: (left) in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 9A; (right) in Evergreen Cemetery, Section K

Although glass bottles and similar grave goods are rarely seen today, the inclusion of “discarded glassware” in the 1978 rules may have been a reaction to previous practices and/or a lack of understanding of those burial customs. Today, glassware would likely be in the form of vases.

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G. The rules prohibit the leaving of watering cans or hoses on graves or in walkways or streets.

Watering hoses can be found stored on or near graves or attached to upright hose bibs throughout the four cemeteries that are irrigated (the exception being Plummers Cemetery). Watering cans are less common.

H. The rules prohibit the placement of benches, chairs, tables, and trellises on the cemetery grounds.

Benches, chairs, and tables can be found in Oakwood Cemetery. Trellises are present in Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex. In Oakwood and its Annex, these resources are today considered historic. Benches, chairs, trellises, and shepherd's hooks are present in great numbers in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and in smaller numbers in Evergreen Cemetery. None of these items were present in Plummers Cemetery at the time of the Master Plan team's site visit on April 30, 2014.

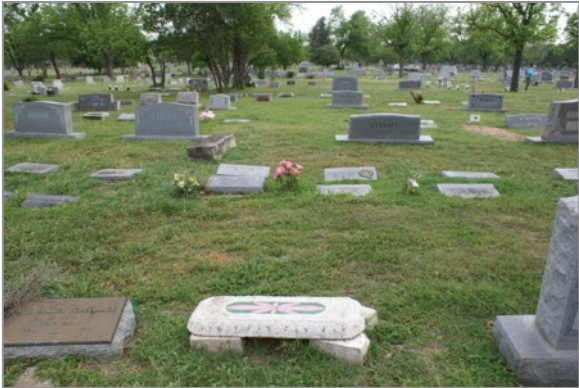
Benches, chairs, and tables are made of a variety of materials, including granite, marble, cast stone, concrete, wood, metal, and plastic. Their age and condition varies greatly. Some benches serve as the only marker for a grave, or as the family memorial for a group of grave spaces. Some are personalized with plaques or other identifying features. At least one bench is an integral part of the marker; this is called an *exedra*. Benches found in the Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery today have been purchased at home improvement stores as well as from monument companies, which may charge \$1,200 or more for an inscribed granite bench.

This is not a new phenomenon; chairs and benches in Oakwood Cemetery and its Annex are sometimes in dilapidated condition and appear to date from the 1960s or 1970s. Other benches in these cemeteries are relatively new and in good condition.



Oakwood Cemetery: (Left) Rusty wrought iron bench, likely from the 1960s, Section 2; (right) newer stone bench with inscription, Section 3

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(Left) Metal grave furnishings at Oakwood Cemetery, Section 2; (right) collapsed or deconstructed concrete bench, with legs laid flat and seat placed on top of them, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Section F



Benches as primary grave markers: (left) Austin Memorial Park Cemetery; (right) Evergreen Cemetery



Various types of graveside benches found at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

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(Left) Dilapidated bench; (right) plastic butterfly bench, both at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery



(Left) Some benches encroach onto neighboring lots; (right) a typical view of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 6, where many of benches in that cemetery are located

The practical purpose of a bench is, of course, to provide a place of rest during a visit to the grave of a loved one. Most park-style benches are 50 inches wide, made from metal or metal and wood, and designed to provide comfortable seating for two people; this is the type of bench most commonly seen in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Benches are sometimes placed inappropriately outside of the grave space, and in a few cases, the master plan team observed benches leaning against neighboring grave markers. Benches placed throughout the cemetery by individuals often obstruct walkways or common areas. In addition to benches, a single plastic-and-metal chair was observed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Benches pose a challenge for maintenance crews, who must mow and trim around them. As benches with wooden components age, these can become splintered or broken, posing a safety risk to users. Cemetery maintenance staff regularly remove aged and damaged benches; the accumulation of these has created a “boneyard” of bench parts at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

Over greater periods of time, metal components may corrode, making the bench unstable. However, deterioration is not limited to wooden and metal benches. In some areas, inscribed

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granite benches were not installed on foundations, or apparently with sufficient adhesive to connect the seat to the legs, and have shifted along with the soil; these components are now coming apart, rendering the bench unsafe as seating and posing a topple hazard to passersby, who could be injured if a large piece of granite falls on them.



Granite bench falling over at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Section 5

The City of Austin seeks to strike a balance between the needs of visitors for comfortable seating near the graves of their loved ones, the desire for efficient maintenance operations, and the safety of the public. The bench situation in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, particularly, is contentious.

I. Mounding of dirt over graves is prohibited.

Mounding of dirt was observed in Evergreen Cemetery. It is not clear whether or when mounding was generally discontinued or officially discouraged in Austin city cemeteries. This practice is continued only by a few people who clearly tend these graves meticulously.



Mounding of dirt over graves in Evergreen Cemetery, Section H: (left) with decorative gravel cover; (right) with roses and plot fencing

EXISTING CEMETERY RULES

- J. Flowers or plants may be placed on graves, but clay or plastic pots, or wire frames to hold flowers or plants, may be removed by cemetery staff as soon as the flowers/plants have wilted, faded, or died. Persons wishing to retain funeral arrangements should retrieve them within 72 hours of the funeral service. Artificial flowers placed for a holiday will be removed after 30 days.**

Few clay or plastic pots or wire frames were observed in the city cemeteries in April 2014.

- K. Persons wishing to place flowers on graves with flush markers must use the bronze vases that come with the markers.**

In many cases, these bronze vases are missing, possibly stolen for scrap. If continued theft is likely, it would be unwise to reinstall bronze vases; alternative materials should be considered.

- L. Planting ivy, flowers, or shrubs is prohibited.**

All of these types of plants were observed in the cemeteries. Any historic, cultural plantings should be identified as such and preserved. See the Master Plan for more information.

- M. Hardwood trees may be planted with approval of the Cemetery Superintendent.**

New tree plantings were not observed at the cemeteries in April 2014. The location and species of trees should follow recommendations in the Master Plan.

INITIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AND RESPONSE

In Fall 2013, City of Austin staff began to give notice that the existing but previously unenforced cemetery rules regarding gravesite ornamentation would be enforced within the next few months.

A draft press release dated September 5 stated the reasons for the change in practice:

Cemetery staff will begin the process of identifying, documenting and notifying clients about furniture, plants or items on gravesites, at Austin Memorial Park and Evergreen cemeteries, which are out of compliance with the City's Rules and Regulations and need to be removed. This effort is being undertaken by the City's Cemetery Management in response to cemetery stakeholder input asking for improvement of the conditions and maintenance of the City's cemeteries.

The Department is respectful and sensitive to the needs of the needs of customers, families and friends who wish to honor loved ones in the City's cemeteries. However, by applying a uniform approach in adhering to the existing Cemetery Rules and Regulations, staff will be able to enhance public safety at the cemeteries, improve maintenance and the improve the look of the City's cemeteries.

The current number of out of compliance benches, adornments and site amenities such as grave borders, trellis and rock gardens can pose a public safety risk, and in some instances are impeding effective maintenance operations and cemetery services.

Gravesites that are out of compliance with the City's Cemetery Rules and Regulation will be identified and tagged with information that identifies the graves location and type of violation. Cemetery Clients will be provided with 30-day notice to remove items that are not in compliance. After a 30 day period, cemetery staff create an inventory list of items to be removed, will issue a work order for removal of the items, and the grave sites will be cleaned up.

Cemetery staff will continue this compliance effort at Evergreen Cemetery beginning November 1, 2013 will follow the same process used at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Ongoing compliance monitoring will be part of the Cemetery's operations throughout the year.

The gravesite rules enforcement effort applied only to Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery. PARD Cemeteries Manager Gilbert Hernandez stated that the enforcement was an effort to address complaints about conditions and maintenance received by cemetery staff.

In addition to media releases to notify lot owners of the upcoming enforcement plans, signs (such as the one shown on the following page) were placed in the cemeteries.

INITIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AND RESPONSE



Notice of rules enforcement (Austin American-Statesman, mystatesman.com)

Following the September announcement, citizen responses to the enforcement initiative were accompanied by media coverage with copy such as, “The city received a barrage of complaints after it began citing graves adorned with extra objects for code violations: benches, birdbaths, vegetation, wind chimes, stones, and more.”¹² One citizen, interviewed on camera, noted that her family was never provided with a list of the rules when they purchased six grave spaces in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.¹³

In response to citizen concerns, Austin City Council passed a resolution (20131017-042) in October 2013, directing the City Manager to “implement a policy allowing ornamentation within the boundaries of a burial plot, subject to applicable laws allowing removal for health and/or safety reasons. The policy will remain in effect pending the outcome of a stakeholder process and final policy direction from the City Council.” The resolution also called for the City Manager, in collaboration with stakeholders and a working group of the Parks and Recreation Board, to “evaluate whether current cemetery policies related to grave ornamentation are appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving, while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families. The evaluation should include a survey of best practices in culturally and ethnically diverse cities.”

The resolution also noted that the enforcement effort was conducted by PARD staff in response to direction by the Parks and Recreation Board Working Group to create a plan for increased enforcement of the cemetery rules and regulations and to include a date by which spaces must be brought into compliance.

¹² Phoebe Flanigan and KUT Staff, “Council Preview: Putting Austin Cemetery Changes to Rest?” KUT Austin, October 17, 2013.

¹³ “City of Austin rules will force removal of grave decorations,” video accompanying article at mystatesman.com, *Austin American-Statesman*, October 2, 2013.

INITIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AND RESPONSE

Following the passage of the Council resolution, PARD prepared a scope of work for the public engagement effort described in the Council resolution. On February 28, 2014, the City of Austin issued a Request for Quotations (RFQ 8600 TVN0082) for a Cemetery Public Facilitation Consultant. Addendum No. 1 was issued on March 3 to clarify the term of the contract, which was open-ended but anticipated to last approximately 90 days. Addendum No. 2 was issued the following day, containing answers to questions submitted by potential bidders, as is customary. The solicitation closed on March 10, 2014.

The project scope of work generally consisted of the design and implementation of a Public Engagement Plan, to include data collection as needed to understand existing issues and concerns, development of a media plan, and a series of public input meetings. Based on the information collected from City staff and the public, the consultant was tasked to “identify basic rules issues” and, using the current cemetery rules as a starting point, propose revisions to that document, based on public input.

The expected outcomes and deliverables included:

- *Draft summary of recommended updates to Cemetery Rules and Regulations: The consultant shall maintain all versions of the update rules and regulations beginning with the current adopted rules and regulations as the baseline document.*
- *Submit summary plan and final updates to Parks and Recreation Board: The consultant shall draft a final recommendation and present the final draft to the Parks and Recreation Board.*
- *Submit summary plan and final updates to City Council: The consultant shall draft a final recommendation and present the final draft to the Austin City Council.*

Based on responses to that solicitation, the City hired SMITH/Associates, Inc., a San Antonio firm specializing in public outreach, community engagement, communications and facilitation. The SMITH/Associates team of four consultants was led by Tim Sueltenfuss. City participation included Gilbert Hernandez, Cemeteries Manager; Patricia Jacobson, Cemetery Administrative Specialist; Kim McKnight, PARD Cultural Resources Specialist and project manager for the Cemeteries Master Plan; Nick Rodriguez, Cemeteries Maintenance Manager; and Victor Ovalle, PARD Public Information Officer.

SMITH/ASSOCIATES DATA COLLECTION

This section summarizes the data collection activities completed by SMITH/Associates in Summer 2014. For this task, McDoux utilized information provided by SMITH/Associates, PARD staff, and comments received through the Cemetery Master Plan process. The public's responses to the draft revised rules, as well as an explanation of that process (based on provided information) begins on page 68.

TEAM MEETINGS

The SMITH team met (either in person or via conference call) with PARD staff several times during the month of April 2014:

- On April 4, the City provided SMITH with background on the project. SMITH's post-meeting notes indicate that PARD assessed the primary problem to be addressed as follows:

"There is an issue in the cemetery of people going beyond the confines of their space, including placing stones, planting trees or bushes, or hanging wind chimes. From a maintenance standpoint, the current situation is not ideal, but it is workable. The main focus of this process will be keeping people in their own plot-space."
- The project team met on April 8 so that SMITH could outline their media strategy, based on PARD's goals, which included:
 - Create as much public participation as possible (currently 20-30 people regularly attend cemetery meetings)
 - Create a broader range of stakeholder participation
 - Show metrics to city council to demonstrate scope of outreach and opportunities for public participation
- On April 11, SMITH outlined their public outreach approach, discussed media processes and responsibilities, and established a going-forward plan with staff. Following that meeting, SMITH were provided with additional information by Cemeteries staff, including a list of key stakeholders.
- Representatives from the City Corporate Marketing team met with the project team on April 16 to outline the options for outreach available through City platforms such as SpeakUp Austin, the Community Registry, 311 Hotline, and email lists.

No additional internal project team minutes were provided by SMITH for the purposes of this report.

SMITH consultant Amanda Gangawer attended the April 30 Cemetery Master Plan meeting and supplied handouts about the SMITH effort. Ms. Gangawer also spoke separately to Steph McDougal, the master plan team lead for public engagement, to ask questions about the master plan process and to somewhat coordinate, since the overlapping timeframes of the SMITH project

SMITH/ASSOCIATES DATA COLLECTION

with the Cemetery Master Plan project were confusing for stakeholders, and many people did not immediately understand that the two projects were separate.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

SMITH brought to this effort a proven approach to public engagement. (See *Public Engagement Approach*, Appendix A.) In their summary report, SMITH described the approach as follows:

The public engagement practitioners at SMITH/Associates believe in open, inclusive processes that encourage stakeholders from all perspectives to honestly share their opinions. During this project, we will translate this philosophical approach into the following pragmatic efforts:

- We will endeavor to *engage a wide array of community opinions* to include family members whose loved ones are interred in Austin cemeteries, representatives of community organizations such as Save Austin Cemeteries, journalists and other media figures, religious leaders, and representatives of institutions that work directly with the cemetery such as funeral homes.
- Rather than assuming that the people will come to us, we will attempt to “*go to the people*” by proactively reaching out to those who have historically been involved in this issue.
- We will focus considerable thought and effort on ways in which to *acknowledge the deeply held concerns and actively listen* to the strong emotional connections that our stakeholders experience in relation to this issue.
- We will *engage the public* not only through public meetings but also via the website, social media, personal interviews, signs, and flyers.
- We will *solicit public involvement* not only in the execution of the public engagement process, but also *in the design of this process*.
- We will *coordinate closely with the ongoing cemetery master planning project* to ensure that meetings do not conflict and that we solicit participation from key stakeholders in that project.

The public engagement effort will achieve the following goals:

1. Seek consensus on potential revisions to cemetery rules and regulations.
2. Maintain sensitivity to personal and cultural expressions of grieving.
3. Consider necessary safety for cemetery workers.
4. Demonstrate respect for all families.
5. Ensure public access to timely project information and the opportunity to make comments.

SMITH/ASSOCIATES DATA COLLECTION

For the purposes of this project, *stakeholders* were defined by SMITH as people who “historically have been involved in this issue,” including:

- family members whose loved ones are interred in Austin cemeteries and who have previously offered input to PARD concerning cemetery operations;
- journalists who have covered similar issues in the past;
- religious leaders; and
- representatives of community organizations such as Save Austin Cemeteries.

PLAN FOR REACHING CONSENSUS

SMITH’s methodology for translating public input into consensus revisions to the cemetery rules was described as follows (see *Public Engagement Approach* in Appendix A):

1. Identify rules that have been the subject of previous discussion and dialogue in order to focus public input.
 - a. PARD Cemetery Operations staff members specify rules that cannot be changed and document reasons.
 - b. PARD Cemetery Operations staff members specify rules for which public input will be solicited.
2. Inform stakeholders of the rules that cannot be changed.
3. Stakeholders review remaining rules and identify (from their perspective) which rules require change.
4. Stakeholders recommend specific revisions to these rules.
5. Identify any recommendations that are not viable (and explain reasons).
6. Identify consensus recommendations (i.e., rule revisions that all stakeholders support).
7. Identify non-consensus recommendations (i.e., recommended revisions that all stakeholders do not support).

They noted that three possible outcomes emerge from this methodology:

1. Stakeholders reach consensus about a rule revision and this revision is suggested to the PARD Board of Directors and the City Council; OR
2. Stakeholders do not reach consensus, the subject rule remains unchanged, and potential revisions will be reconsidered in the future; OR
3. Stakeholders do not reach consensus and the PARD Board of Directors or City Council address the recommendations as they deem appropriate.

SMITH/ASSOCIATES DATA COLLECTION

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

SMITH's public outreach activities launched on April 28, and included press releases, email blasts to email subscribers, Facebook and other social media updates, signs posted in municipal cemeteries, updates to the PARD website, and direct contact with 48 community organizations.

The goal of these activities was to inform a wide array of stakeholders about opportunities to provide their feedback. Key messages included:

1. Public will have *multiple opportunities* and forums to provide input regarding cemetery rules.
2. *All stakeholders* will have the opportunity to help *shape and update* the cemeteries rules for recommendation to city council.

In order to increase the likelihood of media coverage, SMITH crafted the following strategy:

- Build content for media that speaks directly to their interests and captures their attention.
- Reach out to media that serves cemetery stakeholder target markets (cultural, religious, preservative, historical) and communicate opportunities for input and participation from various groups.
- Contact media with precise timing to ensure public is notified both well in advance as well as reminded as public meetings draw closer.
- Provide detailed content for Parks & Recreation Cemeteries website that aids media in their research:
 - Current Rules
 - Cemetery Tree & Shrub FAQs
 - City Council Resolution information
 - Similar cities' cemetery rules and regulations links
 - Cemetery Master Plan information
- Invite media to attend public meetings to see and understand public engagement process, highlighting the visual elements of this type of public meeting.

Media Outreach

A press release was disseminated to the City of Austin's media contacts by the Parks & Recreation PIO and Corporate Marketing teams on April 29, 2014. It summarized the project, specified all opportunities for public involvement, and invited participation in the *Speak Up Austin* forum.

A media advisory reminding the media of the May 20–21 open house meetings was scheduled to be distributed on May 15.

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PARD Website

Information about the public engagement process and upcoming opportunities to become involved was placed on the PARD website on April 28.

Social Media

The public participation opportunity announcements were placed on the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Facebook page on April 29.

Email Blast

The public participation opportunity announcements were conveyed in an email blast, which was disseminated to historically involved stakeholders on April 29. The email also solicited stakeholder involvement in telephone interviews.

Signage

Four banners were produced announcing public participation opportunities and posted on April 30 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, and Plummers Cemetery.

PUBLIC INPUT

The following questions were used to garner stakeholder feedback via telephone interviews with stakeholders, *Speak Up Austin* surveys, and public input meetings:

1. Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?
2. Which specific rules, if any, must be changed?
3. What specific revisions do you recommend for these rules?
4. What new rules, if any, would you like to suggest?
5. Do you have any other input about the current cemetery rules and regulations?

SMITH explained the design of the questions as follows:

The expansive nature of Question 1 helps stakeholders unify around a common vision for City of Austin cemeteries. It also begins the dialogue on a more positive note than would be the case if the discussion abruptly started with the remaining questions. Question 2 focuses our collective attention on those rules and regulations about which stakeholders have differing views. Questions 3 and 4 will provide the specific input around which revised rules and regulations will be constructed. Question 5 permits stakeholders to provide any other input they might wish to share.

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For Questions 2 and 3, SMITH (likely with input from cemetery staff) selected “the rules that have drawn the most interest from the public”:

- Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.
- Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.
- No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.
- No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.
- The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.
- The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.
- Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.
- Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.
- In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.
- In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.
- If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.

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- Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term 'care' shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.

The list includes those rules which are pertinent to the ornamentation of grave spaces with items of a more temporary nature and plantings, and does not include any questions about the number, type, size, or material of grave markers or monuments.

SMITH provided no information for this report related to any direction received from PARD or their own reasons for focusing on these particular existing rules, rather than the needs of grieving families and of maintenance staff. The compressed schedule required to meet Council's deadline to resolve this issue may have led staff and SMITH to simply revise the rules already in place.

Speak Up Austin

Public input was solicited May 1–27 via *Speak Up Austin*, telephone interviews and email correspondence. One hundred and sixty-five people participated in the survey.

The list of selected rules was provided to survey participants, who were asked, for each rule, “Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.”

Responses to the survey illustrated the often diametrically opposed viewpoints of stakeholders regarding grave ornamentation.

Stakeholder Interviews

SMITH spoke with eight stakeholders via telephone, and received additional feedback from five interviewees via email, between May 1–23.

For each of the selected rules, SMITH asked “In your opinion, should this rule be changed?” and “If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?”

Compiled responses of the eight individuals interviewed were not provided by SMITH as a separate document; however, those responses are included in the final list of feedback received throughout the process, and McDoux prepared a report with compiled comments for the purposes of this data analysis. (See Appendix A.)

The master plan team gathered similar feedback at public meetings and through its own stakeholder interviews. (A summary of that information begins on page 65.)

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Public Meetings

Two meetings were held on May 20 and May 21 to inform the public about “the current effort to review the cemetery rules and regulations” and gather feedback. Twenty-four people attended the meeting on May 20, and six attended the meeting on May 21. Citizens were asked to provide their feedback on or before May 26.

SMITH described the format of the public meetings as follows:

A come-and-go open house format will provide a more intimate setting and encourage one-on-one conversation with city staff. Open houses do not include any large group presentations; instead, they provide numerous stations for members of the public to obtain information and provide input.

At the registration desk, attendees will sign in and receive a copy of the current cemetery rules and regulations, several comment cards, and an informational sheet. The informational sheet will instruct attendees how to participate in the public input meeting and, on the reverse, it will advise them of upcoming opportunities for public input. Additional comment cards, and boxes into which to deposit the cards, will be placed throughout the room.

Registration staff will advise attendees that anyone who is unable to write out their comments may choose to participate in an interview. Greeters will also assure attendees who have already provided comments via *Speak Up Austin* or stakeholder interviews that their responses have been captured; they will then be encouraged to provide any additional comments they may have or to participate in some of the small group discussion elements of the public input meeting.

The meeting room will consist of stations to share information and stations to solicit input from the public. All of these stations are optional but input station #3 (below) is the primary means by which attendees can share their proposed revisions to cemetery rules and regulations.

Seven stations will convey information about the following topics:

1. A rolling display of photographs from the City of Austin cemeteries. The purpose of this station is to familiarize attendees with the cemeteries and provide context for their input.
2. A summary of the current public engagement process and invitation to participate in upcoming public input opportunities. This will encourage continued attendance at future public meetings.

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3. A depiction of the history of previous public engagement efforts pertaining to cemetery rules and regulations. The purpose of this station is to convey “how we got here” and indicate a timeline of related events.
4. A description of the related, but separate, public engagement process for the cemetery master planning process. This station will encourage attendees to ask questions and to participate in the master planning process.
5. A summary of cemetery rules and regulations in other communities. The purpose of this station is to provide context to the discussions and a point of comparison for attendees’ input.
6. A delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the City of Austin Cemetery Operation staff. This will answer questions pertaining to City care and maintenance of the cemeteries.
7. A depiction of the dimensions of a typical burial space. A graphic displaying these dimensions will be paired with an actual size burial space marked out on the floor. The intent of this station is to provide specific context for discussions of the rules.

Three stations will solicit input about the following topics:

1. A story telling station to allow small groups of attendees to discuss the first stakeholder question: “Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?” (stakeholder question 1). The purpose of this station is to ease attendees into the process and begin their interaction on a positive, forward-looking note.
2. A rotating discussion station consisting of chairs set in two concentric circles. A facilitator will assist attendees in engaging in brief, rotating conversations with one another about current rules and regulations, potential revisions, new rules, and other feedback (stakeholder questions 2-5). The purpose of this station is to serve as a warm-up exercise and all attendees will be advised to record their comments in writing on the comment cards.
3. A station displaying the current cemetery rules and regulations that have been the subject of the most discussion in the past. This will consist of a long table with small signs depicting each of these rules. Using nearby tables, attendees will write their specific comments on comment cards and deposit those cards in boxes near each sign (stakeholder questions 2 and 3). Attendees will also have the opportunity to indicate new rules they suggest (stakeholder question 4) and any other input they would like to share (stakeholder question 5).

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According to SMITH documents:

The open house meeting format is recommended by the International Association for Public Participation for receiving public input and improving public understanding. The open house meeting format encourages one-on-one conversation and provides numerous stations for members of the public to obtain information and provide input. This self-directed format allows attendees to dedicate any amount of time they choose to participate and provides the opportunity to speak one-on-one with staff members. It is an ideal format to ensure the inclusion of those individuals who wish to provide input but who do not like to speak in public.

A third public meeting was held on June 5 to present the proposed draft of revised rules. Eight people attended. Comments were collected at and following that meeting. Information stations at this meeting included the following:

- [Public Input Display](#) – Includes all of the public input received through June 3, 2014.
- [Memorialization Materials Information](#) – Examples of permitted and non-permitted materials.
- [Memorialization Space](#) – Information on the sizing and allowances within the memorialization space.
- [Burial Spaces](#) – Information on sizing and physical representations of the burial space.
- [Public Engagement Process](#) – Information on the methodology for gathering public input.
- [Rolling Photos](#) – Images of Austin’s cemeteries.
- [Proposed Rules with Revision Cards](#) – The DRAFT Proposed Rules and Regulations and cards to collect revisions.

A fourth and final public meeting was held on June 18. Eleven citizens and two City staff members attended. Nine citizens and one staff member signed in to speak at the meeting. During this meeting, each citizen spoke for 3–5 minutes at a time, and then a SMITH consultant verbally summarized their comments. No responses to citizen statements or discussion of issues took place at this meeting, which was recorded by a transcriptionist. This one-way flow of information seems to have been the case at all of the public meetings. A number of attendees expressed frustration with the repetitive nature of the meetings, surveys, and interviews.

Summaries of the comments received at each public meeting are presented on the following pages. A full list of all compiled responses to the existing rules is provided in Appendix B.

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COMMENTS ON EXISTING RULES

SMITH compiled all responses to existing rules into a single document. McDoux's analysis of those responses is presented below. SMITH's questions were limited to "Do you agree or disagree with this rule? How would you revise this rule [as written]?" but many people took the time to provide additional feedback. For each of the rules listed, we have attempted to provide a complete summary of public comments. Since the same question was asked through multiple data collection vehicles (Speak Up Austin, interviews, meetings), it is possible that some individuals may be represented by more than one response. Therefore, the numbers shown below reflect *responses*, not individuals.

Rule numbers are based on the SMITH numbering system used at the meetings; these correspond with the compiled document of responses which appears in Appendix B. The rules are presented here in the order they are discussed at the beginning of this report.

Rule 23. Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.

SMITH received a total of 179 responses to this rule.

Forty-one responses (23%) agreed with this rule entirely, and another 18 (10%) responses agreed in part. The majority of those who agreed in part commented that they would want the rule to allow enclosures and/or small objects of a durable nature and/or plants.

Ninety-nine responses (55%) disagreed with this rule entirely; another four (2%) disagreed in part. Those disagreeing in part would support prohibiting items of a temporary or non-durable nature from being placed as grave decorations.

An additional 14 responses did not agree or disagree. Most of these primarily related to a need for religious exemptions, an appeals process, and written notice to lot owners before decorations are removed. Several responses did not answer the question or refer to the rule.

Rule 36. Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.

SMITH received a total of 174 responses to this rule. Most responses reflected concerns about the ability of the City to fairly and consistently apply this rule.

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Although 43 responses indicated simple agreement, while another seven indicated simple disagreement, almost all of the remaining 124 responses (whether marked “agree” or “disagree”) reflected one or more of the following general areas of agreement:

- Safety hazards must be addressed; however, the definition of “safety hazard” or “dangerous condition” must be clearly defined and not left up to the Cemetery Administrator’s discretion.
- The term “unsightly” is too subjective and would be difficult to define or enforce fairly or consistently.
- Lot owners must have sufficient notice to resolve issues before the Cemetery takes action and charges them.
- The Cemetery Administrator should not have sole discretion about repairing or removing any memorial. The City should have a board or committee who would make these decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Common responses having to do with maintenance issues include:

- The City has not maintained the cemeteries for years; now it wants to charge lot owners for repairs that have resulted from its lack of maintenance.
- The City is responsible for maintaining the cemeteries, including grave markers.
- If a lot owner’s family cannot be located, such as very old graves at Oakwood Cemetery, the City will have to pay for those repairs.
- Markers and monuments should be repaired, not removed.
- If a marker is damaged by the City maintenance crews or by a vehicle or is installed improperly, the lot owner should not have to pay to repair it.

The implementation of this rule, particularly the concept of charging lot owners for repairs, was questioned by many respondents. A common question was, “How would the City decide who to contact if the graves are old and the family has dispersed?” One person asked whether the City would seriously try to collect money from the Zilker family to repair that family’s memorial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Many respondents referred to old markers in Oakwood Cemetery, which clearly are in need of greater attention than markers in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery or Evergreen Cemetery, but are historic resources that should not be removed and should be repaired or conserved only by knowledgeable individuals or organizations.

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Rule 86. No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.

The wording of this rule made it difficult for most people to respond. The types of items included (“boxes, shells, toys (and) discarded glassware” and “sprinkler cans (and) water hoses”) are unrelated, and the term “or similar articles” added extra confusion, since no one seemed to be able to determine to which set of items “similar articles” was intended to refer. The locations where the items would not be permitted – grave, walkway, or street – are also an incongruous combination that introduced confusion. As a result, many responses focused on one or two of these things.

SMITH received 182 responses to this rule. Fifty-eight responses (32%) generally agreed with the rule; 79 responses (43%) generally disagreed, and 30 (16%) partially agreed or disagreed. The remainder of responses were generally about grave decorations or the need to water cemetery trees and plants, or were unrelated to this rule.

Many (both agreeing and disagreeing) stated that they would make an exception for toys, which might be placed by grieving parents on a child’s grave or by a child on a parent’s grave. “If a child wants to leave a matchbox car on his mother’s grave, it should be there the next time he comes to visit.”

Many responses, both agreeing and disagreeing, also noted the need for an exemption for the placement of stones or shells as a religious or cultural tradition, often (but not exclusively) on Jewish graves.

Most responses agreed that glassware posed a safety hazard, although some specified that the use of the term “discarded glassware” seemed to indicate that this rule was written to mean trash, which they agreed should not be allowed, rather than a personal memento or vase purposefully left at a grave, which most (but not all) respondents mentioning glassware felt should be allowed.

Responses having to do with water hoses were divided nearly evenly. Many responses noted that the City did not water plants or trees, and that individuals should not be prohibited from maintaining vegetation. Some noted that elderly people might not be able to carry water hoses back and forth easily. Several responses suggested that the City should provide water hoses at spigots. Several others called for the City to provide a storage facility for water hoses and cans, should they be banned from gravesites.

Nearly everyone seemed to agree that nothing should be left in walkways or on streets.

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Rule 61. No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.

SMITH collected 165 responses to this rule. Ninety-four responses (56%) agreed with this rule, while 73 responses (44%) disagreed.

Several responses asked about the rationale or basis for this rule and requested examples of signs that the City considered to be a problem. “It would be nice if the City could explain the rationale for each of these rules, so we could better envision the problem you’re trying to fix and then be better able to address our concerns, while also attempting to correct the problem you’ve identified.”

A few responses noted the need to exempt some temporary signs, such as those placed to direct mourners to a funeral, as well as permanent signage that would direct visitors to a section of a cemetery exclusive to a church or synagogue, such as the Jewish sections of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

Twenty-four responses (15%), both agreeing and disagreeing with this rule, noted the lack of a clear definition of the word “sign” and discussed whether different specific types of signs might or might not be allowed. Examples included:

- Small plaques
- Military or organizational medallions
- Holiday decorations
- U.S. flags or armed services flags
- Other decorative flags or banners
- Sports banners or placards, either generally (for fans) or specific to a deceased athlete

Several responses stated that it would be reasonable to limits on the size of signs and/or size of lettering on signs, so that any individual sign placed on a gravesite would not be obtrusive or distracting for other visitors.

In general, responses seemed to be in favor of some limits, if the City would define what it means by “sign,” explain why such a rule is needed, and then give stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the development of reasonable limits.

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Rule 63. The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.

SMITH collected a total of 183 responses to this rule. The majority, 133 responses (73%), disagreed with the rule, while 40 responses (22%) agreed.

Only a few responses mentioned trellises or tables, and opinion was split on whether those should or should not be allowed.

Whether agreeing or disagreeing, about 1/3 of responses commented on possible limits to materials that benches.

- Some of those disagreeing with the rule acknowledged the need to limit materials.
- Comments were about evenly split between limiting benches to only “durable” materials and allowing benches made of any materials. Those responses calling for limits suggested included concrete; marble, granite, or “stone” in general; cast iron; and teak.
- Twelve responses called for the City to provide benches.
- Four responses suggested that the City could offer a selection of pre-approved benches for individual purchase and placement.

Several responses suggested that benches (of any type) should only be allowed on space owned by the person placing the bench. A few specifically noted that benches should be allowed on family lots where the same individual or family owns multiple spaces.

A few responses noted that this rule should only apply to Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and not to Oakwood Cemetery, or that it should not apply to existing benches at either cemetery that are more than 50 years old. In either case, the intent was to prevent the removal of items that could be considered historic resources.

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Rule 83. The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.

This rule illustrates the inability of respondents to provide meaningful feedback when no explanation is provided for why a rule is needed or what it is intended to avoid or make possible.

SMITH collected 158 responses to this rule. Fifty-one percent agreed with the rule, 22% disagreed, 7% had no opinion.

Fifteen percent of responses indicated that they did not understand what an “additional mound” was, and another 10% responded with statements that indicated they thought an “additional mound” referred to a garden or planting bed. Several responses, both agreeing and disagreeing, suggested that a height limit might be appropriate if a mound is allowed.

Only two responses referenced traditional or cultural practices that include mounding dirt over graves. Many responses, both agreeing and disagreeing with this rule, included statements such as “I do not know why someone would do this.”

Based on respondents’ general lack of understanding of traditional burial practices that include mounding dirt over graves, it is difficult to find any useful direction in this data.

Rule 84. Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.

SMITH collected 168 responses to this rule. Eighty-six responses (51%) agreed entirely, and 48 responses (29%) disagreed. Many responses, whether agreeing or disagreeing, did so with conditions, most commonly:

- Dead flowers and plastic pots may be removed, but potted plants, artificial flowers, and clay or metal pots should not be removed.
- Lot owners should be notified before items are removed and have the ability to take their items home, or the City should provide storage for those items until the lot owner can pick them up.
- These items should be removed only on a published schedule or after a certain amount of time.

Several responses noted that lot owners had placed expensive pots or artificial flowers at graves, and those items had been removed after 4–6 weeks, with no notice.

Several responses noted that items are currently removed at the discretion of cemetery staff and that this seems to be inconsistent and arbitrary.

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Rule 64. Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.

SMITH collected 170 responses to this question. One hundred and one (59%) responses agreed entirely or in part, while 63 (37%) responses disagreed.

Many responses noted that the 72-hour deadline for removing funeral arrangements was not long enough. “This timeframe is an additional burden on mourners.”

Many people suggested a schedule for removal of flowers or potted plants that had become wilted or had died, such as after 30, 60, 90, or 180 days. A few people questioned how a removal period of “each month” would be determined or scheduled. Eight responses (6%) indicated that the 30-day time period was too short for the removal of artificial flowers, which often continue to look fresh for a much longer time.

Whether agreeing or disagreeing with this rule, 42 responses (25%) stated that planting flowers or other plants should be allowed within the burial space owned by the lot owner.

Rule 85. In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.

SMITH collected 161 responses to this rule, of which 75 (46%) agreed and 62 (39%) disagreed.

Concerns raised by both those agreeing and disagreeing included:

- Bronze vases are expensive, and they are often stolen from flush memorials, so alternative materials should be permitted.
- If vases are restricted, this rule must be explained to lot owners before they purchase a flush memorial, so that they are aware of this restriction. This cannot be enforced retroactively if lot owners were not informed in advance.

In addition, several people did not understand the question, because they were unaware of the concept of flush memorials, did not understand what that meant, or did not know that either Austin Memorial Park Cemetery or Evergreen Cemetery contained flush-only sections. This is another case where it would have been helpful to explain the question and provide examples.

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Rule 65. In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.

Note that the planting or replacement of trees or shrubs is discussed in great detail in the Cemeteries Master Plan. Any rule related to planting trees or shrubs should follow those recommendations.

SMITH collected 170 responses to this rule. Eighty-eight responses (52%) agreed entirely or in part, while 73 responses (43%) disagreed. The remainder of responses included comments that could not be judged as agreeing or disagreeing.

This rule includes four different types of vegetation (annual flowers, perennial plants, shrubs and bushes, and trees) that might have been better considered individually, based on the responses received. Many responses (both agreeing and disagreeing) expressed that:

- Flowers and perennial plants would be acceptable.
- Invasive plants, such as (but not limited to) ivy, would not as these are likely to encroach on neighboring lots.
- An acceptable list of shrubs or bushes, which are unlikely to quickly grow to a size that would encroach on neighboring lots, should be provided.
- The trees listed above might not be appropriate for planting on gravesites, due to the size of the mature tree and its root system, which could encroach on neighboring lots.
- No trees should be planted without permission.

Many of the responses disagreeing with this rule suggested that the City could provide a list of acceptable, possibly native/drought-resistant plants, and that families should have the right to plant vegetation on the spaces they own, as long as they maintain those plantings.

Several responses (both for and against this rule) suggested that, rather than the Cemetery Administrator having sole discretion for these decisions, permission to plant a shrub should be granted or denied by a board or committee of lot owners, who might consider the size of the proposed shrub and the desires of neighboring lot owners, in a public forum.

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Rule 66. If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.

Note that the care, pruning, and removal of trees or shrubs, whether due to health of the plant or obstruction of walkways and grave spaces, is discussed in great detail in the Cemeteries Master Plan. Any rule related to the removal or pruning of trees or shrubs should follow those recommendations.

SMITH collected 165 responses to this rule. Overwhelmingly, 84% of responses agreed entirely or in part, while only 11% of responses disagreed. The remainder of responses neither agreed nor disagreed.

With that said, responses both agreeing and disagreeing expressed the following general comments:

- Notice should be given before the City removes a tree or shrub.
- Removal should be a last resort, particularly for trees.
- Pruning to provide access to walkways and public areas is acceptable, but should be done by a qualified arborist, not untrained cemetery staff.
- The terms “unsightly” and “detrimental” are too vague and arbitrary and need to be defined.

Rules 88–89. Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term 'care' shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners

SMITH collected 158 responses to this rule. One hundred and thirteen responses (72%) agreed with the rule, while 23 (15%) disagreed. The remainder did not agree or disagree explicitly.

Many responses, either explicitly or through elaboration, indicated that the respondents did not understand this rule. Respondents incorrectly inferred that the rule might:

- Prohibit any additional maintenance by the family
- Prohibit the family from hiring an independent contractor to maintain grave spaces
- Prohibit cemetery maintenance staff from resetting headstones

Several responses wondered why a rule governing the conduct of employees was included in rules directed to lot owners. A few responses indicated that cemetery employees should be allowed to accept payment for work completed on their own time.

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Several responses noted that the rule was inconsistent with current practices, as the City had previously accepted payment for additional services, such as planting trees or shrubs, or that the Cemetery Administrator had promised to “take care of” a burial lot owned by the respondent.

In most cases, however, responses acknowledged the need for everyone to be treated fairly and for cemetery employees to not accept additional, “under the table” payments by private lot owners for additional services during work hours when employees should be maintaining the entire cemetery for the benefit of all lot owners.

Additional Comments

In addition to responses specific to the rules listed above, SMITH collected a total of 121 additional comments. Some of the common ideas in these comments can be summarized as follows:

- Existing grave decorations should be grandfathered; apply these rules only to new sections of the cemetery (Austin Memorial Park Cemetery).
- The City needs to attend to the maintenance that it is already supposed to be doing, including resetting markers and caring for trees, rather than wasting time on these rules.
- The City needs to enforce the rules that it already has in place.
- These rules are entirely too strict and interfere with the grieving process.
- Lot owners are not the only people who decorate graves. How will the City notify other visitors, such as friends or relatives, of these changes?
- No enforcement should take place without sufficient notice to the lot owner.
- Changes should be made only with stakeholder (lot owner) input, in a transparent and participatory process.
- The City should create a board or committee that can make decisions, not leave everything to the discretion of the Cemetery Administrator (or any one person).

Desired Environment

Finally, SMITH collected responses to the question, “Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?”

The vast majority of comments included words like *peaceful*, *serene*, *welcoming*, and *quiet*. Respondents also generally indicated that they wanted the cemeteries to be safe, accessible, and well-maintained, with water-conserving vegetation and management practices. As expected, responses included preferences both for individual expression at gravesites and for the removal of all “clutter.” Many responses, however, noted an appreciation for and desire to respect the practices of cultures different from their own.

MASTER PLAN DATA COLLECTION

Additional public feedback regarding the gravesite ornamentation rules was gathered during the development of the Cemetery Master Plan. This feedback was received via email messages to Kim McKnight (PARD) and Steph McDougal (McDoux) and telephone interviews with cemetery stakeholders.

The comments provided during stakeholder interviews can be summarized as follows:

- There are too many decorations.
- I do not want to see anything change.
- We need to find a compromise and balance.
- If the rules are enforced, there must be an implementation plan and appeals process.

Representative comments are provided below; in some cases, they have been edited for brevity. A full report of the stakeholder interview process, including a list of all compiled comments, is provided in Appendix B.

“Too Many Decorations”

- I would love to have the entire cemetery with grass, but have the space to place flowers near the headstone.
- I think decoration should be minimal. That’s my idea of a cemetery.
- I would like to see the ornamentation cleaned up and more respectful.
- I would like to see an area that looks neat and clean and well groomed and taken care of. The whole cemetery should be both audibly and visually quiet. In other words, I personally don’t like driving through the cemetery and seeing the silver balloons and hanging stuff and whirligigs. That’s a circus atmosphere and destructive and takes away from the solemnity that a cemetery should be.

“Decorations Are Just Fine”

- I enjoy all the decorations that people put up for holidays, feast days, etc. That adds more color to the cemetery.
- I like the cemetery the way it is right now. I see a lot of things there that I would never do; it’s too much clutter for me, but I’m perfectly all right if someone else wants to do it.
- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery isn’t a military cemetery, where all the gravestones are identical and perfectly aligned and all the grass is trimmed and everything; or a private cemeteries where things are flush with the ground and it’s easy to mow. That doesn’t appeal to everyone. That’s exactly why we chose Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, because of the variety of memorials.
- We chose Austin Memorial Park Cemetery for the diversity that it allows. It has a feel of welcoming spirit, where it’s not just a place where bodies or ashes are buried. It’s a place

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where people can remember and feel connected to their loved ones. It is a place where I can reconnect with my past. We specifically chose Austin Memorial Park Cemetery because of all those things and it feels good when we are out there.

“We Need To Find A Compromise”

- I know that the cemeteries need to be all things to be all people and there are controversial issues including what people can leave by the gravestones, so I’m hoping that that will be dealt with in a fair and systematic way.
- The whole business of the families of the deceased who add an awful lot of clutter, you need to be respectful of them, but there needs to be a better way of recognizing the accomplishments of their forebears.
- We are very committed to the fact that there needs to be a balance. It’s wrong to prohibit all of those decorations, but the City can’t allow things to just deteriorate. I want an area where expression can be made on an individual basis, but the City doesn’t have to just let things go to pot there. I don’t see any conflict with that.
- You don’t have to be able to run a mower over everything.
- I had several conversations with the man who managed the cemeteries before the City took it back over. He said that the rules weren’t being followed because someone had buried a loved one and put up some kind of memorial, and it wasn’t according to the rules. That person was told that the memorial had to be taken down, so then he went before City Council and they said he didn’t have to take it down.
- Everybody wants to do memorializations, and that is going to be impossible to manage. Understand that the grieving process is going to last for a long time, and that people who never got the rules are going to put stuff on the gravestones. You need to put a time limit on it, like 18 months after the burial, and then you clean everything off.

“I Want My Bench”

- I would like to have a bench to sit on.
- Unless it’s a memorial bench used as a headstone, nothing should be allowed. I’d like to see any future benches to be made out of stone only. We need stackable chairs that people could sign out and take to the site, have their visitation, and then take it back to the office and get your drivers license back. If you have an elderly person, arrange to have a chair put out on that day. What a great customer service model that would be! If someone brings their own chair, that’s fine, take it with you when you go.
- The cheap benches from Home Depot should be thrown out. The cheap concrete benches need to go. There are some very nice cast iron benches that are just beautiful.

MASTER PLAN DATA COLLECTION

“Any Changes Require an Implementation Plan and Appeals Process”

- People need to have a positive experience in the cemetery where they feel comfortable, where they are respected, not harassed.
- We need a consistent grave decoration implementation plan.
- I would like to see a Cemetery Board to approve requests, so it's not just all for one person to make that decisions yes or no and the public has a voice.
- There needs to be an appeals process.
- The Cemetery Administrator needs to enforce the rules no matter what, with no exceptions.

As noted earlier, these comments represent a wide range of opinions among stakeholders regarding whether, which, and how many grave decorations are *appropriate* and/or *attractive* — concepts that are personal, subjective, and almost certainly influenced by each individual's ethnic background, cultural heritage, religious affiliation, and socioeconomic class.

RULES REVISIONS

PROCESS

After gathering input and feedback from meeting attendees, interviewees, and survey respondents, the SMITH team, working with Mr. Hernandez and cemeteries staff, utilized the comments received from the community to draft a revised list of rules and regulations. SMITH's methodology for making the revisions included the following activities:

- Obtained input on existing cemetery rules
- Tracked respondents' agreement or disagreement with rules
- Used metrics to highlight areas that required change
- Used a holistic approach when reviewing & analyzing input
- Engaged in dialogue and discussion with stakeholders to find adjustments that would address the majority of concerns addressed by the majority of stakeholders
- Treated cemetery operations staff as one of many stakeholders throughout the process
- Proposed rules that balance the preferences of stakeholders and meet the requirement of the City Council resolution

The *metrics* referenced in the above list included measuring the ratio of people who agreed with vs. disagreed with each of the 12–15 specific rules that City staff and other stakeholders had identified as having been of concern historically. SMITH also measured the number of people who commented on a specific rule through public meetings, telephone interviews, and a survey through Speak Up Austin. The agree/disagree metrics primarily showed areas with a considerable amount of disagreement among members of the public, so professional judgment was required to find a compromise that met the needs of most stakeholders.

Consensus on these revisions (such as the benches rule and the concept of memorialization space) was developed with cemetery staff, rather than through exercises at the public meetings. Understanding that individual members of the public had very specific interests, the project team attempted to develop rules that would serve the best interests of the community as a whole, reflecting the opinions of the majority of participants in this process, based on the metrics calculated by the SMITH team regarding the level of agreement or disagreement with each of the different original rules evaluated

Based on community feedback and input from staff, SMITH proposed four primary adjustments to the current rules and regulations:

- Designation of a small number of items that are not permitted anywhere in the cemeteries (such as items that easily deteriorate, are safety hazards, or are illegal).

RULES REVISIONS

- Owners' ability to place plants, memorabilia, and any other permitted objects in a "Memorialization Space" at the head of the burial space to memorialize loved ones according to the owner's preference.
- Regular monthly cleanups in which dead plants and deteriorated items are removed from the cemeteries.
- Permit use of benches or chairs of specified construction, dimension and placement with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator.

The SMITH team identified several areas of "general agreement" found in the comments. Their summary of those areas of agreement was stated as follows:

- Everyone should be able to memorialize their loved ones within their own space and no one should be allowed to alter space they don't own.
 - A minority of respondents feel they should be able to alter the entire burial space as they see fit and their spaces should be grandfathered into any new cemetery rules.
 - Substantial interest in being notified prior to Cemetery Staff altering their space.
- The cemetery should look nice.
 - Widely diverging opinions about what "nice" looks like.
 - Significant portion of respondents felt this should not be determined solely by the Cemetery Administrator.
 - Substantial feedback about what vegetation should be allowed, where it can be placed, and whether permission is required.
- Benches should be allowed and a broader array of construction materials should be permitted.
 - A significant proportion of respondents want wooden benches to be allowed.
 - Cemetery Operations staff expressed concerns about the safety of wooden benches.
- Hazardous or dangerous items should be removed immediately.
 - The current rules allow for the removal of "unsightly" monuments, floral pieces, etc.
 - Majority of respondents opposed granting the Cemetery Administrator authority to remove "unsightly" items because they felt it gave him or her too much power.
- Regular cleanups should occur.
 - Some disagreement about how this should occur, who is responsible for doing this, how often cleanups should occur, and what should be removed.
- Damaged or leaning monuments should be repaired.
 - Cemetery Operations staff have received legal guidance that the City of Austin is not responsible for funding this maintenance.

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- However, Cemetery Operations staff recognize that, if a safety issue emerges, they should take action to render the monuments safe.

DRAFT REVISED RULES

On June 3, SMITH published a draft set of revised rules, in a spreadsheet which presented the 1978 rules side-by-side with proposed additions, deletions, and revisions. It also published a Cemetery Fact Sheet identifying the primary changes evident in the proposed cemetery rule revisions:

1. Designation of a small number of items that are not permitted anywhere in the cemeteries (such as items that easily deteriorate, are offensive, or are illegal).
2. Owners' ability to place plants, memorabilia, and any other permitted objects in a "Memorialization Space" at the head of the burial space to memorialize loved ones as the owners see fit.
3. Published regular monthly cleanups in which dead plants, deteriorated items, and non-permitted items are removed from the cemeteries.
4. Permitted use of benches or chairs with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator.

The draft revised rules reflected the comments provided by the community and generally represented a thoughtful attempt to find a compromise between the many conflicting desires voiced and requirements identified during the rules evaluation process. The revision process also provided the opportunity to update terminology and definitions, which was completed; these minor items did not require public review or comment.

On June 3, Kim McKnight forwarded the draft revised rules to the master plan team with a request to review and comment on any items that might be in conflict with potential recommendations in the master plan, although at that point in the development of the master plan, the team was still gathering data and would not begin to develop treatment recommendations for several months. The master plan team provided minimal comments to Ms. McKnight and Mr. Hernandez. Most of those comments had to do with how the rules would be implemented.

On June 5, 2014, SMITH and PARD held a public meeting to present the draft revised rules to stakeholders. Participants had the opportunity to view all public input (without identifying information), review the proposed rule revisions, and provide specific revisions to these proposed rules. A side-by-side list of existing and proposed revised rules is provided in Appendix B.

Members of the Parks Board Cemetery Working Group, Jane Rivera and Lynn Osgood, were briefed on June 9. Following the receipt of comments, a final draft of the revised rules document was presented at a public meeting on June 18, 2014.

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Memorialization Space Concept

SMITH developed the concept of a *memorialization space*—a defined area within the grave space that could be used for ornamentation and would be of a size defined to ensure that no lot owner installed any items, including benches, that would encroach on adjacent lots. The specific dimensions of the memorialization space, and what items could be placed there, needed to be clearly defined so that cemetery staff could easily objectively administer them. SMITH deferred any recommendations on vegetation rules until the master plan was completed. In response to public comments, SMITH and cemetery staff also discussed how or whether staff could reasonably be expected to notify lot holders of any planned activity that would remove or change items or materials currently placed on gravesites.

This proposed solution added the following new rules:

- Definition: The term “Memorialization Space” shall mean an area of defined boundaries within a burial space in which plants, memorabilia, and other objects may be placed for the purpose of memorializing loved ones.
- The Memorialization Space is for the purpose of memorializing loved ones, is located within the burial space, and shall not exceed the following dimensions: 36” in length from the top of the space, the width of the space, 48” in height.
- Owners may place plants, memorabilia, and other objects within the boundaries of their Memorialization Space. All items must be firmly anchored to secure and prevent the item or any parts of that item from leaning, falling over, breaking, or blowing outside the confines of the space. The Cemetery reserves the right to move or remove items that fall outside the Memorialization Space.
- The Memorialization Space shall not be used for the storage of maintenance items such as water hoses or sprinkler cans.
- No person may alter the landscape outside of the Memorialization Space. Specifically, digging holes and constructing mounds outside the Memorialization Space shall not be permitted.
- The only items that may be placed outside of the Memorialization Space are chairs or benches with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator and temporary funeral floral pieces.
- Owners must maintain and care for any plants located within the Memorialization Space, including weeding, trimming or pruning, and promptly remove any dead or dying plants or any portions of plants that spread outside of the Memorialization Space.
- Owners are responsible for watering any plants they place within the Memorialization Space. They may water by hand only and they may leave privately owned hoses at water spigots within the cemetery. Owners shall coil the hoses at the spigot when not in use.

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- The following materials or objects are not permitted anywhere on cemetery property and shall be immediately removed by cemetery personnel:
- Plush or stuffed animals
 - Glass
 - Paper
 - Cardboard
 - Balloons
 - Styrofoam
 - Clothing or other non-water resistant fabric
 - Items of an offensive or profane nature
 - Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
 - Tobacco products
 - Weapons (except as permitted by another rule)
 - Any item that constitutes a safety hazard based on the professional judgment of the Cemetery Administrator
- Dead plants, deteriorated items, and non-permitted materials and objects shall be removed from cemetery property on the first Tuesday of each month.

Chairs and Benches

Only one rule related to benches.

- Chairs and benches may be placed at the foot of a burial space only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator. The length of the bench must be 10 inches (10”) shorter than the width of the burial space. Approved chairs and benches shall be firmly anchored in the approved location and comprised only of the following materials: cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone.

Other Revised Rules

Additional rules having to do with grave ornamentation included:

- The term “Deteriorated” shall mean items that are faded, decayed, splintered, broken, frayed, or otherwise unserviceable based upon the professional judgment of the Cemetery Administrator.
- Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, or steps shall not be permitted on or around any space.
- Should any memorial become a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemetery, the Cemetery Administrator has the right to correct the condition or remove the memorial. If the Cemetery Administrator determines that a memorial must be removed, he or she shall attempt to contact the owner to advise him or her of the required removal and the

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associated expense. If cemetery personnel have contact information for the owner available within their contract management systems, they shall attempt to contact the owner using such contact information. If cemetery personnel do not possess contact information for the owner, they shall make a reasonable attempt to find such information and they will place notice on the space. The Cemetery Administrator shall consult as required with the city of Austin Historic Landmark Commission concerning alterations to, or the removal of, memorials. The expense associated with removing or repairing memorials may be charged to the owner.

- The Cemetery Administrator reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.
- Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from burial spaces within one week of funeral services.
- Trees may be planted with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator and in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. Other plants may be planted within the Memorialization Space in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. The owner is responsible for watering vegetation he or she places within the Memorialization Space.
- When a space is out of compliance with these rules, cemetery personnel shall attempt to contact owners to provide an opportunity for the violation to be corrected within 30 days of attempted notice. If cemetery personnel have contact information for the owner available within their contact management system, they shall make a reasonable effort to find such information and place a notice on the space in an attempt to contact the owner using such contact information. If cemetery personnel do not possess contact information for the owner, they shall place notice on the grave. If the space holder fails to correct the violation within 30 days of attempted notice, cemetery personnel shall have the right to bring the space into compliance.
- If an owner perceives that these rules impede religious or cultural practices related to interring or memorializing the deceased, the owner may advise the Cemetery Administrator of the perceived impediment and may submit a written request for a variance from these rules. The Cemetery Administrator shall consider this request and make a determination based on his professional judgment.
- Cemetery personnel shall water vegetation according to City of Austin specifications and/or restrictions.

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PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE REVISED RULES

Following the release of the draft revised rules document on June 3 and the public meetings on June 5 and 18, SMITH collected a number of comments. Some of these related to perceptions of transparency, the pace of the project, and the short amount of time available for review. Most of the comments were opposed to the suggested new rules. A few representative comments received on these topics included:

- The process is seemingly only on the internet or in paper boxes with lids, and the real data is kept behind closed doors.
- Only PARD will be allowed to see what the internet users have said, and then, I presume, PARD will decide what will be presented to the Public on June 5 as the draft rules.
- What is the big rush and cover-up? Why is PARD insisting that this cemetery rules process be completed in one month's time behind the walls of the internet?
- Many believe that PARD already has the rules they want written without true public input.
- I ask you, as a leader, to slow the rules process down and engage the stakeholders in open meetings of discussion of what the cemetery rules should be for the future ...

I attended the open house on May 20th. There was no business meeting or discussion of proposed regulations. The open house turned out to be nothing more than an opportunity to meet various employees of Smith/Associates and to answer the same survey questions that appeared on the Speak Up Austin Survey ... At that open house, stakeholders were informed that the initial presentation of the recommended rules and regulations (RRR) would take place June 5 ... and that the final presentation of the RRR would be on June 18. ... There was no provision that would allow stakeholders to actually read and review the RRR prior to the June 5th meeting, so that we could be properly informed and prepared. Stakeholders expressed their concern that they would simply be handed the RRR at the June meeting and have to try to read, review, and discuss the RRR within the two hour time period allotted. We question whether this truncated and rushed revision process will allow public input will be fully heard and properly considered and whether the stakeholders will truly be part of the revision process. I can tell you that if I and other stakeholders feel that this revision process has been nothing more than bureaucratic window dressing and the resulting revised rules and regulations turn out to be pretty much the same as the long-unenforced regulations.

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Other comments have to do with the content of the rules as revised and are paraphrased below for brevity:

- “Memorialization Space” should include the entire burial space(s) owned by the lot owner.
- The City is going to grandfather in all existing headstones, conforming or not, so they should grandfather in everything.
- It is not legal to retroactively begin to enforce rules that the City chose not to enforce for so many years.
- Property owners have the right to do what they want with their property. This constitutes a taking.
- The Cemetery Administrator should not have sole discretion over exemptions for religious or cultural reasons, with no ability of the applicant to appeal. A government must reasonably accommodate any religious beliefs.
- The Cemetery Administrator should not have the right to approve inscriptions or the “craftsmanship” of markers. The Cemetery Administrator has too much discretion.
- Wooden benches were described as “not sturdy.” They are used in other places with no problem. Not everyone can afford those expensive benches.
- People should be able to block off and decorate the entire grave space, not just a little piece at the top and then a bench at the bottom. Let them take care of it themselves.
- If you force people to take out mature plantings, that will damage the graves below them.
- Most of the “over-decoration” is by parents for children that they have lost. The problem is not over-decoration, it’s neglect.
- I do not like the decorations or grave markers made out of materials that are not durable.
- If grave markers cannot be more than 42” tall, decorations should not be any taller – not 48” tall.
- I don’t understand why the bench cannot be placed at the foot of the grave. I don’t want to sit on top of the grave.
- None of the rules address the wind chimes or anything in the trees.
- I oppose the limitations to granite and marble markers.
- Benches do not need to be anchored.
- Some markers are very small in cremation spaces because you have four cremations there. There is no need for a concrete base for a small marker. There needs to be some flexibility in the rules for the different types of markers that exist.

A few participants noted that the rules require the Memorialization Space be defined and asked how that should be accomplished, as the rules do not allow curbing or other enclosures to be installed.

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One of the requirements of this project was to review and summarize best practices in grave ornamentation in culturally diverse communities. This section describes how culturally diverse communities were identified, the result of a survey of cemetery rules from across the country, and how best practices might best be identified and implemented regarding cemetery rules in Austin.

CULTURALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

As noted earlier in this report, when the existing cemetery rules were written in 1978, Austin's population was predominantly white/Anglo. That is not the case in 2015. Austin is one of the United States' largest "majority-minority" cities, meaning that the majority of the population is made up of minority people of color. Austin has a population of about 900,000; the demographic mix, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, was 49% white, 35% Latino (mostly of Mexican heritage), 8% black, and 6% Asian.

The SMITH team previously collected information on cemetery rules from these four cities, which were described in public meeting materials as "similar cities":

- Portland, Oregon (population about 585,000; 76% white, 9% Latino, 6% black, 1% Asian)
- Cleveland, Ohio (population about 400,000; 53% black, 33% white/Anglo, 10% Latino [mostly Puerto Rican heritage], 2% Asian)
- Longview, Texas (population about 80,500; 56% white/Anglo, 22% black, 18% Latino, 1% Asian)
- Huntsville, Texas (population about 35,000; 66% white, 26% black, 16% Latino, 1% Asian)

Of these three cities, only Longview and Huntsville have a significant Mexican American population and cemeteries that are likely to have developed in or from the Upland South Folk tradition, with cultural practices that would be similar to those found in Austin.

Many larger majority-minority cities (including Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose) do not manage and maintain cemeteries that are still actively visited by loved ones of the deceased, as opposed to tourists. Houston's historic cemeteries were almost all built or paved over during the twentieth century; San Francisco removed all cemeteries, funeral homes, and crematoria from within its city limits in the 1930s and 1940s.

Communities with a mix of white/Anglo, Latino (predominantly Mexican heritage), black, and Asian people are primarily found in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California. However, a review of cemetery rules from these states, and following that, from across the United States in communities of various sizes and demographic makeup, did not reveal any common practices or typical rules regarding decoration.

Most cities' cemetery rules are either highly specific or nearly silent about decorations that are or are not allowed. For example, the City of San Antonio manages 31 city cemeteries, many of which

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are historic and located within its Eastside Cemeteries Historic District. San Antonio is 63% Latino (primarily of Mexican heritage), 26% white/Anglo, 7% black, and 2% Asian. The city historically has had a large Mexican American population. According to a representative from the Parks and Recreation Department there, they have *no policies* that limit how families can decorate graves, nor have they had any complaints.

Other cities have rules as restrictive as “only flowers may be placed at a grave, and these must be placed in a vase integral to the marker or of a non-breakable material no larger than 6” high, permanently affixed to the marker.”

One city’s rules allowed decorations of any kind, and noted that if flowers or other items blew away from the gravesite, the maintenance staff would attempt to return them to their original location, and if staff was unable to identify the original location, the items would be tagged with the location where they were found and placed in a box for 30 days so that the owner could retrieve them, if desired.

Many cities have very restrictive policies about how many days flowers may remain on graves after holidays or funerals, and state that maintenance crews will remove all decorations on a regular and frequent basis.

Whether very specific or barely existent, each city’s standards for cemetery decorations likely represent the attitudes and desires of *their citizens*, and reflect the physical layout of the cemetery as well as requirements of the natural environment, climate, native vegetation, etc. in their area. (For example, some cities require flat grave markers in hilly sections; those in high desert areas allow only evergreen trees or “desert-type shrubs” and allow covering the grave with colored stone as an option to grass.) As a result, each city’s rules vary widely and prohibit or allow different items that make sense for *that city*.

How, then, to identify best practices that could be useful to this project? Rather than focus on grave ornamentation, the following information reviews the concept of best practices within the context of public policy, presents a framework for identifying and implementing best practices that might be applicable, and then discusses potential best practices that could be considered for use in completing this project.

The following framework for the selection and adoption of best practices is adapted from the *Community Tool Box*, Chapter 19, Section 6. The Community Tool Box is an online resource of the University of Kansas (<http://ctb.ku.edu/en>) that emphasizes a collaborative, problem-solving approach to community “problems,” when the term *problem* is used to describe the difference between *what is* and *what might or should be*.

BEST PRACTICES

WHAT IS A BEST PRACTICE?

The concept of “best practices,” as applied to public policy, generally refers to a system for evaluating alternatives and determining whether approaches that have been effective elsewhere could be applied with similar success locally.

In order to be considered a *best practice*, a methodology, program, or initiative must be:

- Measurable: Having clear goals against which progress can be measured
- Highly successful: Not only making progress toward those goals, but also doing so to a greater extent or more effectively than other similar methods, programs, etc.
- Replicable: Having a structure that has been or can be documented in such a way that it can be reproduced and/or adapted successfully to meet the needs of our local community

In order to identify potential best practices, one must decide:

1. What is the issue that we are trying to address?

The two primary issues to be addressed in Austin cemeteries are:

- Some people have placed benches and other items outside the space that they own.
- People who own lots within the cemetery have different, often opposing, and strongly held opinions on whether and to what extent decorations should be allowed on graves. Some of these opposing opinions are based on different ethnic, cultural, and religious expectations and burial practices. The existing rules, adopted in 1978, may not be appropriate for the diverse city that Austin has become in 2015.

Austin City Council confirmed both issues in its resolution of October 17, 2013, when it directed the City Manager to “implement a policy that allows ornamentation within the boundaries of a burial plot, subject to applicable laws allowing removal for health and/or safety reasons” and to “evaluate whether current cemetery policies related to grave ornamentation are appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving, while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families.”

A secondary issue regarding grave decorations involves the Cemetery Administrator’s sole discretion over variances or exemptions, with no appeal process available to lot owners. The essence of this issue has to do with a lack of transparency, opportunities for inconsistent decision-making or favoritism, subjective judgment, and a lack of recourse. (Note that this is not necessarily a comment on the individual Cemetery Administrator and merely restates concerns identified by the community for *potential* problems in the future.)

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2. What outcomes do we want to achieve?

Limit ornamentation to burial spaces. As Mr. Hernandez told the SMITH team, his primary objective is to make sure that people do not place decorations or furnishings outside of the space that they own. This aligns with the first issue, above. This outcome is clear, measurable, and easy to explain to the community. It would be easy to implement and raises no questions of property rights or unreasonable restrictions on the expression of religious or traditional beliefs.

Decide whether or not restrictions should be placed on the types or amounts of decorations allowed. Other than items that could pose a safety risk, such as breakable glass containers, the community as a whole has not reached a consensus about whether the City should limit grave decorations at all. This would be a first step toward determining whether current policies are appropriately sensitive. If the community concludes that decorations *should not* be limited, in order to respect diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious values, then that is the answer. A stakeholder working group—made up of people who own lots in city cemeteries and who are of opposing views, different cultures, and varying perspectives—could work with a facilitator to determine in advance how community opinion should be measured. Following the collection and evaluation of any additional data (if needed), and having reached a consensus among themselves based on the data, the working group and facilitator could present its findings and make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Board to either eliminate grave decoration rules or proceed with the development of new rules. This outcome is clear, measurable, easy to explain, and leads to one of two clearly defined next steps.

If decoration restrictions are desired by the community, create a list of decoration restrictions developed by a culturally diverse working group, with input from a variety of stakeholders. The working group, if it has already agreed that decoration restrictions are desired in some form or fashion, could then turn its attention to the development of rules that allow for the expression of cultural traditions and religious beliefs across a diverse population, including those who oppose decorations. Representatives from different cultures and stakeholder categories should be part of the working group, but it would be helpful to arrange for the working group to not only discuss these issues internally but also to hear directly from other grieving parents, spouses, and other family members who take responsibility for grave upkeep, making sure that this includes people of different income levels; recent immigrants, as they are helping to drive Austin's population growth; relative newcomers to the city, as well as long-time Austin residents whose ancestors are buried in the city cemeteries; religious people of different faiths and non-religious people; people of different ages; etc. The SMITH team and cemetery master plan team have already collected quite a bit of data, but neither of those efforts started with the question, "What limits are reasonable?" If a working group could agree on the answer to that question, it would be easier to define specific limits. The working group and its facilitator could then present their findings and recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Board. This outcome is clear, measurable, and easy to explain.

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Develop an exemption request, appeal and dispute resolution process. Even if the working group has created an outstanding list of decoration restrictions (if indeed those are desired), that list cannot possibly anticipate all possible scenarios. Lot owners with special circumstances, or beliefs/traditions not considered during the restrictions development activity, should have a structured, standardized, documentable way to request a variance or exemption. Currently, this does not exist and the Cemetery Administrator has declined to include an appeals process in the revised rules. This outcome is clear, measurable, and easy to explain.

3. What characteristics of our population will influence whether a best practice is replicable here?

Austin is an increasingly diverse city (in many ways). The population is highly engaged and very active in community affairs. Best practices are most likely to be replicable here when they involve a high degree of transparency and public engagement.

4. What other factors will influence whether a best practice can be successfully replicated?

Longtime concern from citizens regarding cemetery maintenance. The care and appearance of the city cemeteries has been a concern of many citizens, who have long voiced concerns about the City's commitment to the cemeteries. PARD has made many improvements since resuming management of the cemeteries in Spring 2013 and the Historic Cemeteries Master Plan has built trust and goodwill with stakeholders. Continuing to foster positive and cooperative relationships with stakeholders will be paramount to future success in endeavors such as updating or re-writing the rules and regulations. While it is hoped that best-practice activities supporting a rules evaluation and revision process, such as the one described above, would go a long way toward strengthening cemetery stakeholders' trust, the City may be viewed skeptically at first. Ongoing, open communication and transparency will be key to the success of any best practice.

History of non-enforcement. The City's long history of not enforcing its adopted rules, or enforcing them inconsistently, has allowed a culture of grave decoration to become the established norm. Many families have invested a considerable amount of time, effort, and money in gravesite furnishings and ornamentation, and even if little money has been invested, the amount of care and emotional investment in grave decorations is significant. The public comments during the rules revision process to date reveal the anger, grief, and emotional intensity that people feel when confronted with the possibility of having to abruptly remove decorations and plantings from the graves of their loved ones. Limiting decorations to only those burial spaces owned could be implemented with a three- or six-month notification period before enforcement. The adoption of decoration restrictions, should that be desired, may require a more lengthy notification period, during which the City could develop and test alternatives for working with families to address non-compliance.

Following the identification of potential best practices, the following activities can improve the chances that those practices will be adopted and implemented.

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- Mobilize community opinion: Publicize the best practices that have been identified and the methodology that was used to identify them.
- Involve opposing points of view: For example, provide people who may oppose adopting a practice with the opportunity to talk with people who have already implemented that practice and learn how it works in their community (other cities). Note that this may also help to determine if a potential best practice is not a good fit locally.
- Consider adopting a best practice in a pilot program, side-by-side with current practices, for a set amount of time; then evaluate whether the best practice is a good fit for the Austin community.

BEST PRACTICES: BEGINNING TO ENFORCE PREVIOUSLY UNENFORCED OR INCONSISTENTLY ENFORCED RULES

This would apply both to the enforcement of limiting decorations and furnishing to burial spaces owned, as well as to the enforcement of any decoration restrictions or rules, if developed. A few examples of other cities' approaches are provided below.

Boston: Residency Rule

The City of Boston, Massachusetts, adopted a rule, in 1976, requiring all city employees to live within the city limits. At the time, the city was losing residents at an alarming rate. Over the years, the rule has been applied inconsistently and, in some cases, unenforced, particularly for upper level managers. In 2014, City Mayor Marty Walsh called for an overhaul of the residency rule. In February 2015, Boston's City Council called for the creation of a seven-member Residency Commission to examine the residency policies now in place and make recommendations as to whether they should be changed.

Best practice: Convene citizens to determine if rules should be changed.

St. Louis: Parking Meter Limits

The City of St. Louis did not enforce its Saturday parking meter limits for more than 30 years. When it decided to begin enforcement, in 2013, the City announced the change in practice several weeks before July 1, when it was officially scheduled to begin, and then issued warnings for the first two Saturdays of the month. News coverage helped to build public awareness. The City's fine for violations is relatively low (currently \$10) so the effect on violators who were used to the rule not being enforced is minimal.

Best practice: Publicize enforcement and offer a grace period before issuing citations.

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Shreveport: Garbage Cans

The City of Shreveport, Louisiana, responding to complaints about garbage cans being left at the curb all the time, began enforcing a long-unenforced ordinance that requires residents to bring their garbage cans up to the house the day that trash is collected. The city is authorized to first put notices on doors and then send certified letters before eventually being able to cite offenders. Code enforcers started compliance activities in the area where many of the complaints originate.

Best practice: Give notice so that violators can resolve the issues before taking action.

Valdez: Garbage Cans

The City of Valdez, Alaska, began in 2013 to enforce a garbage-related ordinance that had never been enforced before. The ordinance required residents to put out garbage only in containers with tight-fitting lids and to break down cardboard boxes. In advance of enforcement, the City mailed notices to all post office box holder, ran a series of public service announcements on the local radio station, and began by giving warnings rather than \$300 fines.

Best practice: Give notice so that violators can resolve the issues before taking action.

BEST PRACTICES: ENFORCEMENT

A best-practice approach for addressing non-compliance (taken, in part, from the *Community Tool Box*) includes these steps, to be completed in the order shown below.

1. Contact the lot owner directly.
 - Explain the problem, referring to the rules.
 - Clearly explain the desired result.
 - Offer to work with the lot owner to reach a reasonable solution, if appropriate.
 - Agree on a deadline for action.
 - Politely explain next steps if the situation is not resolved by the agreed-upon date.
 - Document the conversation.
2. If no action has been taken by the agreed-upon deadline, document the non-compliance issue and remove the non-compliant items.
3. Retain all removed items for a specified period of time before disposing of them, in order to give the lot owner an opportunity to retrieve the items.

Such an approach would preserve goodwill with lot owners who may be unable to remove memorial items by the deadline due to health issues or other events beyond their control.

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BEST PRACTICES: REACHING CONSENSUS

This would apply to any activities involving a working group.

Please see *A Practical Guide to Consensus* (Appendix B).

BEST PRACTICES: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION

Most practices having to do with accommodations for religious beliefs involve employment or other situations in which an individual may request a religious accommodation. The same basic system could be used to request an accommodation for traditional cultural practices. An adaptation of typical accommodations processes for PARD cemetery purposes might look something like this:

PARD would appoint a staff person to be in charge of this process.

Staff may provide a reasonable accommodation or exemption of cemetery rules, based on a person's sincerely held religious belief or traditional cultural practice. In making this determination, staff reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship for City staff or neighboring lot owners. (The determination of undue hardship is dependent on the facts of each individual situation. Examples include an accommodation requiring more than a *de minimus* cost or as otherwise defined by law.)

The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and staff. The person requesting the accommodation is obligated to make staff aware of the request for a religious/cultural accommodation in advance of need.

Once a request is made, staff explores reasonable accommodations to address the person's religious belief/practice or traditional cultural practice, unless, again, the request creates an undue hardship. The person requesting the accommodation is obligated to cooperate with staff's attempts to accommodate the request.

When more than one accommodation is possible, staff may select any of the accommodations, provided the accommodation will effectively eliminate the religious or cultural conflict. It may be necessary for staff to request the lot owner to provide documentation or other authority to support the need for an accommodation based on the lot owner's religious or cultural practice or belief. Further, staff may need to discuss the nature of the religious or cultural belief(s), practice(s) and accommodation with knowledgeable religious/cultural leaders or religious scholars, in order to address the request for a religious accommodation.

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Materials related to a lot owner's religious or cultural accommodation request, including the written request for accommodation and any other document/information, are shared only for authorized City purposes and will be filed along with other Cemetery records.

BEST PRACTICES: APPEAL AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Individuals should have the ability to appeal a decision by a City employees, including the Cemetery Administrator or other staff members, in cases of requests for exemption or accommodation on the basis of religious or cultural beliefs or practices or other special circumstances.

The City of Austin's Communication and Public Information Office staff includes community engagement consultant Larry Schooler, who directs community engagement, public participation, and conflict resolution projects for the City of Austin. Mr. Schooler could work with PARD to develop an appropriate appeals and dispute resolution process, for use should an individual wish to appeal a decision by the Cemetery Administrator or other staff related to a request for exemption or accommodation on the basis of religious or cultural beliefs or practices or other special circumstances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on the findings presented in this report, and are intended to suggest a potential way forward. This section includes criteria for the evaluation of revised rules and examples of rules that would meet those criteria.

These recommendations, like the proposed revised rules, in practice apply only to Austin Memorial Park and Evergreen Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Problem:

The City's highest priority issue in the cemeteries, as stated by staff, is the placement of items outside an owner's burial space. This includes, but is not limited to, items that spill over boundaries between spaces, encroaching on neighboring lots; items that run up to or are placed against neighboring markers, including benches that touch the backs of other headstones; benches placed in public areas; and items hanging from trees outside the lot owner's burial space.

Although the City Attorney should be consulted, it is the author's opinion that the existing rules should not have to be revised, and revisions adopted, in order to prohibit the placement or storage of personal items on City property or property belonging to another individual.

Objective:

Limit grave furnishings, decorations, and other items to the space(s) owned by each lot owner.

Recommendation:

Give lot owners sufficient notice to retrieve any items that they may have placed outside the burial space(s) that they own, then remove items to storage for a reasonable reclamation period. This could be implemented section by section, in order to keep it manageable.

Implementation:

1. Notify lot owners.

- Spring is a season of many holidays that might bring visitors to the cemeteries, including the Easter, Qingming (Tomb Sweeping Day), Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Father's Day. Place notices throughout the cemeteries beginning in March and continuing through mid-June, so that as many people as possible will see them.
- Provide news releases and undertake a public awareness campaign including traditional media, new media, and social media; neighborhood associations; etc. Information should be provided in English and Spanish. Encourage space owners to update their contact and next-of-kin information at the same time that they are removing items outside of their burial space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take this opportunity to clean up the cemetery office's list of lot owners and contacts. A direct marketing data-processing vendor can be engaged to provide this service; that firm should have access to U.S. Postal Service tools, including :
 - *National Change of Address (NCOA) File*: A list of people who've moved within the past three years.
 - *Locatable Address Conversion System (LACS)*: Converts non-standard rural-style addresses to standard city-style addresses to increase deliverability.
 - *Coding Accuracy Support System (CASS)*: Helps mailers improve the accuracy of delivery with carrier route, five-digit zip, ZIP +4 and delivery point codes. Also results in an automatic discount on postage.
- Mail a postcard to notice all lot owners with current valid addresses following mailing list cleanup. Or, if other contact information is available, utilize that to contact the lot owner.
- Keep a record of all contact attempts for each lot or group of lots, including date, contact information used, and result.
- It may be helpful to *suggest* a reasonable setback from burial space boundaries, to ensure that items are clearly within the owner's space. Since markers have been limited in size to not less than five inches from the side lot lines, this seems like a reasonable and consistent suggestion.

2. Prepare to remove non-complying benches and other items by a specific date (to be determined).

- Prepare section maps for staff that show the boundaries of family lots as well as individual lots, so that staff can determine accurately whether a bench is placed outside the burial space(s) owned by the lot owner.
- Establish a secure outdoor storage location for benches.
- Establish a system for tagging removed benches and other removed items with nearby section/lot numbers and marker names.
- Establish a secure indoor and/or outdoor storage location for other non-complying items. (Perhaps indoor storage could be used for small items, in cardboard boxes, while outdoor storage could be used for larger items.)
- Train staff to read the section maps and correctly determine whether a bench is located appropriately or not; properly tag benches with complete information before removal; and safely remove and transport benches, which may be heavy. Train staff to interact positively with cemetery visitors and lot owners who may witness the removal of items and confront staff or become upset.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Establish a process by which lot owners may retrieve removed items.

- Throughout the year, post signs throughout the cemetery advising lot owners that items outside burial spaces have been removed and may be reclaimed at the Cemetery Office.
- Establish a system for recording the identity of persons who claim removed items; for example, take a digital photo of the items claimed, and retain a printed copy of that, along with a copy of the person's driver's license or other government-issued photo identification and a signed form attesting that they are the rightful owner.
- Train staff to assist lot owners in locating, identifying, and retrieving their items.
- Establish a "reclamation expiration date" after which staff may dispose of any unclaimed items from that section, in order to free up storage space for removed items from the next section.

4. Starting immediately, provide sufficient written notice to all new lot purchasers that no items may be placed outside the burial space(s) that they own.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Problem:

The City has established no criteria for evaluating whether an individual rule related to grave ornamentation is "appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving, while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families," as stated in the October 2013 City Council resolution.

Objective:

Ensure that all new rules meet the City's stated requirements.

Recommendation:

Establish criteria for evaluating proposed new rules related to grave ornamentation.

Implementation:

1. Public Participation

- Unless the rule is intended to mitigate a clearly documented safety hazard, it is developed through a consensus-based stakeholder engagement process.
- All changes to cemetery rules regarding grave ornamentation either reflect the religious and traditional cultural practices of a diverse, multicultural population, or provide the opportunity for reasonable accommodations on that basis or for other special circumstances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Fair and Consistent Enforcement

- All rules are enforced fairly and consistently, with no exceptions other than those requiring accommodations as described above.
- All lot owners are notified before cemetery staff takes action to remove items or materials from privately owned burial spaces.
- Lot owners have the opportunity to resolve the situation or appeal the decisions of cemetery staff.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Problems:

By failing to enforce the 1978 rules for many years, or by enforcing them inconsistently, the City established an expectation by some purchasers of cemetery lots that they would have the freedom to install unlimited decorations on burial spaces.

The 1978 rules reflected the cultural values of a majority white/Anglo population, but in 2015, Austin is a highly diverse, multicultural city.

The revised rules were not drafted with input from a diverse group of stakeholders.

Objective:

Develop revised rules that are sensitive to the traditional burial practices of a diverse population.

Recommendation:

Establish a multi-cultural working group to determine whether grave decoration and planting should be regulated and, if so, what specific restrictions should be placed on those activities.

Implementation:

1. Make a plan for the working group.
 - Working with a qualified facilitator, establish objectives and a process and schedule for the working group's activities.
 - Recruit a stakeholder working group made up of people who own lots in city cemeteries and who are of opposing views, different cultures, and varying perspectives.
2. Convene the working group to determine if grave decoration rules are needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Determine in advance if/how additional community opinion should be gathered and measured.
 - Collect and evaluate data (if desired).
 - With the facilitator's assistance, reach a consensus among the working group based on the data.
 - Present findings and make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Board to either eliminate grave decoration rules or proceed with the development of new rules.
3. If rules are needed, convene the working group to determine what those should be.
- Discuss these issues within the working group, but also hear directly from other grieving parents, spouses, and other family members who take responsibility for grave upkeep, making sure that this includes people of different income levels; recent immigrants, as they are helping to drive Austin's population growth; relative newcomers to the city, as well as long-time Austin residents whose ancestors are buried in the city cemeteries; religious people of different faiths and non-religious people; people of different ages; etc.
 - With assistance from the facilitator, reach consensus to define specific limits.
 - Present findings and recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Board.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Problems:

The 1978 rules are unclearly worded, inconsistent, and otherwise difficult to apply in their current form; the rules must be revised, and any changes to the rules (once adopted) must be provided to lot owners.

The contact information for some lot owners may be out of date or invalid. The Cemetery Office may have no way of contacting the original lot owners or their successors/heirs.

Changes to grave decoration rules may result in the removal of items from graves. Lot owners who are unaware of rules changes are likely to react unfavorably if items are removed, creating ill will between the lot owners and the City.

Opinions held by stakeholders in regard to grave decorations are deeply divided, with many stakeholders wanting to either limit decorations significantly or enact no limits at all.

The low level of trust felt by some stakeholders toward the City clearly was not aided by the rules revision process.

Objective:

Ensure that changes to grave decoration rules are implemented in a way that builds trust and goodwill between the City and lot owners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation:

Make a good-faith effort to notify lot owners of changes to the rules prior to implementation, and explain the rationale behind the rule changes.

Implementation:

1. Notify lot owners of changes to the rules.

- Using the cleaned-up contact information as previously described in Recommendation #1, send a postcard to all lot owners notifying them that rules changes have been adopted, with a link to a downloadable PDF on the City's Cemeteries website.
- Place notice signs throughout the cemeteries for a period of time deemed reasonable by the working group.
- Provide news releases and undertake a public awareness campaign including traditional media, new media, and social media; neighborhood associations; etc. Information should be provided in English and Spanish.

2. Establish a reasonable process for notifying lot owners of non-compliance, and give them an opportunity to resolve within a reasonable period of time, before removing items from a burial space.

RECOMMENDATION 5

Problems:

During this process, stakeholders have identified multiple situations that may require accommodation for religious or traditionally held beliefs. The City has no process in place for a lot owner to request such accommodations or to request exemptions for other special circumstances.

Stakeholders have described situations in which they have asked for and been granted or denied other exemptions or variances not based on religious or cultural beliefs (such as planting shrubs).

The Cemetery Administrator currently has sole discretion for granting exemptions for any reason.

Lot owners have no process to appeal the decision of the Cemetery Administrator.

Objectives:

Ensure that City policies do not prohibit the practice of a lot owner or visitor's religious or traditional cultural beliefs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure that requests for accommodation or other exemptions or variances are considered and approved or denied fairly and consistently.

Recommendation:

Enact a process for requesting accommodations for religious or traditionally held beliefs, or other exemptions or variances to the grave ornamentation rules, as well as an appeals process.

Implementation:

1. Develop a process for requesting an accommodation or exemption.
 - Create an application form to document the request, and make this available on the City's Cemeteries website, along with instructions for submitting the request and an explanation that the applicant may be asked to provide additional documentation or other authority to support the need for the exemption or for an accommodation based on the lot owner's religious or cultural practice or belief.
 - Establish a reasonable time period during which the request must be reviewed and a decision returned to the applicant.
2. Establish a review process for City staff.
 - Determine who should review and approve/deny these requests (the Cemetery Administrator or someone else).
 - Determine what factors may be considered in approving or denying the request, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship for City staff or neighboring lot owners. Determine how "undue hardship" will be explicitly defined.
 - Determine a reasonable expectation for City staff, in terms of exploring reasonable accommodations to address the applicant's religious belief/practice or traditional cultural practice, unless the request creates an undue hardship. This may include staff discussing the nature of the religious or cultural belief(s), practice(s) and accommodation with knowledgeable religious/cultural leaders or religious scholars.
 - Allow, when more than one accommodation is possible, City staff to select any of the accommodations, provided the accommodation will effectively eliminate the religious or cultural conflict.
 - Ensure that materials related to a lot owner's religious or cultural accommodation request, including the written request for accommodation and any other document/information, will be shared only for authorized City purposes and will be filed along with other Cemetery records.
 - Establish a system for documenting and regularly reporting on all requests for exemption/accommodation, including the rationale for the decision to approve or deny.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Establish an process by which applicants can appeal to a third party any decision of staff that denies a requested accommodation.

- Determine what entity will consider appeals.
- Establish a dispute resolution process that aligns with similar City policies in this area.
- Create any forms by which an applicant may submit an appeal.
- Publicize the appeals process on the City Cemeteries website.

CONCLUSION

Although the previous attempts to enforce and revise existing rules were met with opposition from the public, the City of Austin nevertheless has collected a significant amount of data that can help direct the completion of the rules revision process. In order to be successful, future activities should be consensus-based, participatory efforts that engage a diverse group of stakeholders representing many different perspectives, cultures, and viewpoints.

APPENDIX A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A1. Testimony to City Council, 10-17-2013

A2. Austin City Council Resolution, October 2013

A3. RFQ for Public Engagement Services

A4. Smith/Associates Public Engagement Approach

A5. Cemetery Rules Process

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Late Backup

Testimony in Support of Consent Agenda Resolutions 41 and 42

I am appearing in support of Resolution Numbers 41 and 42 on today's Consent Agenda. The current cemetery regulations should not be enforced without further study and input by the community. There is no urgency, as the city already has the authority to remove any neglected or abandoned memorials without the sudden and arbitrary enforcement of overly broad and vague regulations. While I certainly agree that some reasonable regulation is necessary, the current regulations, which have not been updated, publicized, or enforced since the 1970s, need to be revisited and revised. The public and stakeholders must be involved in developing alternatives that balance the rights of families and friends to uniquely honor their loved ones and the need to maintain cemetery grounds. Existing grave site memorials should be grandfathered and any memorials that truly significantly impede or adversely affect the maintenance of the park should be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Both my niece, Shoshana, and my father rest in the park. When we ordered my father's gravestone in August, we were told by Strausswender Memorial Company that the base of my father's stone would have to have a shorter than that of his granddaughter's because the city was now enforcing regulations regarding the size of stones. This means that many of the gravestones in the park do not comply with city regulations. The city is certainly not going to go through the cemetery with a tape measure and give 30-days notice to all the families with gravestones that are a couple of inches too high, long, or demanding that they replace the stones or the city will remove the stones. As the city is therefore already grandfathering headstones that do not comply with the regulations, it is only fair that it do so for other grave site memorials.

To give the council some background, in 2006, after Shoshana, who was just 13-years-old, died suddenly and unexpectedly from myocarditis, my sister-in-law, Tina, contacted the park at least twice regarding her plans to create a grave site memorial to her daughter. Tina's calls were never returned and, given the number of other graves with similar memorials, she rightly assumed there was no problem with a planned garden atop the grave. In addition to creating a living memorial to Shoshana, the garden would protect the grave site, which had been marked with tire tracks. Tina is a master gardener with an award-winning xeriscaped yard and is fully familiar with drought-resistant native plants. She carefully choose native plants that were not only water-wise, but also among her daughter's favorites. Tina has lovingly maintained her daughter's grave all these years. When my father died last December after losing his seven-year battle with Multiple System Atrophy, he was buried next to his adored granddaughter. I also surrounded my father grave with stones and plan, after his headstone in unveiled in November, to plant a memorial garden on his grave. Because he was a Shakespearean scholar, as well as a renowned professor at the University of Texas School of Law, I plan to plant rosemary, not only because it is cited in Shakespeare ("There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember. . ."), but also because it is a hardy drought-resistant plant that needs little or no maintenance. My niece's and father's graves are only two of the many grave sites in the park with such personal memorials.

My family has bought six lots at the park and we have never received any booklet or pamphlet, much less any notice, regarding such regulations. The regulations, especially when my niece was buried in

2006, were not easily accessible by the public. Although the city had contracted out the maintenance of the park until April of this year, the city still had the ultimate authority and responsibility to publicize and enforce the regulations, and it failed to do so. Grieving families should not be forced to dismantle grave site memorials, many of which have been in place for years, simply because the city failed to fulfill its duties. For the city to retroactively enforce such regulations will arbitrarily punish those with family and friends memorialized in the park, and these citizens should not suffer because of the city's neglect and dereliction of its duties.

It also appears that claims regarding the need to retroactively enforce regulations because of maintenance and safety are mere smoke-screen, and the real reason is some people have allegedly complained that some of the grave site memorials are not appropriate for a cemetery. Considering these memorials are created by the very families who are mourning their loved ones and are tributes to the personality of the deceased, who has the right to say what is "appropriate?" If I went around the cemetery insisting that every grave include a wind chime or stone angel, I would be considered callous and presumptuous. Is it not the same for someone who deem such items inappropriate for the graves of their loved ones, and therefore declare that no one else should be allowed to have them? As long as the memorials are maintained and located on the grave of the person they are commemorating, who has a right to argue aesthetics? I can see the need for requiring items that are of a temporary nature, such as paper or cloth, be removed after a certain time before they become tattered or faded, as well as barring displays that are overtly political or obscene, otherwise it is not the place of the city to become the ultimate authority regarding what is the "tasteful" and "respectful" way to mourn.

Decorating and personalizing the grave of a loved one is an important aspect of grieving and the grave site memorials created by families and friends are not thoughtlessly thrown together, but are created to reflect the personality of the departed. Many families have invested substantial time and resources in creating and maintaining these tributes, and these grave site memorials are often beautiful and touching. These individualized grave sites make the park a unique and peaceful place and reflect the larger personality and diversity of the city. The memorials are all part of keeping Austin Memorial Park weird and wonderful. For example, in the tree over Shoshana's grave hang several small pottery and stained glass origami cranes. The origami crane, through the story of Sadako Sasaki, the Japanese girl who died of leukemia after being exposed through radiation following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, has become an international symbol of peace. When Shoshana died, her fellow students at Kealing Middle School began folding cranes in her memory, creating 4,866 cranes, one for each day of her life. The cranes were hung in the Kealing library in her memory. The cranes softly swaying over her grave help commemorate the loss of Shoshana and the love of her classmates. The cranes hurt no one, our family checks them weekly to make sure they are not broken or tangled, and I am sure that many people do not even realize they are there, but to those who remember Shoshana they are a very special symbol of a very special girl. Removing or destroying these personal tributes will cause tremendous and unnecessary grief.

Further, many of these personal memorials significantly enhance and improve the park. Although this is a city park, the city has not provided any seating. The benches installed by families provide a place for those visiting the park to rest, contemplate, and seek solace. On early mornings or late afternoons I have sat on a bench near Shoshana's and my father's graves, listening to the mockingbirds singing, the leaves murmuring in the breeze, and, yes, even the soft tinkle of wind chimes. Many of the shrubs and trees planted by families are native, drought resistant plants. During the summer, when the grass was burnt brown, these plants provided shade, color, and greenery. The vague regulations, which bar the planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes, would appear to favor grass over water-wise native plants. In light of the continuing severe drought, it makes no sense to favor grass, which requires substantial

water and high maintenance, over native xeriscaping. If anything, the city should be encouraging and assisting families to select and plant native, drought resistant flowers and trees. This, in the long run, will not only save the city significant resources, but will enhance the park itself.

We have been told that the rock borders could interfere with maintenance. The grave site memorial for Shoshana has been in place since 2006, and many of the other grave site tributes have been in place for as long, if not longer. There is no evidence that they significantly impeded or prevented mowing or maintenance of the park during that time. In the Jewish tradition, a visitor places a stone on the grave rather than flowers, signifying the permanence of memory and love. The stones are not to be removed and over time they become part of the decoration of the grave site. Since Shoshana's burial, she has been visited hundreds of times by her family and friends; the colorful and diverse pile of stones that now cover part of her grave demonstrate all the lives she touched and show that she is still loved and remembered. Prohibiting the placement of stones on grave sites would discriminate against this religious tradition. The park has long provided a birdbath in the Jewish section that is kept full of stones for those visiting the graves. Yet, under these long-neglected regulations, both the stones and the birdbath would be barred.

Finally, I would like to note, if the concern is really for safety, and appearance, the city can start with replacing the rusted and sagging chain link fence surrounding the park and repairing the badly rutted and worn roads through the park. These present more of a hazard to the public and far more adversely affect the appearance and dignity of the park than all the benches, wind chimes, and other personal memorials therein.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 20131017-042

WHEREAS, grieving the death of a loved one is a personal, cultural, and sacred rite that takes many forms throughout our society; and

WHEREAS, for centuries humans have decorated graves with images and objects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has had a policy to prohibit particular grave ornamentation at the municipal cemeteries but has not enforced these rules consistently for many years; and

WHEREAS, families have placed plantings and objects on the graves of loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Texas Health & Safety Code Section 711.001 (25) defines a burial plot as “space in a cemetery *owned* by an individual or organization” [emphasis added]; and

WHEREAS, state law also empowers municipalities to implement reasonable regulations regarding grave and burial lot maintenance; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2013, the City posted notices indicating its intent to begin enforcing regulations related to grave ornamentation; and

WHEREAS, City cemetery staff plans to begin tagging and documenting non-compliant gravesites and to institute and a 30-day deadline for removal of plantings and objects; and

WHEREAS, staff plan to begin the program at Austin Memorial Park on November 1, 2013, and on January 1, 2014, at Evergreen Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, staff have indicated that they have undertaken this effort in response to complaints from the public about benches, statuary, trellises, perimeter pavers, vegetation, and other memorials not permitted as per cemetery rules; and

WHEREAS, one of the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Board Cemetery Working Group was to create a plan for increased enforcement of the cemetery rules and regulations and to include a date by which spaces must be brought into compliance; and

WHEREAS, the City must ensure a safe environment for cemetery workers and visitors; and

WHEREAS, many public and private cemeteries regulate what can be placed at a gravesite and where; and

WHEREAS, it is important to protect the rights of the deceased as well as the rights of friends and relatives who wish to acknowledge their loved ones with personalized visual expressions at their gravesites; and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations must strike a careful balance between preserving safety and the common good and respecting personal and cultural expressions of grief; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to implement a policy allowing ornamentation within the boundaries of a burial plot, subject to applicable laws allowing removal for health and/or safety reasons. The policy will remain in effect pending the outcome of a stakeholder process and final policy direction from the City Council.

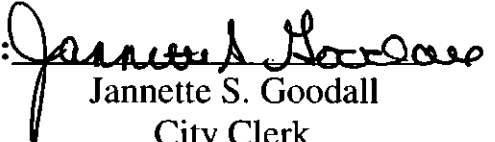
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager, in collaboration with stakeholders and a working group of the Parks and Recreation Board, shall evaluate whether current cemetery policies related to grave ornamentation are appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving, while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families.

This evaluation should include a survey of best practices in culturally and ethnically diverse cities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall provide a detailed summary of the outcomes of the stakeholder process to the City Council within six months.

ADOPTED: October 17, 2013 ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

**CITY OF AUSTIN
PURCHASING OFFICE
SOLICITATION NO. RFQ TVN0082**

SCOPE OF WORK

Description: Public Engagement Consulting Services

1.0 PURPOSE:

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is seeking responses to this solicitation from Firms and Consultants with expertise in the facilitation of public meetings, workshops and other public outreach programs. The City is in the process of reviewing its cemetery rules and regulations as directed by the Austin City Council to seek consensus on any potential revisions for submission to Council for final approval and adoption. The Consultant will be responsible for coordinating public participation through these various forums to insure public access to timely project information and the opportunity for comments.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK:

2.1 Design of the Public Engagement Plan (PEP): The consultant will work with city staff to design the Public Engagement Plan (PEP) that allows for public input for the review and update of existing Cemetery Rules and Regulations originally adopted in 1978. The PEP shall include at a minimum the following items:

- 2.1.1 Public Engagement goals and deliverables
- 2.1.2 Definition of the Public Engagement process and Public Input meeting schedule
- 2.1.3 Development of public input methodology and process management
- 2.1.4 Development of a Media Plan
- 2.1.5 Milestones for any revisions to the existing Rules and Regulations

2.2 Implementation of the PEP including at a minimum the following items:

- 2.2.1 **Initial Data Collection:** The consultant will coordinate with the City's project team to collect information required to review and understand existing issues, assess current public concerns and develop a strategy to address issues as part of the PEP. Consultant will evaluate known issues, identify stakeholders, establish proposed goals and objectives, and define anticipated deliverables.
- 2.2.2 **Kick Off Meeting:** The consultant will lead a city-team kick-off meeting that established primary project parameters, identifies key staff, stakeholders and their roles, establishes communication protocols and presents the PEP and milestone schedule expectations.
- 2.2.3 **Development of a Media Plan:** The consultant shall work with the Parks and Recreation Department Public Information Office to develop a media plan to promote the plan and ensure compliance to the City of Austin's public notice requirements.
- 2.2.4 **Public Engagement Process:** The consultant will schedule and manage public stakeholder meetings. PARD staff will assist the consultant in scheduling rooms and providing logistical support.

2.3 The Public Engagement Process including, at a minimum, the following items:

- 2.3.1 **Support Cemetery Operations existing website for PEP:** The consultant will provide project updates so that PARD staff can update the City cemetery website to include the latest information regarding the PEP, updates to the project calendar, and other project information.
- 2.3.2 **Coordinate and host public input meetings:** The consultant will schedule and host all project public input meetings, including the preparation of all presentation materials, handouts and have staff to record all meetings and provide meetings summaries.

**CITY OF AUSTIN
PURCHASING OFFICE
SOLICITATION NO. RFQ TVN0082**

Consultant shall also steward all recommended rules changes and provide updates.

- 2.3.3 Identify Basic Rules Issues: The consultant shall establish the current cemetery rules and regulations as the baseline document and steward proposed changes to the documents based on public input and consensus.
- 2.3.4 Refine rules based on public input: The consultant shall create and maintain a log of public input that reflects the recommended updates to the rules and regulations; this shall include updates to the rules and regulations for all schedule dates.

2.4 **Milestones and Deliverables including at a minimum the following items:**

- 2.4.1 Draft summary of recommended updates to Cemetery Rules and Regulations: The consultant shall maintain all versions of the update rules and regulations beginning with the current adopted rules and regulations as the baseline document.
- 2.4.2 Submit summary plan and final updates to Parks and Recreation Board: The consultant shall draft a final recommendation and present the final draft to the Parks and Recreation Board.
- 2.4.3 Submit summary plan and final updates to the City Council: The consultant shall draft a final recommendation and present the final draft to the Austin City Council.

3.0 **PROPOSAL FORMAT:**

- 3.1 Prefacing the proposal, the Proposer shall provide an Executive Summary of three (3) pages or less, which gives in brief, concise terms, a summation of the proposal. The proposal itself shall be organized in the following format and informational sequence.
 - 3.1.1 Executive Summary: Describe your understanding of the requested work and your firm's ability to perform the work within the period provided.
 - 3.1.2 Professional Experience: Provide a minimum of three (3) references with current contact information for the experience reported above.
 - 3.1.3 Qualifications: Identify the specific partners, managers, and/or other personnel you will assign to this assignment if selected. Provide resume information specifying relevant experience to the type of services requested for each person.
 - 3.1.4 Cost Proposal: Provide appropriate fees for the requested services and deliverables. Be specific in your description of the fees for meeting attendance and deliverables required in scope.
 - 3.1.5 Schedule: The process describe in this scope of work is very time sensitive. Please provide a proposed schedule for all activities including available timeframes and overall project completion estimates.

The City reserves the right to establish a "short list" of respondents, to conduct optional interviews leading to recommendation for award. These optional interviews will only be conducted for the "short list" selectees.

Recommendation for award will be based on the evaluation of all factors listed above (as applicable).

Introduction

Austin City Council Resolution No. 20131017-042 calls on the City to evaluate whether current cemetery policies related to grave ornamentation are appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families.

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) engaged SMITH/Associates as a neutral consultant to solicit public input on the current City of Austin cemetery rules and regulations and seek consensus on potential revisions to those rules. The statement of work specifies the following three deliverables:

1. Public Engagement Plan
2. Draft summary of recommended updates to cemetery rules and regulations
3. Summary plan and final updates to PARC Board and City Council

This document describes the public engagement approach that will be utilized to achieve these outcomes.

Approach

The public engagement practitioners at SMITH/Associates believe in open, inclusive processes that encourage stakeholders from all perspectives to honestly share their opinions. During this project, we will translate this philosophical approach into the following pragmatic efforts:

- We will endeavor to *engage a wide array of community opinions* to include family members whose loved ones are interred in Austin cemeteries, representatives of community organizations such as Save Austin Cemeteries, journalists and other media figures, religious leaders, and representatives of institutions that work directly with the cemetery such as funeral homes.
- Rather than assuming that the people will come to us, we will attempt to *“go to the people”* by proactively reaching out to those who have historically been involved in this issue.
- We will focus considerable thought and effort on ways in which to *acknowledge the deeply held concerns* and *actively listen* to the strong emotional connections that our stakeholders experience in relation to this issue.
- We will *engage the public* not only through public meetings but also via the website, social media, personal interviews, signs, and flyers.
- We will *solicit public involvement* not only in the execution of the public engagement process, but also *in the design of this process*.
- We will *coordinate closely with the ongoing cemetery master planning project* to ensure that meetings do not conflict and that we solicit participation from key stakeholders in that project.

Execution

Goals:

The public engagement effort will achieve the following goals:

1. Seek consensus on potential revisions to cemetery rules and regulations.
2. Maintain sensitivity to personal and cultural expressions of grieving.
3. Consider necessary safety for cemetery workers.
4. Demonstrate respect for all families.
5. Ensure public access to timely project information and the opportunity to make comments.

Activities

A conference call was held with the Parks & Recreation PIO, cemetery staff and the SMITH/Associates team to discuss media processes and various responsibilities. The SMITH team also met with City of Austin Corporate Marketing representatives to discuss roles in the media dissemination process. It was determined that all media relations/contact should come from the City of Austin.

Four banners were produced announcing public participation opportunities and posted at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery and Plummers Cemetery on April 30, 2014.

A press release was disseminated to the City of Austin's media contacts by the Parks & Recreation PIO and Corporate Marketing teams on April 29, 2014. It summarized the project, specified all opportunities for public involvement, and invited participation in the *Speak Up Austin* forum.

The public participation opportunity announcements were also placed on the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Facebook page on April 29, 2014.

This same information was conveyed in an email blast, which was disseminated to historically involved stakeholders on April 29, 2014. The email also solicited stakeholder involvement in telephone interviews.

Telephone interviews will be conducted from May 1, 2014 to May 23, 2014. A survey is scheduled to go live on the *Speak Up Austin* portal on May 1, 2014. Interviews and surveys permit stakeholders to share their views on cemetery rules and regulations.

Information about the public engagement process and upcoming opportunities to become involved was placed on the PARD website on April 28, 2014. This website will be maintained and updated throughout the project.

Public Engagement Approach

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A media advisory reminding the media of the open house meetings is scheduled to be distributed on May 15, 2014.

Two public input meetings will be held on May 20th and 21st to inform the public and obtain feedback. On June 5th, a public meeting will be hosted to share, and obtain public consensus on, recommended updates to cemetery rules and regulations.

We will share recommended rule revisions at a final public meeting on June 18th. We will then convey these recommendations to the PARD Board of Directors on June 24th and the City Council on June 26th.

Initial Data Collection

We collected and reviewed the following initial data to understand the broad context of this effort:

- Relevant rules and regulations
 - Current Austin Cemetery Rules and Regulations
 - Austin Parks and Recreation Rules
 - Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 8. Death and Disposition of the Body, Subtitle C. Cemeteries and Crematories, Chapters 711-716
 - Texas Historical Commission cemetery rules
- Past news coverage
 - Articles and reports from various news organizations including *The Austin-American Statesman*, Community Impact Newspaper, Fox Austin, KUT, KVUE, and KHOU in Houston
- City information
 - Austin Parks and Recreation Cemetery blog and other updates
 - City Council Resolution No. 20131017-042, related testimony and meeting minutes
 - Cemetery Master Plan information and feedback
- Websites of pertinent organizations
 - Parks and Recreation Board
 - City Council
 - Save Austin's Cemeteries
 - Texas Cemeteries Association
- Cemetery practices from other locations
 - Portland, Oregon cemeteries
 - Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas

Stakeholders

Our public engagement and media relations activities are designed to reach out to a wide array of stakeholders who hold varying opinions about appropriate cemetery rules and regulations. We will directly contact stakeholders who have historically been involved in this issue to invite them to

share their perspective and concerns and to advise them of all planned public engagement opportunities. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the following:

- family members whose loved ones are interred in Austin cemeteries and who have previously offered input to PARD concerning cemetery operations;
- journalists who have covered similar issues in the past;
- religious leaders; and
- representatives of community organizations such as Save Austin Cemeteries.

Methodology:

The following seven steps depict our methodology for translating public input into consensus revisions to cemetery rules and regulations:

1. Identify rules that have been the subject of previous discussion and dialogue in order to focus public input.
 - a. PARD Cemetery Operations staff members specify rules that cannot be changed and document reasons.
 - b. PARD Cemetery Operations staff members specify rules for which public input will be solicited.
2. Inform stakeholders of the rules that cannot be changed.
3. Stakeholders review remaining rules and identify (from their perspective) which rules require change.
4. Stakeholders recommend specific revisions to these rules.
5. Identify any recommendations that are not viable (and explain reasons).
6. Identify consensus recommendations (i.e., rule revisions that all stakeholders support).
7. Identify non-consensus recommendations (i.e., recommended revisions that all stakeholders do not support).

Three possible outcomes emerge from this methodology:

1. Stakeholders reach consensus about a rule revision and this revision is suggested to the PARD Board of Directors and the City Council; OR
2. Stakeholders do not reach consensus, the subject rule remains unchanged, and potential revisions will be reconsidered in the future; OR
3. Stakeholders do not reach consensus and the PARD Board of Directors or City Council address the recommendations as they deem appropriate.

Stakeholder Questions

The following questions will be used to garner stakeholder feedback via telephone interviews with stakeholders, *Speak Up Austin* surveys, and public input meetings:

1. Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?
2. Which specific rules, if any, must be changed?
3. What specific revisions do you recommend for these rules?
4. What new rules, if any, would you like to suggest?
5. Do you have any other input about the current cemetery rules and regulations?

The expansive nature of question 1 helps stakeholders unify around a common vision for City of Austin cemeteries. It also begins the dialogue on a more positive note than would be the case if the discussion abruptly started with the remaining questions. Question 2 focuses our collective attention on those rules and regulations about which stakeholders have differing views. Questions 3 and 4 will provide the specific input around which revised rules and regulations will be constructed. Question 5 permits stakeholders to provide any other input they might wish to share.

These questions will guide the structure of stakeholder interviews, *Speak Up Austin* surveys, and public input meetings (reference stakeholder interview script at Appendix A, *Speak Up Austin* survey text at Appendix B, and public meeting design at Appendix C).

Media Plan

Media relations will be focused on delivering messages specifically tailored to various stakeholders utilizing the most effective channels. Media relations will support the public engagement efforts by informing a wide array of stakeholders about opportunities to provide their feedback.

Key Messages

1. Public will have *multiple opportunities* and forums to provide input regarding cemetery rules.
2. *All stakeholders* will have the opportunity to help *shape and update* the cemeteries rules for recommendation to city council.

Strategy

- Build content for media that speaks directly to their interests and captures their attention.
- Reach out to media that serves cemetery stakeholder target markets (cultural, religious, preservative, historical) and communicate opportunities for input and participation from various groups.

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- Contact media with precise timing to ensure public is notified both well in advance as well as reminded as public meetings draw closer.
- Provide detailed content for Parks & Recreation Cemeteries website that aids media in their research
 - Current Rules
 - Cemetery Tree & Shrub FAQs
 - City Council Resolution information
 - Similar cities' cemetery rules and regulations links
 - Cemetery Master Plan information
- Invite media to attend public meetings to see and understand public engagement process – highlighting the visual elements of this type of public meeting

Tools/Channels

- Press releases
- Calendar Announcements
- Media Advisories
- Website
- Social Media
- E-blasts
- Newsletters
- Signage/flyers

Conclusion

The public engagement process outlined above supports the Austin City Council's directive to evaluate whether current cemetery policies related to grave ornamentation are appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families. Conducting this process in an open, inclusive manner will encourage the involvement of stakeholders from multiple perspectives. The result will be consensus-based revisions to City of Austin cemetery rules and regulations.

Appendix A – Stakeholder Interview Script

Hello, my name is [name] and I am calling to obtain your input about the rules and regulations that govern City of Austin cemeteries. During the next 15 minutes, I would like to ask you several questions that pertain to the rules and regulations in place at City of Austin cemeteries. I'll ask you to refer to the current cemetery rules that were emailed to you (and which can be found at [<https://www.austintexas.gov/cemeteryrules>]).

[Question 1] Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?

A series of current cemetery rules and regulations will now be presented. Rules included in this survey have drawn the most interest from the public. Please answer the questions that follow:

Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.

[Question 2] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.

[Question 3] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.

[Question 4] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.

[Question 5] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.

[Question 6] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.

[Question 7] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.

[Question 8] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.

[Question 9] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.

[Question 10] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.

[Question 11] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.

[Question 12] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term 'care' shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.

[Question 13] In your opinion, should this rule be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend for this rule?

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[Question 14] Do you have input on a rule not included in this survey or would you like to suggest a new rule?

Thank you for your input. Your feedback will be reviewed for potential inclusion in revised cemetery rules and regulations.

Please plan to attend the public input meetings we will hold on May 20th and 21st. We would also like to invite you to a public meeting on June 5th, at which we will share, and obtain public consensus on, recommended updates to cemetery rules and regulations.

You may also attend a public meeting on June 18th, the PARD Board of Directors meeting on June 24th, and the City Council meeting on June 26th to hear our recommended revisions to the cemetery rules.

Thank you for your time and have a nice day.

Appendix B – Speak Up Austin Survey

Austin City Council Resolution No. 20131017-042 calls on the City to evaluate whether current cemetery policies related to grave ornamentation are appropriately sensitive to personal and cultural expressions of grieving while preserving necessary safety for cemetery workers and respect for the values of all families.

This survey is designed to obtain your input about the rules and regulations that govern City of Austin cemeteries which have drawn the most interest from the public. If you would like to provide input on a rule not included in this survey or to suggest a new rule, please respond to question #15. A full copy of current rules may be referenced at

https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/Cemeteries/cemetery_rules_regulations04232014.pdf

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) will hold public input meetings on May 20 and 21, 2014, where you can provide additional feedback on the rules. On June 5, a public meeting will be held to share, and obtain public consensus on, recommended updates to cemetery rules and regulations. Final recommended revisions to the cemetery rules will be presented at a public meeting on June 18, at the PARC Board of Directors meeting on June 24, and at the City Council meeting on June 26, 2014.

Meeting locations and details are available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/cemeteryrules>.

This survey should take approximately 15 minutes. Thank you for your time; your feedback will be reviewed for consideration in the revision of the cemetery rules and regulations.

Question 1: Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries? [Open-ended response]

A series of current cemetery rules and regulations will now be presented. Please answer the questions that follow:

Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

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Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Cemetery Administrator shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.

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H E L P I N G P E O P L E W O R K B E T T E R T O G E T H E R

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term 'care' shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Cemetery Administrator.

Do you agree or disagree with this rule? Please explain how you would change the rule or why you want to keep the rule.

If you have input on a rule not included in this survey or would like to suggest a new rule, please provide your input here.

If you would like to receive updates on the progress of this initiative, please provide your email address.

Appendix C – Public Meeting Design

Public input meetings will be held on May 20th and 21st from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to permit public input on cemetery rules and regulations. A come-and-go open house format will provide a more intimate setting and encourage one-on-one conversation with city staff. Open houses do not include any large group presentations; instead they provide numerous stations for members of the public to obtain information and provide input.

At the registration desk, attendees will sign in and receive a copy of the current cemetery rules and regulations, several comment cards, and an informational sheet. The informational sheet will instruct attendees how to participate in the public input meeting and, on the reverse, it will advise them of upcoming opportunities for public input. Additional comment cards, and boxes into which to deposit the cards, will be placed throughout the room.

Registration staff will advise attendees that anyone who is unable to write out their comments may choose to participate in an interview. Greeters will also assure attendees who have already provided comments via *Speak Up Austin* or stakeholder interviews that their responses have been captured; they will then be encouraged to provide any additional comments they may have or to participate in some of the small group discussion elements of the public input meeting.

The meeting room will consist of stations to share information and stations to solicit input from the public. All of these stations are optional but input station #3 (below) is the primary means by which attendees can share their proposed revisions to cemetery rules and regulations.

Seven stations will convey information about the following topics:

1. A rolling display of photographs from the City of Austin cemeteries. The purpose of this station is to familiarize attendees with the cemeteries and provide context for their input.
2. A summary of the current public engagement process and invitation to participate in upcoming public input opportunities. This will encourage continued attendance at future public meetings.
3. A depiction of the history of previous public engagement efforts pertaining to cemetery rules and regulations. The purpose of this station is to convey “how we got here” and indicate a timeline of related events.
4. A description of the related, but separate, public engagement process for the cemetery master planning process. This station will encourage attendees to ask questions and to participate in the master planning process.
5. A summary of cemetery rules and regulations in other communities. The purpose of this station is to provide context to the discussions and a point of comparison for attendees’ input.
6. A delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the City of Austin Cemetery Operation staff. This will answer questions pertaining to City care and maintenance of the cemeteries.

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7. A depiction of the dimensions of a typical burial space. A graphic displaying these dimensions will be paired with an actual size burial space marked out on the floor. The intent of this station is to provide specific context for discussions of the rules.

Three stations will solicit input about the following topics:

1. A story telling station to allow small groups of attendees to discuss the first stakeholder question: “Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?” (stakeholder question 1). The purpose of this station is to ease attendees into the process and begin their interaction on a positive, forward-looking note.
2. A rotating discussion station consisting of chairs set in two concentric circles. A facilitator will assist attendees in engaging in brief, rotating conversations with one another about current rules and regulations, potential revisions, new rules, and other feedback (stakeholder questions 2-5). The purpose of this station is to serve as a warm-up exercise and all attendees will be advised to record their comments in writing on the comment cards.
3. A station displaying the current cemetery rules and regulations that have been the subject of the most discussion in the past. This will consist of a long table with small signs depicting each of these rules. Using nearby tables, attendees will write their specific comments on comment cards and deposit those cards in boxes near each sign (stakeholder questions 2 and 3). Attendees will also have the opportunity to indicate new rules they suggest (stakeholder question 4) and any other input they would like to share (stakeholder question 5).

A third public meeting will be held on June 5th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to share, and obtain public consensus on, recommended updates to cemetery rules and regulations. At this meeting, SMITH/Associates, serving in our capacity as neutral public engagement consultants will convey to attendees the following information:

1. Categorized, non-attributional input obtained via stakeholder interviews, *Speak Up Austin* surveys, and the first two public input meetings.
2. Categorized, non-attributional input that cannot be incorporated into revised rules and regulations (and describe why).
3. Proposed revisions to cemetery rules and regulations.

SMITH/Associates will then solicit input about, and seek public consensus on, these proposed rule revisions. Discussion will be held about any rules or proposed revisions about which differing views remain.

A final public meeting will be held on June 18th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. to enable SMITH/Associates as neutral public engagement consultants to share their recommended revisions to City of Austin cemetery rules and regulations.

Input

- Open House Meetings
- Phone Interviews
- Speak Up Austin Online Survey

Open House Public Meetings 5/20 & 5/21

Analysis

- Review Input to Determine Range of Opinions Expressed
- Seek Areas of Broad-Based Agreement
- Develop Recommended Rule Revisions that Balance Expressions of Grief, Public Safety and Maintenance Needs

Recommendations

- Summarize Public Input
- Present Recommended Revisions to Rules & Regulations
- Engage in Dialogue to Seek Additional Areas of Agreement

Initial Presentation of the Recommended Rules and Regulations Meeting 6/5

Continued Analysis

- Review All Public Input Received at Initial Presentation of the Recommended Rules and Regulations Meeting on 6/18
- Continue to Seek Areas of Broad-Based Agreement
- Develop Final Recommended Revisions to Rules & Regulations

Finalize

- Summarize Public Engagement Process and Resulting Public Input
- Present Recommended Revisions to Rules & Regulations
- Suggest Path Forward for Achieving Agreement on Topics about which Broad-Based Agreement Has Not Emerged

Final Presentation of the Recommended Rules and Regulations 6/18

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC FEEDBACK

- B1. Cemetery Rules Handout
 - B2. Speak Up Austin Responses to Existing Rules
 - B3. SMITH Stakeholder Interview Responses
 - B4. Master Plan Stakeholder Interview Report
 - B5. Comments on Existing Rules
 - B6. Side-by-Side Existing and Proposed Rules
 - B7. Comments on Revised Proposed Rules
 - B8. Comments on Second Draft Revised Proposed Rules
 - B9. Public Meeting Transcript, June 18, 2014
-

Current City of Austin Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Rule #	Rule
Definitions	
1	The term "Cemeteries" as used in these rules and regulations shall mean cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.
2	The term "Superintendent" shall mean the person duly appointed by the City of Austin for the purpose of supervising and administering cemetery functions.
3	The term "Owner" shall mean the owner as indicated by the deed.
4	The term "Interment" shall mean entombment or burial of the remains of a deceased person.
*5	<i>The term "Memorial" shall mean any marker, monument, headstone, tablet, or other structure, upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or partially therein for identification or in memory of the interred.</i>
6	The term "Space" shall mean the area normally designated for a single Interment.
Admission to Cemeteries	
7	No person shall be permitted to enter or leave the cemeteries except by the public access gates. The cemeteries will be open to the public during reasonable hours as established by the Superintendent.
8	The admission of motorcycles to the cemeteries may be refused on the basis of noise or disruption of services.
9	Any unauthorized person found on the cemetery grounds after dark will be considered a trespasser.
10	The use of any cemetery equipment or facilities may be refused at any time to any person or persons as the rules, judgment and custom may indicate.
11	Written authorization from the owner of record of a burial space, or his designated representative or successor in interest, or other proper legal authority, will be required for interment.
12	The Superintendent shall have the right to schedule the time when interments or disinterment may be conducted.
13	A minimum of twelve (12) working hours before the announced times of the funeral will be required for the preparation of the grave.
14	In making a request for interment, the casket or vault, if of unusual size, must be particularly indicated.
15	The Superintendent shall not be responsible when an error occurs from an order placed by telephone regarding a grave location or container size to be used. The Superintendent reserves the right to make an equitable additional charge whenever additional labor costs result from such mistakes. The Superintendent shall not be liable for any delay in the interment of a body when a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.
Interment, Disinterment and Re-Interment Procedures	
16	Proper authorization as required by local government or public authority having jurisdiction in the matter must be presented to the Cemetery office at the time of interment or disinterment is affected. The Superintendent shall not be liable for the accuracy of the data contained in said authorization or for the identity of the person to be interred or disinterred.
17	All interments, disinterments and re-interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws. The Cemetery staff will only be responsible for the opening and closing of the grave.
Instructions for Space Holders and Space Holders' Rights	
18	Burial vaults, either partially or entirely above ground, are prohibited.
19	A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for all adult interments. Sections 9, 9A and 10 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Sections D and E at Evergreen Cemetery are exempt from this provision.

Current City of Austin Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Rule #	Rule
20	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.
21	Only one casket will be permitted in each grave. In the event cremation is utilized, a maximum of four (4) interments will be permitted in one (1) space.
*22	<i>The use of a space is for the owner or such other person as the owner may designate.</i>
23	In the event of the death of an owner, any and all privileges of the owner shall pass according to the laws of the State of Texas.
Service Charges and Payments	
24	The City of Austin shall have the right to establish a charge and time of payment for each interment and disinterment.
25	The City of Austin reserves the right to specify the amounts and terms of purchase of all spaces to the original purchaser.
26	In the event an owner sells or conveys a space or spaces, a record of such sale or conveyance must be provided to the City of Austin.
27	When a disinterment is accomplished for the purpose of re-interment within the same cemetery, the current price of the vacated space, less 25%, shall be allowed as payment toward the new purchase. The established charge for opening and closing each space will be in addition to the price of the new space.
Memorials	
28	All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.
29	Only one memorial will be permitted on one grave space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more grave spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the grave space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.
30	Space or lot corner markers will be set flush with the turf.
31	Flush type Memorials— -The marking of each space or grave in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish and construction as indicated in this section. -Flush type memorials shall be made of granite marble or cast bronze installed on granite, marble or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4"). -Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6") and shall be smooth on all sides. -All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2") of sand for cushioning and leveling. -The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the grave space width.
32	Above Ground Materials - -In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used. -All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite or similar permanent type stone. -Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions: --The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18") in width --The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42"). --The length shall be at least ten inches less than the grave space width.

Current City of Austin Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Rule #	Rule
33	Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.
Memorial Foundations	
34	The size of concrete foundations for all above ground memorials shall be 1" larger in length and width than the size of the base.
35	The top of concrete foundations shall be from 1" to 2" below the top of the ground to allow for adding cement grout to level the memorial base.
36	Concrete foundations shall be a minimum of 8" thick and have perpendicular sides and flat bottom.
37	Excavations for foundations for above ground memorials shall be a minimum of 10" deep from the top of the ground. If the memorial base is two feet (2') or more in length, there shall be one 6" diameter round hole dug 18" deep (or to rock) below the bottom of the excavation at each end of the excavation.
38	Concrete for all memorial foundations shall be 1 part cement, 2 parts sand and 4 parts gravel.
Rules for Memorial Park	
39	Memorial dealers shall abide by all the rules and regulations of the Cemeteries.
40	The Superintendent reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.
41	Memorial dealers engaged in placing or erecting memorials or other structures are prohibited from scattering their material over adjoining spaces, or from blocking roads or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is necessary. Damage done to spaces, walks, drives, trees, shrubs or other property shall be repaired at the expense of the memorial dealer, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent.
42	Work of any nature may be stopped if proper preparations have not been made; or when work is being done in such a manner as to endanger life or property; or when there is evidence of misrepresentation; or when work is not being executed according to specifications; or when any reasonable request on the part of the Superintendent is disregarded; or when any person employed in the monument work violates any rule of the cemeteries.
General Regulations	
43	Visitors or workers shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, unless it becomes necessary to walk across other spaces or graves to gain access to a space or grave.
44	Automobiles, trucks and other vehicles shall not be driven through the cemetery grounds at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour. Unauthorized vehicles may not be driven or parked off the designated roadways or parking areas.
45	Pets shall not be allowed in the cemetery.
46	The use of intoxicating beverages within the cemeteries is strictly forbidden.
47	No person will be permitted to use profane or boisterous language or in any way disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery.
*48	<i>No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.</i>
*49	<i>The Superintendent has the authority to enter upon any space and to remove any objectionable thing that may have been placed there contrary to the regulations, and may remove any dead or damaged flowers, trees, shrubs or vines.</i>
*50	<i>All persons are strictly forbidden to break or injure any tree or shrub, or mar any landmark, marker or memorial, or in any way deface the grounds of the cemetery.</i>
51	No person or persons (except peace officers or a military guard of honor) shall be permitted to bring or carry firearms within the Cemetery.

Current City of Austin Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Rule #	Rule
*52	<i>No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.</i>
53	The City of Austin is not responsible for vandalism or theft of any memorial or other personal property.
*54	<i>The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.</i>
*55	<i>The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.</i>
*56	<i>Holdings such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.</i>
*57	<i>Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.</i>
*58	<i>In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.</i>
*59	<i>In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.</i>
*60	<i>If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.</i>
61	Personnel employed by the cemeteries are not permitted to solicit or accept money or other compensation from any person or persons for maintenance performed within the Cemetery.
62	All inquiries or complaints shall be submitted to the main Cemetery office.
63	The grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton inquiry, disturbance, and disregard of the rules.
64	There shall be a strict observance of all the properties due the Cemetery, whether embraced in the foregoing regulations or not, as no impropriety will be tolerated.
Care of Cemeteries	
65	Care shall be furnished for all cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin. Care shall mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the pleasing appearance of the Cemetery.
*66	<i>The term "care" shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.</i>
*67	<i>Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited.</i>

Current City of Austin Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Rule #	Rule
Reservations of the City of Austin	
68	The City of Austin reserves the right to correct errors made by staff that is associated with interments or conveyance of property. In the event such error shall involve interment, the City reserves the right to remove and re-inter the remains to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. Should an error develop in the conveyance of property, the City may correct such error by conveying property of equal value in a similar location insofar as possible.
69	The right to revise and/or add to Cemeteries (a section of sections) from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of or any part thereof or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks is expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for water sprinkling systems and drainage, is also expressly reserved, as is the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparation for interment, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of passage to and from other spaces.
70	No easement is granted to any owner in any road, drive or walk within the cemeteries, but such road, drive or walk may be used as a means of access to the cemeteries and its buildings as long as the City of Austin devotes such road, drive or walk to that purpose.
71	The City of Austin disclaims responsibility to owners, their personal representatives or successors in interest for the loss or damage to cemetery spaces or memorials by any cause, natural or otherwise, direct or indirect, beyond reasonable control of the City of Austin.
72	The statement of any employee of the cemeteries shall not be binding upon the City of Austin except as such statement agrees with the document conveying the right of interment and these rules and regulations.
73	The City of Austin reserves the right at any time and from time to time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind, or add to these rules and regulations or any part thereof to adopt any new rule or regulation or any temporary exception with respect to said cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.
74	In all matters not specifically covered by these rules and regulations, the City of Austin reserves the right to do anything which in its judgment is deemed reasonable pertaining to the cemeteries and such determination shall be binding upon the space owner and all parties concerned.

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
Speak Up Austin Results - As of 5/28/14

Rule #	De-Identified Comment
Rule #	Rule
1	<i>The term "Cemeteries" as used in these rules and regulations shall mean cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.</i>
Rule #	Comment
1	
Rule #	Rule
2	<i>The term "Superintendent" shall mean the person duly appointed by the City of Austin for the purpose of supervising and administering cemetery functions.</i>
Rule #	Comment
2	
Rule #	Rule
3	<i>The term "Owner" shall mean the owner as indicated by the deed.</i>
Rule #	Comment
3	
Rule #	Rule
4	<i>The term "Interment" shall mean entombment or burial of the remains of a deceased person.</i>
Rule #	Comment
4	
Rule #	Rule
5	<i>The term "Memorial" shall mean any marker, monument, headstone, tablet, or other structure, upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or partially therein for identification or in memory of the interred.</i>
Rule #	Comment
5	
Rule #	Rule
6	<i>The term "Space" shall mean the area normally designated for a single Interment.</i>
Rule #	Comment
6	
Rule #	Rule
10	<i>No person shall be permitted to enter or leave the cemeteries except by the public access gates. The cemeteries will be open to the public during reasonable hours as established by the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Comment
10	
Rule #	Rule
11	<i>The admission of motorcycles to the cemeteries may be refused on the basis of noise or disruption of services.</i>
Rule #	Comment
11	
Rule #	Rule
12	<i>Any unauthorized person found on the cemetery grounds after dark will be considered a trespasser.</i>
Rule #	Comment
12	
Rule #	Rule
13	<i>The use of any cemetery equipment or facilities may be refused at any time to any person or persons as the rules, judgment and custom may indicate.</i>
Rule #	Comment

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
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13	
Rule #	Rule
14	<i>Written authorization from the owner of record of a burial space, or his designated representative or successor in interest, or other proper legal authority, will be required for interment.</i>
Rule #	Comment
14	
Rule #	Rule
15	<i>The Superintendent shall have the right to schedule the time when interments or disinterment may be conducted.</i>
Rule #	Comment
15	
Rule #	Rule
16	<i>A minimum of twelve (12) working hours before the announced times of the funeral will be required for the preparation of the grave.</i>
Rule #	Comment
16	
Rule #	Rule
17	<i>In making a request for interment, the casket or vault, if of unusual size, must be particularly indicated.</i>
Rule #	Comment
17	
Rule #	Rule
18	<i>The Superintendent shall not be responsible when an error occurs from an order placed by telephone regarding a grave location or container size to be used. The Superintendent reserves the right to make an equitable additional charge whenever additional labor costs result from such mistakes. The Superintendent shall not be liable for any delay in the interment of a body when a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.</i>
Rule #	Comment
18	
Rule #	Rule
19	<i>Proper authorization as required by local government or public authority having jurisdiction in the matter must be presented to the Cemetery office at the time of interment or disinterment is affected. The Superintendent shall not be liable for the accuracy of the data contained in said authorization or for the identity of the person to be interred or disinterred.</i>
Rule #	Comment
19	
Rule #	Rule
20	<i>All interments, disinterments and re-interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws. The Cemetery staff will only be responsible for the opening and closing of the grave.</i>
Rule #	Comment
20	
Rule #	Rule
21	<i>Burial vaults, either partially or entirely above ground, are prohibited.</i>
Rule #	Comment
21	
Rule #	Rule

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
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22	<i>A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for all adult interments. Sections 9, 9A and 10 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Sections D and E at Evergreen Cemetery are exempt from this provision.</i>
Rule #	Comment
22	
Rule #	Rule
23	<i>Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.</i>
Rule #	Comment
23	I heartily disagree. I would limit the restrictions to unapproved fencing and paper and glass items.
23	I agree with this rule. I think the simplicity, which is currently outlined in the current R&R is appropriate. It starts to look junky with all kinds of knick-knacks sitting around and blowing about. I do respect each families different way of honoring their loved ones, but I feel that the current guidelines are appropriate.
23	Agree. Keeps it neat and tidy, provides symmetry
23	Disagree. The objects are not tacky if they are placed there with love an maintained. They give personality and sometimes humor to an impersonal space. It is a shame that modern cemeteries are such forgotten places.
23	develop a written policy on what concrete items are acceptable, with specifics in writing. If you don't put it down in writing, then assumptions will be made that deviate from what was intended
23	Disagree. Burials are very personal to the family and the wishes of the deceased. If the ornamentation is of a durable nature, it should be allowed. If it is plastic or short-term, you could say that displays could be limited to the period of one month and may be removed afterwards by park staff.
23	small religious statues give people solace. No enclosures, glass, plastic etc should be allowed except plastic flowers. The rule should be broken up into sensible items regarding compassion and a rule regarding trashing the site.
23	Agree for the most part. I understand people wanting to have a place to sit, such as a memorial bench.
23	what is meant by slabs. this should not preclude tombstones or grave markers.
23	I agree with this rule. Cemeteries should not be turned into amusement gardens! Totally inappropriate.
23	If it is limited, as opposed to excessive, I believe space ornamentation to be the choice of the family members. Everyone grieves differently. If one individual finds comfort in the fact that a small statue of a favorite saint is sitting next to their headstone of their late mother, they should be granted that comfort. Only when their decoration begins to interfere with others should be an issue.
23	Disagree.
23	With so many trees dying, Oakwood Cemetery is too sunny and hot. I would love to have a tree and bend near my grandparents and parents graves in the annex.
23	Agree.

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23	no, I want to be able to put flowers for my late husband, I will pick them up and put fresh ones from time to time. In plastic or not.
23	DISAGREE.
23	Disagree. If a "family" owns two or more adjacent places, they should be able to have a bench, and outline of brick or rock. A child's teddy bear is fine. Personal mementos of the deceased, photographs, etc should be permitted and add to the character of the place.
23	I disagree with this rule, especially as it has not been enforced for many years. Enforcing it ex post facto would result in the destruction and desecration of many gravesites. Further, the past failure of PARD to enforce this rule may be deemed a type of waiver and legally the rule may already be unenforceable. Also, this enforcing this rule would violate the religious traditions of certain groups (for example, the Jewish tradition of leaving a stone when visiting a gravesite). I agree there should be reasonable limits on the type, size, weight, number, and materials of items to be placed within a space or on a grave, such as barring non-weather resistant items or offensive or political messages. I have submitted previously a very rough draft proposing certain such restrictions. Current gravesite memorials that are maintained and do not represent an imminent danger to PARD employees or the public should be grandfathered.
23	Disagree. If you've paid for the plot, you get to pay tribute to your deceased relatives how you please.
23	I agree in general. Austin has 5 very distinctive cemeteries. These rules can apply more to Memorial Park, but should be amended as to historic Oakwood and others.
23	Fine if it's with in reason. Sometime people my want to place a temporary item on a headstone. That should be permitted.
23	I agree
23	"Construction or installation of slabs" slabs should be permitted. Slabs would reduce ground heaving.
23	I would allow family members to put it temporary objects, plant flowers, I do not think they should be allowed to put fences, hedges , etc around plots
23	Agree, crews and visitors need to be able to walk the rows withoput obstructions
23	Agree
23	Agree. This rule is imperative for the safety of visitors and employees as well as for efficient groundskeeping.
23	There are times, because of expense, that one might not purchase a vase/vases for flowers, but in the future would desire to do so. In this sense, I would seek to allow for this type of item to be added. Many markers have space for the vase/s and could easily be added without damaging or adding to the existing marker.
23	Agree
23	We agree with this rule if its the same as current rules.
23	I disagree with this rule. Expression of grief is important in the healing process. If the items do not present a safety hazard and families keep the grave site clean and remove worn items.
23	Yes but the condition of the headstones is inconsistent with this approach. You have an uncluttered cemetery but headstones that are topsy turvy. I am told the cemetery was originally perpetual care but changed when the City assumed it.
23	I disagree with this rule. Some graves are already encased with concrete, many have concrete, wooden, or iron benches. Many statues are included with the monument. As long as these items aren't deteriorating and not an eyesore, I think they should be permitted.

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23	I disagree. Vehemently. We paid for the plots. We should be able to put what we want to pay homage to our loved ones.
23	I DISAGREE! Who are you to come along at this date and destroy the wonderful ambience at my last resting place-to-be. If I wanted to be buried at Ft. Hood, or some cold mechanical looking place, I would go there. Instead, I chose to be buried 40 miles from my home because I fell in love with the grounds. Wind chimes hanging from a tree? Love it! I did see some things that could be "tidied up"...but you are recommending wholesale wiping out of the charm of this beautiful cemetery. I might mention that it is a historical place. I'm proud that it is going to be my last home.
23	Disagree. Currently the City is not allowing plantings of any type. The City is allowing for potted plants, which are more difficult to maintain and keep alive, especially in our harsh weather conditions. It is a ridiculous rule and unbearable to not allow friends and family to plant rose bushes or other appropriate blooming plants which have a greater chance of survival, as other cemeteries do.
23	I agree.
23	I think slabs, fencing, hedging or enclosures can be controlled. I think a permanent statue could be permitted if it is in place of a tomb stone.
23	Disagree, let people do things different from what I would do. There is not one grave in Austin Cemeteries that is a problem. The city should correct slabs, curbing, steps and headstones that are a hazard.
23	I say, get rid of extraneous stuff. Allow folks to put flowers, etc. in pots or other containers that rest upon the monument, only.
23	I most certainly disagree with this rule as most grave plots have some type of these items. They represent the memorial desires of the living, friends, and relatives.
23	Agree
23	I agree with this rule.
23	Disagree. These families purchased these plots and should be able to decorate them as they wish as long as they don't present a hazard.
23	I think this is only reasonable insofar as the added items directly effect the lot of another. Otherwise, these activities allow connection with the deceased, and should be respected. Thus, I do not agree with the rule as stated. I would add some criteria by which to judge harmful constructions (such as physical encroachment on another space). (All this being said, objects of a temporary nature become trashed (with time), and thus contribute to unsightliness, so I can understand that part of the rule. Maybe it could be changed to be similar to the rule described in question no. 9-- that it will be removed once deteriorated).
23	Agree
23	I agree, these temporary additions eventually decay and become trash.
23	Agree, in general
23	I agree that spaces should be kept open and not closed in.
23	what do you want by keeping this rule? sounds like you want something very sterile and a homogenous look. the veterans unknown soldier section of any cemetery is necessary, but we don't need the cemetery to look this way throughout. human beings with individuality are laid to rest there. the families and individuals have wishes an requests.
23	Definitely agree with the first sentence. I think it would be okay if people want to put something small on their loved ones grave.

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23	Disagree. Families should be permitted to place any object on an individual grave (within the grave's space and not beyond it).. The cemetery should reflect the individuality of the families honoring a sacred space.
23	I disagree. That only leaves available to us who long to respect our loved ones the option of laying live flowers on the grave that die and wilt within an hour or so in the hot heat of Texas. Could we not place a semi permanent silk or plastic flower holder near the gravestone?
23	agree as the decorations clutter the gravesites and become unsightly. also increases maintenance
23	I agree except for small flower arrangements or small pot/urn/planter that may hold a flower arrangement.
23	Agree
23	I think that is ridiculous. If it gets in the way of your mowing, then don't mow around that particular grave. Why would it bother anyone if somebody decides to put a statue of an angel? Why would anyone be bothered when the parents of a child put toys on his/her grave? There's one like that near my father and it touches my heart. If there is something that is rotting, decaying, a health hazard or a safety hazard (broken glass for example), sure, remove it. Otherwise, why?
23	Yes, I agree with this rule
23	agree People have very differing ideas of what looks good in a front yard. Austin Memorial looks like one of my tacky neighbors' front yard.
23	This rule, like others below, needs to be re-written in simple, concise form. It combines some specifics with some vague generalities and would be difficult to enforce if challenged. And while it prohibits curbing, # 12 suggests curbing may nevertheless exist by excluding the repair or replacement of curbing from the definition of "care" to be rendered by city employees.
23	Disagree. Unless they pose a safety hazard, there should not be a restriction on these.
23	I totally disagree. Only if it is a "safety violation" should it be removed. Otherwise, please leave as is as it may be an expression of someone's love for their dead.
23	Disagree. Allow objects that are not hazardous. Remove if broken only.
23	I think putting plants and in some cases of deceased children toys are fine.
23	Absolutely not. I challenge any person with the City of Austin to go through the cemetery and show a location where these additions are in bad taste and do not pay respect to the deceased.
23	Strongly disagree. While I see a need to have some regulations, plants, benches etc. is very important to me as I visit the burial place of my family and loved ones. especially object to the city already taking action without warning or notice by pulling a plant I had placed for a loved one.
23	Disagree. Expressions of individuality should be encouraged.
23	Disagree.
23	Disagree. If people would like to place a bench near or on lots they own so they can sit down while visiting their loved ones they should be allowed to do so. If some erects an object that is not obviously/openly offensive, and is on their lot(s) it should be allowed to remain.
23	I disagree. The plots are privately owned. Within broad limits (truly dangerous items), the owner of the plot should be allowed to place items as they wish.
23	Disagree - statues or more permanent objects should be allowed.
23	See answer to Question #1
23	I agree. People who visit to remember loved ones should not be distracted by others graveside embellishments.
23	I agree. However, I would allow stone or iron benches which give family members a place to rest

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
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23	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
23	although I see why you may not allow permanent construction, not sure why statues and objects are not ok. they can be very meaningful.
23	Agree. By keeping the rule, the cemetery will be well maintained, and serenity and peacefulness will be the result.
23	I agree, but you should include a penalty if the city has to remove prohibited items with the penalty increasing substantially for repeat offenders
23	I agree. Often these 'extras' are added without respect to the graves of those nearby and to the access needed to reach these graves.
23	I disagree. I think these personal items are what give a cemetery character, and more important, they give the bereaved some comfort in personalizing their loved one's grave.
23	Yes, I agree
23	Perhaps there is some sound reason to limit the types of enclosures permitted at each gravesite, but an outright ban on enclosures of any kind is probably taking it too far. I see no reason why statues or small objects should be prohibited. I can understand if the cemetery wants to ensure that headstones are visible, but surely some compromise is possible to achieve the desired cemetery aesthetic while allowing the bereaved to include tokens of affection to their loved ones, including statuary, small objects and plants, as long as the gravesite owner agrees to assume responsibility for maintenance.
23	I disagree. I would change the rule to state that any objects that present a public safety hazard or a hazard to park maintenance workers or an impediment to foot traffic will be removed.
23	Disagree, as the diverse expressions of grief and mourning in our society may call for temporary (seasonal) decorations or statuary that reflects the loved one. One cultural preference for agrief to be reflected in a certain way (ie grass only, or subtle floral tributes) should not be imposed on everyone.
23	Disagree. Goodness gracious. Loved ones should be able to remember with personal items. Plants (particularly native plants) are a tribute to our heritage.
23	I disagree with this rule. As long as these items are not creating a danger, they should be allowed to be there, within the plot loved ones have paid for. Benches should absolutely be allowed.
23	disagree with this rule
23	Completely disagree! Certain restrictions such as cement I understand...but plants? Statues? Mementoes of the loved one? Why is that a problem?
23	I understand there have to be some limits perhaps to size to an object, but again I think loved ones should be able to customize the plot.
23	I disagree with this rule. I would change the rule to allow people to remember their loved ones in any way they see fit that does not endanger visitors. For example, broken glass on walkways should probably be prohibited. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
23	Disagree.
23	Disagree. Should be with approval of city prior and city NOT to be allowe to remove anything without notification.
23	disagree - it is all a matter of taste
23	Disagree. Unless it disturbs the maintenance of the park, it should be allowed.

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23	Construction of slabs, fences, or other enclosures--that's ok with me. Statues or objects made of cement, iron, wood, or other hard substances seem ok. Perhaps some parameters about size would be ok.
23	I do not think it is right to ignore this rule for years and then suddenly start enforcing it. I think as long as people do not violate anyone else's space, they should be able to do what they please.
23	I disagree. Since the grave sites are privately owned, the owners should be able to construct or install any type of decoration or memorials they desire, as long as it is not obscene or pornographic, and is constructed safely.
23	I strongly disagree with this heartless plan. I have a loved one buried in Memorial Park and I chose it because it reflected the creativity of the city of Austin. That creativity is shown in the lively and personal decorations used to mark the place where a loved one is buried. It also gives one a sense of the personality of the loved one, which allows their memory to live on beyond death.
23	Completely DISagree. Too sterile and, basically, ridiculous.
23	Disagree
23	I disagree. Especially the statement about not allowing temporary objects. Small stones are placed on grave stone as a sign that a friend or relative has visited. Figurines and vases are sentimental to those that visit.
23	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [Survey in spanish?]
23	Disagree. What is the purpose of this rule? If the area "inside" of the enclosure is maintained, there should not be any restrictions of this nature. If the grave becomes overgrown and not tended, then their removal would be in order.
23	Disagree; I would remove the rule.
23	Ok, with the rule except as it applies to existing modifications already in place assuming they create no hazard.
23	Disagree. I think it is ok to have height or access restrictions placed but think it completely unnecessary to limit family participation in grave upkeep. I find this especially grievous to those who have not signed on for this when purchasing their plots.
23	I disagree with the rule. I would change the rule by consulting with the owners of the grave plots to come up with something that everyone can live with.
23	Disagree. Why is this not permitted? I don't understand.
23	I would disagree with this rule. As long as the statuary does not malign or disrespect groups of people based on race, creed, sexual orientation it should be allowed. A size limit may be in order but to ban it altogether seems insensitive.
23	I think anybody should have the right to personalize the grave site of their loved one, not only should they have the right but it should be encouraged. The only thing that might be suggested is to not use light things that could easily fly away (e.g. paper/plastic) - or to make sure that they are properly attached or fastened.
23	Does that include cement, iron, or wooden benches? (see#7) What about chimes? Offenders should be given enough notice to take care of the problem
23	What's the purpose of this rule. To make it easier for the City to mow? Or to prevent trash from accumulating. If the latter, I think you should narrow this rule. Perhaps you should make clear that objects that are paper and dilapidated and broken need to be removed. Then you need to define what is considered broken.
23	Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case
23	Disagree. I would allow planting of drought resistant plants and flowers, the erection of bird houses, the additions of flags on special days, the placing of rocks (Jewish tradition) and the temporary placing of other materials, such as for Day of the Dead.

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23	I disagree. This is far to broad and appears to permit know modifications. A small rubber duck or a beautiful planting of Zinnias would not be allowed under this rule. Surely you can craft wording that disallows buidling something like a pergola while allowing a grieving person to remember their loved one with planted flowers or toys.
23	My family encourages planting(s) of hedging, shrubs, flowers or trees at the gravesite, IF, they are maintained by the family members and bring an astetic nature to the gravesite. It should not have to be maintained by the city. As long as a family member maintains the location in a positive and environmental nature, it should be encouraged.
23	Outdoor pots should be allowed, as well as outdoor edging to keep the grass and weeds at bay.
23	Strongly disagree! I would delete this rule! Not even temporary objects? Even the national cemetery regulations are not that strict! http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsamhouston.asp
23	Please! Allow mementos-make the gravesite comforting and a blessing for the community and the bereaved.
23	I disagree. I think the families should be allowed to erect edging around the grave site of their loved ones, as long as it's not a material like plastic edging which would deteriorate over time. I think stone or rock is proper and attractive.
23	Completely disagree because the statement is far too vague and gives the The City of Austin far too much leverage to interpret as they see fit. If something is falling apart or creates a safety hazard I agree, but if you see fit to remove a small wooden bear I left for my mother I would have to say what is wrong with you. I know that something small like that probably would not be removed, but the fact you give yourself the right to do that if you wish, I can agree with. Reword it and I'll see what I think.
23	Disagree- not everyone is as uptight as the city of Austin.
23	Yes, I agree with this rule.
23	Although I agree that fencing and curbing would make maintenance more difficult, slabs or wide-based statues or mementos should be ok. Low hedges and plants with clear mowing paths are nice. Trees are essential.
23	Totally disagree with this rule. Are you saying a vase of flowers would not be permitted ?
23	Disagree. Without anything beyond the tombstone, the graveyard becomes a lifeless and sterile place. By being allowed to items, particularly plantings and statues in a space you have bought to memorialize the person buried there is a long honored tradition in memorializing those you love.
23	I disagree - I suggest it should read Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statue or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted to extend beyond the bounds of the individual lot
23	I understand the rule, but I also believe that it's almost a freedom of speech that people are using when the leave things there to soothe their own souls when they visit. It might not be "pretty" the way you think it should be, but these people bought and paid for the land where their loved one is buried and they should be able to put mementoes there.
23	Disagree. Discard this rule completely and concentrate on health and safety issues. Pickup the dilapidated articles on a regular basis.
23	I disagree with this rule because it impedes individual expression at the private grave sites of loved ones. Anything obstructive, dangerous, or unsightly is understandable and should be prohibited. Something temporary should be allowed on a grave site at least on the memorial day of a relative. Specific items should be decided on by all stakeholders involved in a fair manner, respecting cultural diversity.

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23	I agree. I am on the cemetery committee for the Agudas Achim Cemetery which is in the Austin Memorial Park and this rule will help us enforce many requests we have made to families of departed loved ones regarding just such enclosures.
23	I disagree strongly with this proposal.
23	I agree. I sympathize with grieving families who wish to mark the passing of their loved one with mementos, but these displays are disrespectful to all the other very special people who share the cemetery and to their families.
23	Agree to some extent. There are some specific rituals that require a temporary indication that someone has visited a grave site - for example a flag or decoration for certain holidays, and also a stone on top of a tombstone for those of the Jewish faith - - these traditions should be respected and permitted.
23	I disagree, strenuously. This has nothing to do with "respect" and everything to do with making it easier for the cemetery maintenance guys to mow.
23	We disagree! Small items should be allowed on grave sites as well as planted flowers. In the past the City has failed to maintain our grave site properly.
23	Disagree. My parents' grave site plan was run by the person on site and was deemed appropriate. It is tasteful, respectful of others nearby and peaceful.
23	I disagree. I think people should be allowed to fence in their private plots or define them in some way, as long as it's not a safety hazard.
23	Too vague. Also, removal without notice and opportunity to dispute? Whatever happened to due process?
23	Agree.
23	I strongly disagree with the rule. Individual small statues or mementos could help the people left behind to feel better. They do no harm.
23	I disagree.
23	I would delete "objects of a temporary nature" because this would exclude flowers or flags or stones.
23	Sections which already contain slabs, curbing, steps, etc. should be allowed to maintain and/or construct new to create continuity.
23	Agree: Safety is of upmost importance. Items need to be limited to preserve a neat, orderly, and attractive, safe area that can be maintained by the employees.
23	there are religious injunctions or at least suggestions for example for jews to have a fence around a burial place. and jews must ritually wash our hands when we leave a cemetery. im not sure how to rule on those kinds of issues.
23	disagree - too many 'details'
23	agree with wording...the key word here is enclosure
23	allowances for permanent structures and if private family plots some curbing or other statuary with tombstones should be allowed. markers such as stones to show visitation should be allowed as these do not deteriorate nor blow away or become unsightly. no plastic nor vegetation that can become unsightly such as pin wheels, pictures, candles.

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23	I disagree. I believe this rule is too stringent. It does not affect me directly, but I would suggest that accommodations be made in two ways: a) some temporary placements should be allowed, provided that they are limited in time and do not interfere with a specified schedule of mowing and other gravesite care; and, b) the Department should consider whether certain permanent placements--with reasonable restrictions--should be allowed, provided that the affected family agrees that certain types of maintenance (e.g., lawn mowing inside a concrete edging) can no longer be performed (and, if applicable, that the family will be responsible for maintaining the enclosed area).
23	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries - Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
23	Disagree. I see lots where families have planted native shrubs to remember their loved ones and I think that is a respectful way to remember. It seems as if this rule/regulation would not allow for this to happen
23	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle.
23	I would like personal items, statues, and objects to be allowed to remain on an individual's grave since these represent their spirit.
23	I disagree. A plot should reflect the person buried therein. If benches, statues, or hedges show how the family remembers the dead, they should be allowed. Stones or coins that show someone visited should not be disturbed.
23	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
23	Agree however some plantings would be nice though they would require special care which places an unmanaged burden on the maintainers.
23	Honestly, I believe that what people do with the gravesites of their loved ones is their business, not the city's. I would strike the rule.
Rule #	Rule
24	<i>Only one casket will be permitted in each grave. In the event cremation is utilized, a maximum of four (4) interments will be permitted in one (1) space.</i>
Rule #	Comment
24	
Rule #	Rule
25	<i>The use of a space is for the owner or such other person as the owner may designate.</i>
Rule #	Comment
25	
Rule #	Rule
26	<i>In the event of the death of an owner, any and all privileges of the owner shall pass according to the laws of the State of Texas.</i>
Rule #	Comment
26	
Rule #	Rule
27	<i>The City of Austin shall have the right to establish a charge and time of payment for each interment and disinterment.</i>
Rule #	Comment
27	
Rule #	Rule

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28	<i>The City of Austin reserves the right to specify the amounts and terms of purchase of all spaces to the original purchaser.</i>
Rule #	Comment
28	
Rule #	Rule
29	<i>In the event an owner sells or conveys a space or spaces, a record of such sale or conveyance must be provided to the City of Austin.</i>
Rule #	Comment
29	
Rule #	Rule
30	<i>When a disinterment is accomplished for the purpose of re-interment within the same cemetery, the current price of the vacated space, less 25%, shall be allowed as payment toward the new purchase. The established charge for opening and closing each space will be in addition to the price of the new space.</i>
Rule #	Comment
30	
Rule #	Rule
31	<i>All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.</i>
Rule #	Comment
31	
Rule #	Rule
32	<i>Only one memorial will be permitted on one grave space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more grave spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the grave space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.</i>
Rule #	Comment
32	
Rule #	Rule
33	<i>Space or lot corner markers will be set flush with the turf.</i>
Rule #	Comment
33	
Rule #	Rule
34	<i>Flush type Memorials— -The marking of each space or grave in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish and construction as indicated in this section. -Flush type memorials shall be made of granite marble or cast bronze installed on granite, marble or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4"). -Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6") and shall be smooth on all sides. -All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2") of sand for cushioning and leveling. -The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the grave space width.</i>
Rule #	Comment
34	
Rule #	Rule

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35	<p><i>Above Ground Materials</i></p> <p><i>-In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used.</i></p> <p><i>-All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite or similar permanent type stone.</i></p> <p><i>-Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions:</i></p> <p><i>--The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18") in width</i></p> <p><i>--The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42").</i></p> <p><i>--The length shall be at least ten inches less than the grave space width.</i></p>
Rule #	Comment
35	
Rule #	Rule
36	<p><i>Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.</i></p>
Rule #	Comment
36	<p>The rule is OK in principle but too vague and broad. I would remove "unsightly" as totally subjective. I would like to see some notice to the families, but understand that is impractical. I would include a provision that the rule should be enforced conservatively.</p>
36	<p>This is tricky. Right now this guideline is handled leniently. However, any Superintendent in the future could enforce this with a heavy hand. When the correction is due to a safety issue, this would be reasonable. In the case of the memorial becoming "unsightly or dilapidated" might cause problems. I have seen beautiful, ancient memorials (Europe, St. Paul's Churchyard in New York, etc.) which could be considered 'dilapidated', but are part of our collective history, and most importantly, honors the deceased for which it marks. This decision is too subjective for one person (the Superintendent) to decide. I would rather see a panel of people determine if a memorial is considered 'dilapidated or unsightly'. If we adhere to the current R&R of monuments being made of granite, marble, etc., then "dilapidation and unsightliness" should not be an issue. In this case, the appearance could be considered "antiquated charm!"</p>
36	<p>Agree. It is a public place and safety should be everyone's concern who visits.</p>
36	<p>Disagree. The owner should be contacted to make amends/repair before cost is incurred to make the change.</p>
36	<p>I would notify the heirs to correct first, as a courtesy, then if there is no timely response (also consider safety issues) or they defer back to the superintendent, then proceed.</p>
36	<p>Agree, if the space owner could even be determined. If not, what happens? I favor repair over removal - unmarked memorials are problematic. Is there additional language that specifies a replacement?</p>
36	<p>The City should first notify the next of kin with a 60 day moratorium. After 60 days the city has a right to correct the issue.</p>
36	<p>Agree</p>
36	<p>the rule is fine so long as family can be found. if not, the grave should be cleaned and made neat without payment.</p>
36	<p>Lot owners should be responsible for removing all items that are old and dilapidated. It's costs us to remove other peoples junk!</p>
36	<p>I agree that the Superintendent should have the right to correct or remove any unsightly memorial, but only when the family is also notified.</p>

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36	Agree but plot owner should be contacted first to see if they'll take care of it on their own.
36	Many mausoleums develop a "patina" over time. What is wrong with this?
36	There should be a short window for a warranty provided by the contractor who installs the stones. After that I believe it should be up to the family to pay for removal or repair of stones.
36	no, you should not charge us if you disagree with the unsightly site. shame on you.
36	Only after contacting the family.
36	Disagree, the City should not be allowed to retroactively change rules that would cost an owner.
36	There should be a set procedure requiring PARD, if any space is not in compliance, to give the space owner written notice specifically setting out the nature of the violation and how the violation may be brought into compliance and the space owner should have 30 days from receipt of such notice to remove or correct the said violation. Only if the space holder fails to remove or correct the violation, should PARD employees be authorized to do so in a manner that, within the reasonable discretion of the Superintendent, is the least invasive and disruptive to the space. PARD should also have the right (and already does) to remove or correct any violation without notice if the violation presents an immediate and serious danger to the safety and welfare of PARD employees or the public, as well as to remove any broken or deteriorated items and dead plants or flowers.
36	Disagree. You can't charge dead people money.
36	A agree in part. But what about cemeteries like Oakwood where the space owner's family line has died out, or after several generations is unknown? This also comes with restrictions as to changes to nationally recognized designations. Rules should reflect the other city cemeteries and not just Memorial Park.
36	True. Unless it was damaged by humans, machines or was poorly constructed.
36	I wouldn't change it..
36	I agree however, how would you deal with the owner if the owner is interred or no family can be found,
36	I agree that if the items become unsightly, dilapidated or a hazard, that they should be removed.
36	Disagree - All of our cemeteries are historic in nature (50 years or Older). while I agree in principle that All monuments are the property of the families, getting descendants to pay for a repair or removal is not backed up by any law that could be enforced. the city has no idea who the descendants are in the first generation little own 6 or 7 generations removed as with the older burials at Oakwood.. the fact that monuments are historic by state law when they reach 50 years or older , they are protected by state law so you can not just remove them. the key here is to determine when or How a monument can be classified as abandoned property then allow preservation groups work with COA staff to stabilize / restore historic monuments
36	Agree
36	Agree. Unsightly and dilapidated memorials demonstrate neglect, and hazardous conditions invite injury and lawsuits.
36	In the case of my mother and father and aunt, they purchased "perpetual care" spaces; therefore, if repairs are to be made or any other unforeseen expense is required, the Cemetery should incur the expense, not the space owner.
36	I feel that the headstones should be maintained by the city. I'm sure there will be many times that the space owner or family cannot be contacted for collection.
36	Agree
36	I agree with a notification to the family first. If the family doesn't remove the item in a timely fashion then a charge would be applicable.
36	Repair the headstone. Never remove it.

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36	I think the Superintendent should notify the space owner and give them 30 days to address the situation. I am sure, most owners would be happy to repair, replace or have items removed...Give them the option first.
36	I believe the superintendent should get in touch with the owner first. Rose bushes that were over 50 years old were removed without our permission. And a tree.
36	agree
36	I DISAGREE! Who is making the judgment that a site is "unsightly, dilapidated or a hazard"? What if the Super. is having a bad day? This is judgemental, arbitrary and could be used cruelly.
36	Agree.
36	I agree.
36	I think this is fair but I would make sure the owner had been notified and given 30 days to make adjustments before he is charged an expense. A shifting of the land should be handled at the cost of the cemetery.
36	Disagree, tag the grave informing the people who care what the hazard is. It will cost more money to find the person to bill. The worst cemetery is Oakwood, too old to bill the grandchild. The city needs to correct hazards as regular maintenance.
36	Just do it!
36	I disagree. Any repair work on cemetery monuments or mausoleums should be done sensitively and respectfully.
36	Disagree. Existing memorials should not be removed, without family approval first. If there is family still living they should be consulted about the expense before being billed. If there is no one the cost of repair must be born by the city.
36	I agree.
36	Give the family the opportunity to correct the condition, first.
36	Seems reasonable.
36	All efforts should be made to contact the space owners first, and rather than remove a memorial it should be restored.
36	Have reservations on this. A memorial stone should not be removed if the person does not have surviving family members to rectify the issue.
36	I disagree. Dilapidated mausoleums add character to cemeteries. And some families go extinct, but their memories should not be removed. What if all the Zilkers moved away and did not pay for the upkeep of the family plot? Should they be removed? I think not.
36	Owner shall be notified of property condition non-compliance and be given a time period for correction, before Superintendent incurs expenses to repair.
36	I think the owner should be told and given time to correct the problem first. I do agree that if it becomes unsightly then it should be removed.
36	responsibilities of the superintendent and plot owners should be outlined and shared. the grounds do not need to be as meticulous as the state cemetery but maintained and neat. supervisor or committee should not have more say than locals and plot owners. some owners no longer live in Austin and cannot be expected to maintain as well as local families seniors cannot do this work either. services could be provided at low cost.
36	I agree except with the additional language being that the Superintendent shall have the right after the space owner had been notified and not corrected the problem.

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36	Vital to let families have a say in this via a townhall type meeting to determine exactly what is permitted, and what is considered a question of safety. Listen to the voices of the families involved.
36	there would need to be criteria of what constitutes dilapidated. And the cemetery should attempt to contact the sites responsible person prior to incurring repair cost.
36	agree
36	I agree only so much as you contact the family first, giving them a reasonable time to correct the problem themselves and THEN proceed to the above mentioned. I only make it into the cemetery about 2x a year and would be very upset if I was not aware of a problem and it was fixed without my input.
36	If it due to safety hazard the situation should be corrected. If it is due to dilapidation or unsightliness, the space owner should be contact and attempt made to work with them to correct the situation.
36	Define unsightly for me? That could mean anything depending on who judges it. Delapidated and a safety hazard are understandable and I agree.
36	The family should be notified first and not be surprised by some bill..
36	Agree, however, what happens if there is no next of kin to correct a dilapidated headstone?
36	Removal or alteration of memorials and mausoleums, if done by the Superintendent without notice and accompanied by a demand for payment of costs, could result in litigation.
36	yes for dilapidated, hazardous. unsightly is a judgement call and that would not be a good thing to put down as a "rule"
36	Again, if safety issue, yes. But who is defining unsightly. What may be unsightly for someone may be OK for someone else.
36	Agree.
36	i agree.
36	Apparently, the people writing these rules have not been to a cemetery lately. The vandalism is rampant disrespecting the citizens of Austin who have chosen to remain here after life. The City has a less than stellar record in maintaining these sites and the rules are wrong for saying the deceased will be charged for any work done to their plot. This is the most ludicrous rule of all, and disrespectful to families.
36	How interesting that it is to the discretion of the city on what is unsightly and then to charge the plot holder for the removal. I would make every effort to contact the owner of the plot (family etc.) to correct the problem.
36	Yes.
36	Agree. keeps it looking good.
36	Disagree. Numerous notices should be sent requesting a part corect an issue that may arise and only after several attempts should PARD take action to change a memorial or mausoleum.
36	The only time the "superintendent" should remove questionable items is after efforts made to contact the owner. This should be in writing and filed so that others (media, legal representatives of "stakeholders), can review attempts to contact.
36	Agree
36	See answer to Question #1
36	I agree, within certain boundaries. Time changes perceptions and cultural expressions. A winged cherubim might appear unsightly now, but 50 years ago differently.
36	I agree
36	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.

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36	I disagree with this (except for a safety hazard). Cemeteries do have some dilapidated parts and within reason this is to be expected.
36	Agree. Cemeteries are not meant to be used as altars to the memories of loved ones. Altars can be constructed in homes and on private property, but not on city owned property.
36	agree
36	This rule is more difficult because much of the change in condition is the effects of time, weather, and subsidence of soil. Much of that would fall into the category of maintenance which is what was paid for when the plot was purchased.
36	That seems reasonable so long as we're talking dilapidated or hazardous. Unsightly is a matter of opinion, however, and is a slippery slope.
36	Yes, I agree
36	The space owner should be notified well in advance of removal or repair of any of their property, along with the rationale for doing so, and offered the opportunity to remedy the situation themselves first.
36	I disagree. "Unsightly" is a subjective term. Safety hazards must be addressed but the issue of upkeep must involve a notification process and allow space owners time to respond before the Superintendent or staff become involved.
36	There should be a mediating process. Not fair for super to make decisions that could prove more costly than surviving family can afford.
36	Disagree. Personal mementos are not dilapidated or hazardous items. Who decides what is dilapidated or hazardous? Does a small American flag with a pointy end on the grave of a veteran qualify? Does a bench mean that someone could potentially trip on it? Or interfere with mowing water thirsty grass?.
36	REmoval of a mausoleum or memorial? That is horrible! A hazard should be fixed, but do we really call old cemeteries, unsightly? Memorials should weather just the way they are.
36	disagree with this rule
36	Agree...especially for safety issues.
36	I agree that dilapidated or hazardous conditions need to be dealt with and yes it should be at the expense of the space owner. Unsightly is a little harder to judge. It's objective and what is unsightly to you may not be to others.
36	I disagree with this rule. "Unsightly or dilapidated" is vague and should be clarified. The Superintendent should have the right to contact the family and require true hazards to others to be corrected. Perhaps a list of what the Superintendent would consider a safety hazard would help. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
36	If something becomes dangerous to others, of course. Beloved plants and mementos should be retained.
36	Disagree. Who gets to decide "dilapidated" or "unsightly"? Again family should be notified and given chance to correct or respond. What if unable to pay?
36	yes
36	I agree with this but it is quite subjective.
36	... the Superintendent shall contact the owner and request repair or removal. If owner is unable or refuses to repair or remove, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition after a minimum of 3 attempts to contact the owner.
36	If it's a hazard or is unsightly, then the condition should be corrected. If there is a disagreement as to whether it's unsightly or just not to the taste of others, there should be a fair way for people to argue their case for keeping the memorial.

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36	A board of at least 3 people should oversee the safety and appropriateness of memorials and mausoleums. If 2 of the 3 board members feel a construction is unsafe, the owner should be notified and given a reasonable length of time to correct the problem. If the owner does not correct the problem then the board should direct the Superintendent to take care of the problem.
36	If a memorial becomes a hazard to safety, then yes, the owner should mitigate the situation. Otherwise, leave the memorial as is, even if it dilapidated.
36	Only after contacting the family there should be a board of owners' families to evaluate, not one person who might have bad taste or a personal agenda.
36	Disagree
36	Safety has got to be a priority. I do have to question the phrase "unsightly". Hopefully this is not a judgement call on different peoples customs or style.
36	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish]
36	Should NOT be up to one person. Individuals can have personal agendas, vendettas, or just plain bad taste. A board should be formed of families with loved ones buried in the cemetery to decide such matters, as they have the most at stake as owners and, generally, most frequent visitors.
36	Disagree; I would remove the rule.
36	You're going to remove a headstone? There's no opportunity for the family to fix it? Families should be able to register contact information with the Superintendent and even to put monies in trust for the necessary repair and maintenance of their headstone... a fund from which the Superintendent could draw. The rule should be changed to prioritize repair before removal. This draft you have is written in such a way that it could be very offensive to families of those buried at a city cemetery. Where did you get this draft? Originally written for City of Austin or is it language that's taken out of some other cemetery policy? Bet it's the latter as this does not sound respectful and I'm sure City staff did not intend this.
36	Disagree. I think this may very well become a place for abuse of power. If there is a safety concern, the Superintendent should address that with the space owner.
36	I would change it to say the Superintendent shall first consult with the space owner.
36	Agree with all but unsightly. Who is to determine what is unsightly. Safety yes, but unsightly, no.
36	Safety hazards should be dealt with in any public place and I would support that. I wouldn't change this rule.
36	This sounds reasonable, however it depends on the definition of "unsightly". I think it should be changed to "the Superintendent will NOT have the right to correct the condition but will CONTACT the space owner who then will correct the condition.
36	agree - but, again, the offenders should be given enough notice to take care of the problem
36	What is considered to be unsightly to some is beautiful to another. For instance, a nice expanse of green lawn is beautiful for some and and garden full of native plants is beautiful to others. This is very hard to legislate and should not be.
36	Yes, after attempting to contact owner reasonably
36	This rule is problematic because who defines "unsightly or dilapidated"? However I generally agree that dead flowers or dead plants, torn or soiled flags, things that are visibly falling apart should be removed.
36	I tend to agree with this but the word "unsightly" is a problem. I don't have a better phrasing but more thought needs to go into this.

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36	"Unsightly to whom?" Obviously if the grave sight is not maintained, it should be addressed. 1st in writing to the owners, then with a face to face meeting to resolve (3rd party if needed).
36	Disagree. The owner should be contacted and given appropriate time to correct it. But who decides what is unsightly? I don't like agaves, but I respect your right to plant them.
36	Agree, Add that the owner should be notified in advance.
36	Agree, all personal mementoes and plantings need to be kept in a presentable (and in the case of plantings) weed-free.
36	Yes, in theory, but I think some of the words are subjective and could be argued, i.e. "unsightly" can be interpreted differently by different people / cultures. Certainly, if something was a hazard, it should be removed (but the family should be notified first, out of courtesy). If something hasn't been maintained, it should be removed.
36	dilapidated and hazard to the safety of persons I agree with. Unsightly however is an opinion that again is far to open to interpretation. Expand on what you mean by unsightly.
36	If it presents a hazard it should be corrected.
36	Yes, I agree with this rule.
36	Only with advance notice to the owner. And what if the owner is not the originator of the problem? I don't think I've ever seen anything in a cemetery that was a "hazard to the safety of persons within the cemetery"
36	A safety hazard should be dealt with.
36	Disagree. The problem is the definition of unsightly and dilapidated. Some traditions expect memorials to fade and weather as part of the fading and weathering of the pain of loss. I agree that any structure which becomes a hazard to the safety of visitors or workers can and should be removed.
36	I agree with the rule except that warning notice of at least 90 days should be sent to the owner of the danger to the general public
36	If a mausoleum were to begin crumbling and it's very nature become a danger to those around it, then yes, I believe it should be fixed. But I don't believe that teddy bears or wind chimes are a hazard.
36	Disagree. This rule is in contradiction to the current Texas Health and Safety Code Â§713.011 which states "A municipality that operates or has jurisdiction over a public cemetery shall maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare. (b) A municipality's responsibility to maintain a cemetery under this section includes: (1) repairing and maintaining any fences, walls, buildings, roads, or other improvements; (2) leveling or straightening markers or memorials; (3) properly maintaining lawns, shrubbery, and other plants; (4) removing debris, including dead flowers and deteriorated plastic ornaments; and (5) promptly restoring gravesites following an interment." I wrote this section of the law and maintain does not mean just ignoring the fallen stones or laying them on the ground. The City is responsible for maintaining the cemeteries and its not the owners responsibility to pay for such maintenance.
36	I would change the rule by contacting the space owner and explaining the perceived problem to explain the complaint and allow a time limit for removal before the city removes it and charges this to the space owner.

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36	I agree. As Congregation Agudas Achim owns our two cemeteries, we will see to it that all memorials are in acceptable condition.
36	This sounds reasonable, but I imagine collection from the space owners might present practical challenges.
36	I agree with this rule. But I can imagine that problems might arise from different interpretations of "unsightly" and "dilapidated."
36	Agree
36	I have grave doubts about this one, since "unsightly" is an extremely subjective term. This needs to be rewritten to cover memorials that truly may become hazardous, but as it is, this is just verbal cover.
36	We disagree. The owner of the grave site should be contacted first and be given a chance to remedy the situation.
36	Generally agree. However, the city installs headstones but does not maintain them. It's not up to me to pay for neglect in maintenance.
36	Sounds fine to me.
36	Notice to owner and opportunity to dispute/refute/cure
36	Agree. So long as the space owner has an option beyond paying an exorbitant figure handed to him or her by the Superintendent with no prior discussion.
36	I agree with this rule. The expense of maintenance should be planned for ahead of time. If not, then they should be responsible, not the taxpayers.
36	agree
36	I disagree. What if the dilapidated grave belongs to someone from the 1800's?
36	Identifying the "space owner" seems unworkable. The cemetery should budget for such costs and include them in the initial cost of a plot.
36	Space owner must be notified and allowed to self-correct before the city takes over.
36	Agree: Safety is very important. Should anything become a hazard or unsightly it needs to be repaired or removed.
36	unsightly and dilapidated are slippery concepts to enforce. and if one thinks of the old cemeteries in europe for example, the old memorials are among the most beautiful or interesting aspects.
36	disagree need to find other revenue stream
36	disagree to the "remove" bc that is not up to the Superintendent to decide this unilaterally...especially if there is still family alive.but rather the family should be given a timeframe to make the repairs before any decision to remove is made.
36	the space owner is dead.. should not go after relatives . is responsibility of the city/community
36	I would modify this rule so that the Superintendent alone does not have the final say in issuing such a judgment. The basis of this rule is reasonable, but a decision should be subject to appeal (perhaps to a special committee or to the City Council, if such issues are relatively infrequent).
36	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
36	It depends on what is deemed unsightly and I think that families should have an opportunity to respond first.
36	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
36	OK with rule as long as the space owner is notified in advance.
36	I agree, but the "space owner" may be dead, and their estate disbursed.
36	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]

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36	Agree. Need to ensure warnings and notifications precede any action.
36	"Unsightly" is in the eyes of the beholder. Dilapidated and hazardous are another matter. I would retain that language and delete "unsightly."
Rule #	Rule
37	<i>The size of concrete foundations for all above ground memorials shall be 1" larger in length and width than the size of the base.</i>
Rule #	Comment
37	
Rule #	Rule
38	<i>The top of concrete foundations shall be from 1" to 2" below the top of the ground to allow for adding cement grout to level the memorial base.</i>
Rule #	Comment
38	
Rule #	Rule
39	<i>Concrete foundations shall be a minimum of 8" thick and have perpendicular sides and flat bottom.</i>
Rule #	Comment
39	
Rule #	Rule
40	<i>Excavations for foundations for above ground memorials shall be a minimum of 10" deep from the top of the ground. If the memorial base is two feet (2') or more in length, there shall be one 6" diameter round hole dug 18" deep (or to rock) below the bottom of the excavation at each end of the excavation.</i>
Rule #	Comment
40	
Rule #	Rule
41	<i>Concrete for all memorial foundations shall be 1 part cement, 2 parts sand and 4 parts gravel.</i>
Rule #	Comment
41	
Rule #	Rule
42	<i>Memorial dealers shall abide by all the rules and regulations of the Cemeteries.</i>
Rule #	Comment
42	
Rule #	Rule
43	<i>The Superintendent reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.</i>
Rule #	Comment
43	
Rule #	Rule
44	<i>Memorial dealers engaged in placing or erecting memorials or other structures are prohibited from scattering their material over adjoining spaces, or from blocking roads or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is necessary. Damage done to spaces, walks, drives, trees, shrubs or other property shall be repaired at the expense of the memorial dealer, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Comment
44	
Rule #	Rule

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45	<i>Work of any nature may be stopped if proper preparations have not been made; or when work is being done in such a manner as to endanger life or property; or when there is evidence of misrepresentation; or when work is not being executed according to specifications; or when any reasonable request on the part of the Superintendent is disregarded; or when any person employed in the monument work violates any rule of the cemeteries.</i>
Rule #	Comment
45	
Rule #	Rule
54	<i>Visitors or workers shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, unless it becomes necessary to walk across other spaces or graves to gain access to a space or grave.</i>
Rule #	Comment
54	
Rule #	Rule
55	<i>Automobiles, trucks and other vehicles shall not be driven through the cemetery grounds at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour. Unauthorized vehicles may not be driven or parked off the designated roadways or parking areas.</i>
Rule #	Comment
55	
Rule #	Rule
56	<i>Pets shall not be allowed in the cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Comment
56	
Rule #	Rule
81	<i>The use of intoxicating beverages within the cemeteries is strictly forbidden.</i>
Rule #	Comment
81	
Rule #	Rule
57	<i>No person will be permitted to use profane or boisterous language or in any way disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Comment
57	
Rule #	Rule
58	<i>No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.</i>
Rule #	Comment
58	I am totally confused what this even means or is intended to do. Boxes??? What kind? "Similar items" to what? Shells and toys and other mementos should be encouraged and tolerated on the grave site itself. Limits for safety issues only. I agree that tools and hoses should not be left.
58	I agree with the intent to keep things cleaned up. The exception to this could be to retain the occasional trash receptacle and hose for use. I would think the staff of the park would maintain these and keep them in the appropriate spot.
58	Agree. Too much stuff to remain tidy looking plus it's difficult to mow and weedeat properly. I've seen flower vases left behind that are broken and scattered glass.
58	Disagree. It is understandable that those things would be disallowed in a street or walkway but not on a grave.

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58	It causes a problem when mowing is scheduled. I suggest making the mow days/schedule available to the public ahead of time and if items are not removed, then the superintendent has the right to remove.
58	I agree but would update to say "for more than 30 days, and families are encouraged to remove the items for safe keeping after the 30 days"
58	People often use shells to symbolize life and nature. All the rest should not be permitted. Do you guys know anything about death and grief at all???
58	Agree with all but the shells. The reason being is it is Jewish custom to leave a rock or a stone in honor of the deceased. Sometimes the shell can represent the same meaning.
58	agree
58	Toys should only be allowed on the graves of infants and removed within 30 days or until old and faded.
58	I agree with this rule. If everyone was allowed to leave non-memorial type things, the cemeteries would look awfully cluttered.
58	Agree assuming the rule is describing trash left behind.
58	Some parents may want to leave a toy on a child's grave. It could be discarded when it becomes unsightly.
58	I would keep it. It can make for a very unsightly cemetery when small items are left on cemetery spaces, and never cared for after that.
58	agree
58	No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware Only. Hoses have always been allowed.
58	Disagree. The City should keep public rights of way clear, but a cemetery lot owner should be able to adorn as they wish.
58	See my response to #3.
58	Disagree. *ALL* boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.
58	I agree. But again, these rules apply more to Memorial Park Cemetery. I would like to see rules from the city as to the standard of care the city will hold its self to as regards to cemetery up keep. Its only fair that city let grave owners now what they can be held responsible to. It makes it appear that the burden of compliance is placed wholly on the citizen, while city in not accountable.
58	Disagree. People should be allowed to place a couple small items on a stone. This should not be excessive.
58	I agree and would not think it needs changing.
58	I would add that the cemeteries should provide hose outlets at a reasonable distance apart. Hoses can be used but must be removed from the cemetery. Any hoses left over 12 hours will be collected and disposed of.
58	If the item is a toy or glassware that has a sentimental reason, I think it should be permitted at graveside. but certainly not thrown about
58	Agree, these small Items get lost in the grass and when mowed over become missiles / flying objects that can injure staff and visitors. A 72 hr post inturnment service rule will allow items placed at the time of inturnment. then all items will be tossed.
58	If the item is a toy or glassware that has a sentimental reason, I think it should be permitted at graveside. but certainly not thrown about
58	Agree

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58	Agree. Cemeteries are shared, public spaces. It is the superintendent's obligation to provide and enforce regulations that forbid the placement of undignified, unsightly, and objectionable cemetery ornamentation. These are detrimental to other plot owners and visitors and they interfere with efficient grounds maintenance. Individuals whose expressions of grief require ornamentation beyond that which is allowed in publicly regulated cemeteries are free to assemble such memorials within the safety and privacy of their own homes.
58	This is clear and reasonable. I would not change this at all.
58	Agree
58	Agree
58	I disagree . Removal only if it's a safety hazard or in poor shape.
58	A Jewish tradition requires the placement of a stone on a headstone when visited.
58	Thank God, I have not experience the loss of a child. I can see where placing items on a grave can give comfort and peace to the person. Of course, if they appear to be deteriorating, notify the owner first and they will deal with the issue.
58	Disagree. If there is something placed on the grave, let it stay. If in the street or walkway it should be placed on the grave again.
58	one small item does not bother me.
58	NOTE: I can see that sprinkler cans, water hoses could be unsightly. Are you aware that in the Jewish tradtion, it is encouraged for visitors aka mourners, to leave pebbles, rocks and/or shells on the headstones at a burial site? This rule could be very tricky and I know (because I am Jewish), that there would be an uproar. Do you really want to go there?
58	I agree, however, I wonder why the wind chimes are allowed in this cemetery. Not everyone "enjoys" the sound of wind chimes. On the day I held the service, two wind chimes nearby nearly ruined the graveside service because the wind was blowing hard and the wind chimes were EXTREMELY DISTURBING AND NOISY. In fact, they disturb me EVERY time I visit this cemetery.
58	I agree.
58	I think water hoses should be allowed if they are attached to a water faucet system. Individual watering can be beneficial and save money if it is used in select areas.
58	Disagree, this is not a problem, if it is a street move it. You do not need a rule for this.
58	No change needed. Assuming that the City maintains the grounds, that enumerated stuff is unnecessary.
58	I disagree.
58	Agree.
58	I agree.
58	They should be permitted as long as they don't interfere with others.
58	Seems reasonable.
58	Agree
58	I agree, these things can break, or blow away and become trash.
58	Agree
58	I agree. While I can see why people would want to leave a favorite item in memory of the person who died. The items get blown away and clutter the grounds.
58	I can see if someone wants to put something small on the grave that is meaningful to then but that does not include water hoses, sprinkler cans, glassware or boxes.
58	Disagree - this should be left to the families to decide
58	If the shells or stones are left on the foot of the gravesite, how does this cause danger or a safety issue to one. Some people respect their loved on in this manner.

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58	if the articles can be place ON the monument, I don't have a problem with it. However, when the articles are placed on the grave itself or around the gravesite, this becomes an issues.
58	I do very much agree! It begins to look junky because everyone has their own idea of what is acceptable. Create an "alter" at your own home for the person. Not everyone shares the same beliefs and it is best to keep it "uniform" with the majority. If we were in Greece, we'd have totally different rules that as Americans, we may not understand but would have to live by.
58	Disagree, momentums are meaningful to the loved ones and help them heal for losing a loved one. As for watering devises, they are necessary to keep the grass alive on our loved ones grave.
58	No boxes or discarded glassware. Agreed. But small toys, shells, sprinkler cans or water hoses are reasonable if they are not a danger to others. I keep a vase by my father's grave so I always have one when I take roses to him. It's not in the way and not a danger to anyone.
58	Keep the Rule
58	Sometimes water hoses are necessary for watering new plantings (trees).
58	As in #2, here's a recitation of some specific items paired with a prohibition of "similar articles." There's little similarity between "shells," "discarded glassware," and "water hoses," for example. It would be more understandable simply to specify what is permitted to be placed, and for how long, instead of trying to name everything that's not permitted.
58	Disagree unless they're broken or a safety hazard.
58	If you are a parent of a small child that passed away, having a toy on their tomb may be your way of grieving. Do not put these stern laws in place. Put youelf in grieving parent place. Don't see the harm of having water hoses near the grave.
58	Disagree. Unless the objects cited are broken or set so that someone could trip over them.
58	I agree, except toys.
58	This rule is ambiguous in that the city does not maintain the plots other than to satisfy themselves on certain issues. Families, in my observation, have come together to assist each other in maintenance of other graves in order to be respectful of the cemetery.
58	If you do not permit water hoses or sprinkler cans how do you suggest we water the plants (which you seem to want to remove). I have no suggestion or comments regarding boxes, shells etc.
58	No, unless they are broken/unsafe for others to trip on and get hurt. These are necessary. Toys definitely should be allowed for grieving parents.
58	Disagree.
58	Disagree, some of the prohibited items ma have special significance to the departed and their loved ones. If there is an issue with regard to unsightliness then maybe there should be a time limitation or a rule that if it creates a hazard the party wil be notified and if not corrected within 14 days of notification then PARD can take steps to remove the hazard.
58	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
58	Agree
58	See answer to Question #1
58	I agree.
58	I agree
58	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
58	well if people are leaving these things around in a big mess, sounds ok to remove, but if it's while they are watering or there are some shells places on a gravestone, see no problem.
58	Agree. Cemeteries are not to be used as places to store items of any kind. Such items should be stored at homes or on private property, but not on city owned property.

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58	I agree and again suggest fines be instituted especially for repeat offenders
58	Agree. The above listed items can prove to be hazards to the rest of us. The rule could be that if they are not removed by Fridays, they will be disposed of.
58	I disagree. I think people should be allowed to leave items like hoses and sprinkler cans that allow them to maintain plants. Personal items like toys, vases for flowers, and the like should be left alone.
58	Yes, I agree
58	I can understand banning "discarded glassware", or anything that might pose a threat to health and safety. I don't understand the need to ban boxes, shells, toys, or sprinkler cans. Would you really take a treasured teddy bear off of a child's grave and throw it away? What is the justification for this policy?
58	I would suggest the CofA provide a storage facility where owners may leave water hoses, cans, etc. for the upkeep of their spaces. "Boxes" is too nebulous a term - paper trash ought not be allowed.
58	You can do better in writing a policy.
58	Disagree. In the Jewish tradition, a stone or (sometimes) shell is place on a grave to indicate a visit. Are we now limited to a stone? Water hoses, sprinkler hoses, save the city money. Maybe not on the street -- is this an issue looking for a problem?.
58	No glassware allowed. This makes sense. Ik can break and get in the grass causing a hazard. Nothing left on a walkway or street is good, as that is for general use. What is left on the grave is up to the grave owner.
58	disagree with this rule
58	Agree
58	I disagree with the rules. Items to maintain the site should be removed, but items that represent the deceased should be allowed to remain.
58	I disagree with this rule. I would change this rule to prohibit items on walkways or streets but not prohibit them on graves. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
58	I disagree, except for water hoses that aren't in use. They should be put away. Discarded glassware, too.
58	I somewhat agree; however people grieve differently and if a favorite trinket left on the grave helps with the process what is the harm? As long as not piles on piles of these. Agree with hoses and glass.
58	Waht is on the grave is the owners right to ahve there. there should be nothing left on paths and other public parts of the cemetary
58	Disagree
58	this one is ok with me to keep things from becoming cluttered, although organic items are ok--rocks, shells, stones.
58	I basically think that people should be able to decorate the graves the way they have for years. Why is it suddenly an issue? That's my answer to this and all the other questions.
58	The rule should be amended to limit such items to the actual grave site, while banning such items from walkways and streets.
58	It depends on the situation for each grave.
58	Walkway and street are fine. Don't undrstand why grave applies.
58	Disagree except to the extent that said articles could be wind blown and hazardous to others.

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58	Again Safety has got to play a part in this ruling. Glassware can be dangerous especially if broken, but how short a period is "remains" for those that visit regularly and bring at times a vase of flowers to put by their loved one's stone. By definition the stone and slab that the stone(marker) rests is on the grave. I think a little boy should be able to put a matchbox car on his mother's grave marker and expect it to be there the next time he visits.
58	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
58	Who would come up with such a ridiculous rule regarding a grave? I can see restricting from walkways or streets, as they could be a hazard. But regarding the grave, if it's not creating a hazard - leave it alone. And if someone hurts themselves walking on the grave, that's good as they shouldn't be walking on a grave anyway.
58	Disagree, I would remove the bit about shells, toys.
58	I really don't disagree with this. It's unfortunate that a person can't leave a hose out there, but I can see how a hose could be a tripping hazard.
58	Disagree. While I can see the water hose as a potential hazard, I cannot understand why it is considered wrong to keep plants and flowers watered or why shells or toys should not be allowed to remember a loved one.
58	Toys? You wouldn't allow parents and friends of children to place a toy? Shells? What harm do they do? They're a simple, natural thing in a memorial. Similar articles seems too broad and open to a wide interpretation that could be extended to just about anything.
58	Disagree. Again, why is this rule necessary?
58	I don't wholly agree or disagree with this rule. It is a slippery slope to eliminating self expression. Walkways and streets should be clear but the grave itself should be adorned as the family sees fit.
58	I disagree. Again, I think the personalization of a grave site should be encouraged. After all, the entire purpose of a grave site is to remember a loved one. Like I have said above, the only rule might be to make sure than anything placed by the grave site is securely attached or weight down so it won't be blown away.
58	agree
58	This rule is too broad. What purpose does it serve? If the items are personally meaningful why are they not permitted? If they are not broken why can't they stay?
58	Agree
58	I don't see a problem with shells if you mean seashells. Otherwise, this seems reasonable.
58	This ok when referring discarded items, sprinker cans, and hoses. Its also ok when referring to the non-grave site area. But people should be allowed to leave objects on the gravesite.
58	Items of remembrance should be allowed if placed on the gravestone (not on the ground). What about placing rocks (Jewish tradition of respect). Does that not apply in this rule?
58	Agree
58	Strongly disagree. "Discarded glassware" might mean someone has celebrated an anniversary and left the glass as a memory.
58	Really? Let's be human here--individuals have purchased these graves as a final resting place--please allow mementoes it gives the family comfort.
58	Yes, and no. If the items are mementos for the memory of the departed, they should be allowed. Sprinkler cans (unless metal or ornamental), hoses are other maintenance items should be removed and stowed away. If families are watering living wildflowers on the graves, I think it would be nice to have a place for them to store watering hoses, etc.

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58	Disagree. Sure keep the out of the street and walkway, but next to the grave or on it. Austin Memorial is a community where people are allowed to express their love for those that have past and you are censoring that. Walkway or street I'm fine with but the graves are non of your business unless it poses a safety hazard, but honestly, workers should not be stepping over my mother's grave in the first place.
58	Disagree Too open ended. Who defines 'similar articles'.
58	I agree with this rule.
58	agree
58	Surely a teddy bear or toy left at the gravesite of a child would be acceptable.
58	Disagree. In the Jewish tradition leaving stones on the grave at each visit is practiced. Some military units have the practice of leaving coins on the grave as a remembrance. We have to respect that many people, either through tradition or personal feeling, often leave personal items as a connection to their lost loved one. Particularly shells and Toys are often items left by loved ones to unite them with their losses. Many people (totally unconnected to my family) have left toys, shells and other trinkets on the grave of my daughter . One person (I know not whom) left a serenity coin, a very personal trinket, probably as a show of having overcome the pain of his/her loss.
58	I agree with the rule except that warning notice of at least 90 days should be sent to the owner
58	Some of these items seem a bit odd to be left on a grave, but maybe they have been for some reason. I can understand "toys" but not the other items. I think I would leave this rule as is, but leave toys to be allowed. Parents want to give their child toys, so let them, even in death, since they were not able to do so in life.
58	Disagree. Water hoses are allowed. Dilapidated articles must be picked up regularly to maintain the cemeteries.
58	I would include this rule with Question 3, and mention the criteria that I suggested, with a reasonable case study approach.
58	I agree. All that 'stuff' takes away from the dignity of this sacred place.
58	I disagree with this proposal. Perhaps a reasonable middle ground would be to allow such items for a limited time. As for hoses, over the past decade, I have purchased and left attached to the spigot, several good hoses that have made it easier for me and for others to water flowers and gardens planted on graves. It might be reasonable to require everyone to coil the hoses at the spigot when they are not in use.
58	I strongly agree. Before my family and my friends' families purchased lots at Austin Memorial Park, we read the rules. We bought lots with the expectation that trinkets and trash would be removed.
58	Disagree - not sure the harm with allowing some small token to be left on a grave, so long as it does not hinder lawn mowing or landscaping.
58	Disagree, strenuously. So, if you're going to forbid shells, why not rocks, which are the traditional Jewish form of paying respect to the dead? This is a terrible rule.
58	We disagree. Small mementos should be allowed. Water hoses are necessary at faucet sites because the City does not always water properly.
58	Agree
58	I disagree if that means you're removing mementos. And many religious and cultural traditions involve leaving stones at gravesights, so I think removing them is offensive on the City's part. Plus, plots are technically private property. If it's not hurting anyone or a safety hazard, leave it be. It's therapeutic for families and loved ones.
58	Yes
58	Agree.

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58	agree
58	I disagree. Let the toys stay.
58	This also seems too broad. Jewish mourners leave a small rock or stone on the grave stone. It sounds like these would be prohibited. I would say any temporary items will be discarded after a certain period.
58	Agree.
58	Agree: Cooking containers, pots, pans should not be used as floral containers. Rocks should be added to the list of items that should not be in walkways or on graves. Toys, balloons, rocks, and others items need to be removed.
58	not clear what 'similar articles' includes. and does discarded mean unintentionally left as opposed to left as a sign of reverence?
58	disagree need to work with the stakeholders
58	agree
58	agreed
58	This rule includes too many disparate items and should be modified. For example, water hoses may be needed on occasion but should not be left at the site. However, small toys may be an appropriate memento to leave at the grave of a young child (within the confines of other rules governing such items).
58	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries - Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
58	It seems harsh that a family member could not leave a moment to remember a lost child or loved one.
58	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
58	I would like personal items to be allowed to remain on an individual's grave since these represent their spirit. I agree with no discarded glassware and sprinkler cans. The hoses are OK on the spigots.
58	I agree.
58	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
58	For the reasons expressed in Question #1, I would do away with this rule.
Rule #	Rule
82	<i>The Superintendent has the authority to enter upon any space and to remove any objectionable thing that may have been placed there contrary to the regulations, and may remove any dead or damaged flowers, trees, shrubs or vines.</i>
Rule #	Comment
82	
Rule #	Rule
59	<i>All persons are strictly forbidden to break or injure any tree or shrub, or mar any landmark, marker or memorial, or in any way deface the grounds of the cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Comment
59	
Rule #	Rule
60	<i>No person or persons (except peace officers or a military guard of honor) shall be permitted to bring or carry firearms within the Cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Comment
60	

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Rule #	Rule
61	<i>No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.</i>
Rule #	Comment
61	Totally disagree. Signs and placards of a permanent nature should be encouraged. OK to limit to permanent or semipermanent materials (no paper or cardboard) and to allow for removal of offensive stuff.
61	I agree. I particularly enjoy the historical marker that is present at the front of Austin Memorial Park. It lists some of the "notable residents" of the park! I would love to see this updated from time to time. Other necessary signage should be installed only by City personnel. There should be no additional need for any signage.
61	Agree, with the exception of temporary marker signs provided by funeral homes. No "personal" signs.
61	Disagree. The rule is too broad. What other signs could there be? A child's drawing taped to a grave that says "We love you Grandpa!" should certainly be allowed.
61	Recommend defining "sign" in the policy. Does a sign mean a small plaque, a poster board on a stick, a greeting card? When we write policies at work, we include definitions at the beginning, to clarify our intentions.
61	Agree. Although it is unclear what is a sign? Better language needed.
61	Directional signs and placement should be allowed e.g." Agudas Achim - plus arrow"
61	Agree
61	signs from individual churches or synagogues or temples should be allowed with the approval of the city to denote sections.
61	I agree, no one should install any type signage.
61	Agreed.
61	Agree
61	No signs except for headstones and other gravestones.
61	I agree.
61	I am not sure what you mean by signs.
61	NO. There are signs with historical reference and significance at Oakwood that should be permitted. As well as at other libraries.
61	Agree
61	See my response to #3.
61	Disagree. How else do we get to protest the burial of dead pedophiles?
61	Again, as applied to Memorial Park, yes. Temporary signs, markers and other education/informative signage installation at historic Oakwood should be allowed. with approval of city. Installation not limited to city personnel, but allows those groups given consent to put up signs and take them down.
61	Agree. Unless they are temporary markers.
61	I agree.
61	I agree. This rule needs no change.
61	what is considered a sign?
61	Yes, this is city property. the Cemetery manager needs to approve all signage. there will be times when Non Profits who are working with the city will want / need to post temp notices or edu. material, all of which should have approval of the cemetery manager, but may be installed.
61	Agree
61	Agree. Only aesthetically pleasing informational and directional signs provided by management are necessary.

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61	No change recommended.
61	Agree
61	Agree
61	It depends on what kind of sign it is.
61	Agree
61	Of course, no political signs or advertisement should be permitted but I think it needs to be on a case by case basis. Has this been a problem in the past?
61	Depends on what kind so signs.
61	agree
61	You don't go into detail about what signs you're referring to? If you're referring to directions, etc. I don't see a problem.
61	I agree, however, signs placed by the City regarding upcoming meetings regarding City cemeteries are frequently very difficult to read, sometimes difficult to see, and may even be inaccurate or incomplete.
61	I agree.
61	Agree
61	Disagree, there are so few signs as it is, that this is not a problem. This signs that are there are interesting
61	I would allow signage on headstones!
61	I disagree.
61	Agree.
61	I agree.
61	This infringes on free speech, doesn't it?
61	I think it seems reasonable, but I'd like to see examples of signs people have placed in cemeteries.
61	Agree
61	I agree.
61	Agree
61	I agree that signs not be erected that would unsightly. I do think that small well made plaques that have information about the life of the person should be permitted.
61	I agree.
61	Only appropriate signs should be allowed...and placed (for direction purposes) at appropriate corners by the city.
61	Agree
61	agree, unless for temporary installation such as notification of an event by a group.
61	I agree with no signs if it is what I'm dreaming up in my head (banners, pieces of paper flapping about)...but signs as in tombstone markers and large family name markers...I don't agree at all.
61	Agree
61	That's ok.
61	Keep the Rule
61	Agree, no signs.
61	Does this prohibit only the installation of signs? As written, it's broad enough to be interpreted to ban someone from carrying a sign onto the premises for purposes of a service or ceremony.
61	Disagree. People can use those to show hobbies or other passions of their loved ones. It's individualized and beautiful.

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61	Sometimes, signs of people's passion are on their tomb, such as if they were a sports fan etc... A way for some people to help heal. Please put yourself in the grieving person's shoes.
61	Disagree.
61	i agree.
61	No signs period except traffic control should be anywhere.
61	What signs are you referring to? Temporary signs like the ones we placed to direct loved ones to the burial we had or some other obscure rule. What about a sign that is on a grave with special religious significance or cultural importance? This is wrong.
61	No, disagree. If the signs are not inappropriate (for example political signs), there's no harm being done. They further serve to individualize gravesites.
61	Disagree. There's not that many signs so it's not a problem. We like to read about other people when we are going there.
61	There needs to be more clarification as to what specifically the city is attempting to prohibit that has created an issue that necessitated creating this rule.
61	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders". There should be no personal signs in the walking areas or along the roads.
61	Agree
61	See answer to Question #1
61	I agree
61	I agree
61	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
61	well no I don't think people should stick signs in the ground, but if they have some writing on a vase or something or lettering on a memorial box, don't see a problem shouldn't be something so people are having to read large letters though
61	Agree. Cemeteries are not billboards. If private individuals want to convey messages they can post them online and in the newspaper.
61	agree and institute fines for repeat offenders
61	Agree. Any cemetery can be difficult to navigate. Signs placed by the city are helpful, other signs are only helpful to a small group of individuals.
61	I think this is reasonable.
61	Yes, I agree
61	As long as signs aren't so large or otherwise obtrusive as to interfere with the visibility of City signs, or block grave markers or headstones, I don't see any reason to ban them.
61	Disagree. The size of signage can be regulated but small signs on individual sites ought not be disallowed.
61	Again, define sign. This leaves the policy open to hugely arbitrary interpretation..
61	Disagree. What signs are a problem? I haven't seen any that are at issue. Is the City creating a problem?
61	Signs on a grave should be permitted.
61	disagree with this rule
61	Disagree....personal crosses and such should be allowed

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61	It should depend on the sign. A sign that shows the deceased was a cheerleader as those that you see outside of homes should be fine. An advertisement should not.
61	I would allow signs at gravesites but not elsewhere. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
61	Why not?
61	Agree.
61	yes
61	Disagree.
61	No signs is ok.
61	The owners should be allowed to place signs on the grave sites, but not on walkways or streets.
61	I disagree with this rule. Again, enforcing this rule, would strip the mourners from installing a physical eulogy for the loved one that expresses the personality of the deceased.
61	What purpose does this serve?
61	Disagree- signs should have size constraints, but not entirely be restricted.
61	Yes, to the extent that if a group as in a church or synagogue might be able to work with the city to have a sign put up to identify or direct loved ones to their area.
61	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish]
61	Why would one make this rule? I can see no billboards or something silly, but what exactly are you trying to prevent? What is the purpose? Seems like another silly sterilization proposal.
61	Would be nice if the City could explain the rationale for each of these rules so we could better envision the problem you're trying to fix and then be better able to address our concerns while also attempting to correct the problem you've identified. Cemeteries need rules that help keep the place looking nice and minimize the cost of the property owner in maintaining it. However, while these rules surely must make sense to the drafter, the ordinary citizen doesn't know the problems you face.
61	Agree. This seems a reasonable rule.
61	I think this sounds good, but couldn't a flag or a medal be considered a sign? Those are appropriate. Depends on the sign. This one might be the only one I could agree with.
61	Disagree.
61	I wouldn't change the rule. There should be some standard signage for visitors.
61	I disagree. Without any further explanation I don't understand what this reason for this rule is or what it is trying to accomplish.
61	agree
61	I disagree. You should more narrowly define this rule to state for each sign what size, material, and lettering is permissible to install.
61	Yes
61	This is too general. A family or loved one can't temporarily place a card or a poem at the loved one's grave?
61	The family of the departed should have control over what signage exists ont he garvesite.
61	Signs if they reflect the idea or memory of the person lost should be allowed.
61	Agree
61	Disagree. There should be additional language with more detail regarding what should be allowed.
61	Aren't gravemarkers considered "signs"?

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61	I disagree, if that means a family can't place nice, permanent markers, signs etc. in memory of their loved one. If you mean paper or poster board signs, I do agree. Anything that would decay and / or blow away, shouldn't be allowed.
61	Disagree. If people complain that something is disrespectful, talk to the owners of the signs and put it to a vote, look for a middle ground.
61	Yes, I agree with this rule. I have witnessed, from one grave I visit frequently, offensive items placed at the XXX grave, specifically yard art designed as a gravestone with a ghost peeking from behind it with the word Boo. I cannot fathom someone placing such a thing at their son's grave, and I and other family members visiting nearby graves are offended by this fall display. Likewise, the Christmas ornamentation placed at theXXX gravesite it excess, gaudy and left far too long.
61	agree
61	Agree.
61	Disagree. Again, depending on the definition of sign. Many graves have faith plaques laying on them placed by loved ones. Even a tombstone might be a sign. If you mean signs for sports or politics, there are several tombstones with these on them too. A slippery slope.
61	I agree if this applies to permanent signs. Temporary sign to celebrate an occasion could be placed for a predetermined period subject to a permit issuance by the Superintendent
61	depends on what you mean by "signs". If they are smaller than a loaf of bread then I believe they should be allowed, as they are freedom of speech by those who were left behind when their loved one died.
61	Disagree. Personal signs should be allowed on a personal grave site as long it is not offensive and is maintained appropriately.
61	I agree and have no issue with this rule.
61	On its face, this rule would seem to preclude tombstones and grave markers. I have seen many notes, written or hand painted on small rocks, or small signs expressing love for the departed that I believe should not be prohibited.
61	Keep this rule. Why would someone erect a sign? To call attention to a particular grave?
61	Agree.
61	Disagree. I don't think signs are a huge problem.
61	This rule should be changed to allow small flags or insignias installed. For example my son is a Marine buried at the cemetery and we have a small Marine Corps and US flags at the site.
61	Agree
61	Disagree. If it's on the private plot and not offensive, I don't see why it's a problem.
61	No, although other signs that people want to put up should be subject to an expedited review
61	Agree.
61	Signs designating certain areas of the cemetery could help people to locate certain graves.
61	agree
61	I agree with this rule, except during a funeral or other service, when temporary signs should be allowed.
61	I agree.
61	Agree.
61	Agree: All items should be approved before being added to the cemetery.
61	what about religious injunctions etc?
61	disagree need to work with the stakeholders
61	agree

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61	agree
61	I can't think of any exceptions at this time, but it would be more reasonable to stipulate: "Exceptions must be approved by [cemetery officials.]"
61	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries - Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
61	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
61	I would amend this rule so that inspirational signs or sports signs with athletes name and number may be included.
61	I agree.
61	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
61	Agree
Rule #	Rule
62	<i>The City of Austin is not responsible for vandalism or theft of any memorial or other personal property.</i>
Rule #	Comment
62	
Rule #	Rule
63	<i>The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.</i>
Rule #	Comment
63	I would completely abandon this rule. These items, especially benches, make the cemeteries real places to visit and reflect.
63	I do agree with this. While many families install these things in order to improve the resting grounds of their family member, it begins to look sloppy and messy with so many styles and items. Many of the trellises and benches are in disrepair because family is no longer caring for them.
63	Agree mostly. I think concrete benches are okay since they are durable, but no wood or metal, no painted benches, nothing like that.
63	Disagree. A cemetery should be a place to visit and sit. If visitors to a grave want to place a bench they should be allowed to do so.
63	I think some items can be a nice addition to the property if done correctly. It should be done with the consent of the city.
63	Agree with the trellis part - that is difficult to maintain. But benches have always been a part of cemeteries, especially to mark plots with children or with cremation ashes.
63	Solace benches modestly and quietly designed should be allowed so mourners can visit their loved ones and sit and meditate. Modest tables for bibles tastefully placed should be allowed within a group not for every gravesite.
63	Disagree for reasons mentioned above. A memorial bench that is approved is a nice option to sit while you are visiting your loved ones gravesite.
63	benches should be strategically placed throughout the cemetery for people visiting.
63	I agree. Only permanent approved benches should be allowed. All metal and wood slat, read Home Depot should be removed. Look like hell!
63	I agree. Any bench or chair erected should be made of a permanent-type stone, such as granite.
63	Disagree. People need a place to sit and read/reflect. Elderly people can't stand for long periods.
63	What is wrong with a bench for seating by loved ones graves?
63	I agree. they become insightly quickly as a result of weather.
63	a bench of concert should be permitted so if a person wants to visit they will have a place to sit .

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63	There are some items that can be done with good taste.
63	DISAGREE. Look at the character and peacefulness of a cemetery with wooden, concrete or cast iron benches, chairs or tables, add.
63	See my response to #1 and #3. This is a city park and benches are an important amenity, especially for elderly visitors. On the other had, PARD has an interest in ensuring that any benches are sturdy, maintained, and do not trespass on other gravesites. I have submitted proposed rules that suggest several methods of providing and regulating benches, from PARD issuing guidelines regarding the type of permitted benches to a program similar to the city's current Adopt-A-Bench Program.
63	disagree. We're just trying to class up the joint.
63	I agree as to Memorial Park. I would change it as applicable to the individual four other city cemeteries.
63	Disagree. The superintendant needs to use his own discretion on this matter.
63	I agree
63	Trellis and tables should not be permitted. Any items that extend into the park easements or other plots shall be removed and disposed of after 45 of notification to the last known address of the owner or family
63	I believe owners should be able to put a bench that is durable on their grave, or on easement near grave. not on someone elses
63	Agree, the 50 year (historic) rule applies to some items at Oakwood cemetery. staff will need to have flexibility, but be firm if the benches become unstable. perhaps in the future if someone places an approved memorial bench an endowment fee could be charged and placed in an account.
63	Agree
63	Agree. Individuals should be prohibited from installing such items because they pose a physical hazard and are often visually unappealing. Instead, individuals should contribute to a fund that enables management to provide a uniform and tasteful style of bench seating carefully and strategically placed throughout our public cemeteries.
63	No change recommended.
63	Agree
63	Agree
63	Disagree. bench is a place to sit and contemplate. Removal only if its a safety hazard.
63	Pick a cast iron and a stone bench to allow in the cemetery. Some people need to sit when visiting a grave. Control uniformity thru planned selection.
63	Disagree. I have a concrete bench that has been at my parent's grave since 1971. I also placed a concrete bench at my husband's grave in 2012. It is a blessing and comfort for me to sit and visit with them.
63	Again, disagree. This is our property. If we want to put a trellis, bench or whatever, that is our right. This cemetery is chosen because do its ambience.
63	a few of these items, a bench for instance ,is not offensive.
63	I DISAGREE! Like it or not, you live in the South. Placing of benches is part of the charm. I am not crazy about trellis', but I see no harm in small cozy settings.
63	Agree.
63	I agree.
63	If these items are permitted, there needs to be standards and rules in place. Benches can be helpful for older visitors but other items need to be controlled.

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63	Disagree, are you kidding me, benches are good. If they are a hazard fix it or remove it after tagging it
63	Just do it!
63	I agree. I understand the maintenance issues. If someone wants to commune with a deceased loved one they should bring a folding lawn chair.
63	Agree
63	I agree.
63	Again the City is overreaching. Families should be able to sit on a bench at the grave site if they desire,
63	Disagree. See response to question # 3.
63	A bench which provides a place to rest, contemplate, perhaps as a memorial should be allowed providing it is well made and fits with the artistic design of the cemetery. If in a historic cemetery, it should be appropriate to the period (eg Victorian, etc)
63	I feel small benches should be allowed.
63	I would change this rule, because it is nice to have a place to sit, especially a shady place, if you are old and tired.
63	And trellises can support flowers, which have a place in any cemetery.
63	Temporary seating should be allowed, but removed after use.
63	I don't have a problem with the small concrete bench with the person name or special message on it being there if it does not cause a problem with the upkeep of the grounds and there is room for it and it looks nice. All other things would over time cause problems.
63	I don't agree. Perhaps there can be a site committee of staff and site owners who could approve or disapprove.
63	Agree...unless those objects are donated as memorial sites through the city. No rndom chairs or seats should be permitted between the graves - except in those instances where an entire plot belongs to an individual family and there is a space for a meditation bench between existing graves.
63	Agree
63	depends. If the bench is of good quality and is in good condition, not on someone else's grave or public right of way, then I think it's fine. If the bench should become dilapidated, then it should be removed.
63	I believe standards and guidelines might be agreed upon to allow this. Benches for sure should be allowed but only in stone, heavy metal, or other material that does not break down easily. Same goes for "SMALL" table near a bench to be used for contemplation, writing in journals, etc. I would not agree to just anything goes or trellis...there is no need to have vines growing everywhere.
63	Disagree. As long as it is not a safety hazard, I think these items make visits to the grave nicer.
63	That's ridiculous. One of the beauties of the cemetery is the variety of benches that are there. If they are falling apart, rotting, a safety hazard, ok, remove them. Otherwise, who does it cause a problem for? Most of the people who go visit their loved ones need a place to sit and having benches that are of varied shapes, materials, colors, etc.. adds beauty to the cemetery.
63	Keep the Rule. Granite or marble benches only.
63	Agree! No benches or chairs unless they're marble and in keeping with their surroundings.
63	The attempt to be all-encompassing by specifying prohibited materials leaves it open to install or place otherwise prohibited articles if they're made, for example, of rock, tile, aluminum or plastic.

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63	Disagree. Benches add beauty to the cemetery and are practical for people who want to visit their loved ones, especially elderly people. Unless they are dilapidated, broken, rotten, do not remove them. There's beauty in the different wood, metal and stone styles. It makes it more like a park and it's not depressing and cold. If the only allowed benches were stone, it would look cold and depressing. In addition with the movement of the soil at the cemetery, those are the first structures to start tipping over and looking unsightly.
63	Totally disagree. What if you have an elderly going to visit their spouse's grave. Where are they supposed to sit?
63	Partially disagree. Please no trellis or table but chair, bench allowable.
63	I disagree. I think wooden benches or cast iron bench or concrete benches adds to the personality of the grave side also makes the mourner comfortable.
63	Bad idea. Peaceful reflection sometimes requires loved ones to sit. Until the cemetery is ADA compliant, this rule should be removed. As far as the trellis', anything to beautify an otherwise solemn place should be looked upon as "welcome".
63	Ridiculous rule. The cemetery is NOT overrun with such structures and does not threaten to be that way. It seems quite draconian to pursue these measures on something we have come to welcome and use for years. Do not pass this rule.
63	Absolutely not in agreement. These are nice additions and there are currently many of them. Are you proposing removing existing ones? That would not be right.
63	Disagree. Nice details in the cemetery to have.
63	DISAGREE. benches and other things should be allowed. If PARD has a particular issue with the types of items installed then set guidelines for what types of benches, chairs or tables can be installed. These should absolutely be allowed!!!
63	I disagree. As long as the "stakeholders" own the property, they should be allowed to place a bench.
63	Agree
63	Disagree. So the idea is, let's not give people anywhere to sit at our cemeteries so that they are empty, sad, lifeless places 90% of the time? Invite people in to the cemeteries with benches and other amenities.
63	I agree with constraints. I think a stone bench is ok, but only if another plot site is purchased to put it on. Any item allowed must be made in such a way to last a long, long time - like maybe 100 years.
63	I disagree. Cemeteries are big places. They are also places for peaceful contemplation. It would be nice to have a place to sit down. Benches are OK. Tables are not OK.
63	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
63	well, normally I would expect people to bring folding chairs or something but I hope you do have some benches situated through the cemetery. don't see a problem with a trellis.
63	Agree. However, it would be nice if the city would place approved benches throughout city owned cemeteries.
63	agree

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63	If benches cannot be placed by individuals, then there should be multiple benches placed for the public. I find myself sitting on the ground over my late husband's grave. I'm not sure how many more years I will be able to do this and still get up. Benches already placed may have to stay.
63	I strongly disagree. Benches are necessary for those who want to come visit their loved one's graves. Trellises are for plants, and I believe that's OK too.
63	Would be nice if the cemetery placed by design some concrete benches.
63	I don't see a problem with allowing seating areas or trellises, provided they don't cross gravesite boundaries, are maintained by the gravesite owners, and don't otherwise pose a reasonable threat to health and safety of workers or visitors.
63	Disagree. So long as walkways and streets are not blocked these should be allowed. There should be size and height restrictions to prevent line of sight issues but that is all.
63	I agree with this rule but ONLY if it is enforced fairly and not arbitrarily.
63	Disagree. Benches, chairs, tables -- all important. A very large majority of the visitors are of an age where these items are crucial.
63	I absolutely disagree. there must be places for loved ones to sit and be with there departed. An older person should not be required to stand or sit on the grass.
63	disagree with this rule
63	Disagree...why? If it's on the plot they bought and not encroaching on others.
63	Disagree. I think a bench is charming.
63	I would allow these structures on gravesites but not elsewhere. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
63	Disagree.
63	Disagree. As long as bench is maintained and not an eye sore. When that happens, contact family and ask to remove.
63	yes, families only own the graves, not the public space
63	Definitely SHOULD be permitted to allow the mourners to sit.
63	Disagree. Places to sit and remember/contemplate enhance the cemetery. I would allow concrete or cast iron bench/chair. No tables, trellis, or wood because of the difficulty keeping it from rotting.
63	These items should be allowed on the grave sites.
63	I disagree with removing any chair, table, etc. on a wooden grave. The grave serves as a place where the grieving can come find solace and the mourners should place items that affirm life, not a dull, monotonous theme.
63	Only if not maintained. If it is, leave it alone. Again, a board should decide.
63	Disagree, again it should be based on the object's dimensions.
63	I have to disagree because of the non forgiving nature of the statement. As the city does not place or maintain benches near graves, private benches provide a place where relatives especially those that are physically in need can sit and visit. The ground is not really level and stable for one to bring a light chair and not have it tip over. If such an area were to exist, then the need for more permanent structures, like benches would not be needed.
63	parada !
63	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
63	This is starting to be ridiculous. People want to sit down to spend time remembering or grieving or just resting. Why in the world would one want to prevent this? And a trellis to train a vine on to remember someone - I can't imagine what that hurts.

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63	If it's already there, can't it stay unless it's creating a hazard. And, if it is creating a hazard, can't citizens be allowed to register a contact name as someone whom the Superintendent could contact to get it repaired quickly or perhaps that someone would be willing to pay to correct any hazardous condition presented by chair, table, bench, etc.?
63	Disagree. I especially disagree regarding a chair or bench for grieving family members to sit and remember for a spell.
63	No benches, chairs or tables is ok as long as the cemetery provides enough in each area. Wooden or wire trellis' could be restricted in height.
63	Disagree.
63	It seems like constructing benches or tables would impede on a walkway. It would be better to have several small sitting areas or benches throughout the cemetery rather than having them erected by individuals. It all goes back to maintaining a safe environment.
63	I completely disagree. A cemetery should be a place that invites people to sit and contemplate and spend time remembering their loved ones, to pray and to mourn. This is hard to do standing or squatting. Benches are so crucial. How could those be forbidden?
63	disagree - I am both elderly and handicapped, so a place to sit is important to me. A bench is not unattractive, as long as it is in good condition.
63	I really disagree with this rule. These types of structures are historically appropriate and enable people to enjoy the grave site of their loved one. This rule seems to be for the mow and blow crew of the city.
63	Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case
63	I disagree. I think this should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
63	There should be a permitting process that approves or denies these projects. I don't think there would be very many requests.
63	We strongly disagree with this rule! When we visit our son, we like to sit and reflect. The concrete bench, is an integral part of the time we spend at the gravesite. It also serves as a resting place for older family members that cannot stand for long periods.
63	If this item is located within the gravesite bounds, there is no reason to prevent them. They are lovely in outdoor scenes.
63	Disagree, delete this or allow benches at gravesites.
63	Loosen up---a graveyard planted with trees, shrubs and flowers is comforting and gives added "green space" to the community.
63	I disagree. I think it's wonderful when families bring in benches or chairs to provide a place to sit and contemplate, especially if the cemetery doesn't provide these things. Again, I think plastic chairs shouldn't be allowed because of their temporary and usually unsightly nature.
63	If you guys would provide better benches and chairs this wouldn't be a problem. I think as long as the benches are safe and are not blocking someone from their own graves its fine.
63	Disagree If a person places the bench on their own plot. Some people like to sit and pay their respect. Elderly people often need to sit down.
63	I would allow placement of benches and chairs for the use of family and friends when visiting the cemetery to meditate, pray and/or pay their respects.
63	disagree. Sturdy benches are a positive feature. An attractive trellis with flowering vines would be restful and calming.
63	Agree.

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63	Disagree. There are no benches provided by cemetery in a location you would expect people to come, sit, contemplate and remember, Benches are an asset. I agree a standard on where benches can be placed (your plots or the common strip) and reasonable quality requirements are fine.
63	I agree because it is the responsibility of the City to provide suitable seating
63	I have seen lovely benches beside graves, and I agree that they should be left for those visiting. It's not always easy to stay there if you cannot sit down. Some people want to spend more time and if they cannot stand that long, then they should be able to sit on something. Other items get a little iffy.
63	Disagree. As long as the benches are not in the public right-of-way and in good condition they should not be removed.
63	I agree with reservation. I think this rule needs to be dealt with in an individual and personal manner regarding benches. If the bench is placed by a child's grave so a parent can visit, I feel an exception can be made.
63	I disagree with this rule. I own the plot next to my deceased wife, and have considered placing a bench there to make it easier for elder visitors. I think it would be reasonable to require such structures to be limited to the plots owned by individuals and to require that they be kept in a reasonable state of repair.
63	I agree with the spirit of this rule. But I'll admit that some of the benches placed by families are attractive. If the Superintendent were to purchase and place a few benches on the grounds, those might be a welcome rest spot for visitors.
63	Agree.
63	Disagree. Again, not a problem.
63	We disagree. Benches are necessary for those visiting the grave site. They could be of stone or wood if well maintained.
63	Totally disagree. The benches on my parents' grave are appropriate to the setting.
63	Disagree. People need a place to sit when they visit plots, and if it's within the boundaries of their private plot and not a safety hazard, I don't see why it's an issue.
63	Disagree. Some of us are mobility impaired. Benches are a blessing, not a curse.
63	Disagree. I feel having benches is appropriate "and possibly necessary for the elderly and those with disabilities (or even those in a state of abject grief).
63	I disagree. A safe bench would not be bad. An agreement process should be possible.
63	I think benches should be allowed but according to a code
63	I love the benches!
63	I agree. Benches should be part of the cemetery's overall plan. Maybe people can be invited to contribute to those.
63	Benches should be allowed for respectful contemplation.
63	Agree on wooden or wire trellis, tables, and chairs. Disagree on benches: Many people spend extended time visiting graves and the elderly need to be able to sit down. Limits do need to be made on the type of benches approved (concrete & granite are durable; wooden & cast iron not durable). The placement of benches should not block walkways, be placed on other's property, or be placed outside the grave area. For safety reasons the walkways should be open for walking and not have benches, pots, planters, statues, memorials placed in the walkways.
63	is there no way to build something as a honor or memorial, something that might benefit all (e.g. a bench)?

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63	disagree need to work with the stakeholders
63	if there is a tree, it would be nice to have a bench underneath so a person may sit to ponder and think of their loved ones. This creates a tranquil place to remember... Additionally and especially in the heat a person may need to sit or if their emotion takes over---before they collapse and EMS is called in.
63	disagree.. should allow in certain areas family plots or part of headstone/marker. can add with trees to improve the area through donations for said to help with upkeep
63	I'm not aware of the need for other items, but an occasional bench may be a welcome addition for elderly mourners and visitors. A reasonable limitation could be specified: no more than one bench no wider than x feet per every y number of graves.
63	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
63	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
63	Disagree. I think these items add a bit of character to the park. I especially enjoy sitting on the benches to enjoy the peace and quiet not found in other parks (no dogs barking or children yelling/crying). The memorial park and benches are the best place to relax and read! Shhhh... don't tell anyone ;-)
63	I disagree. It may well be that a visitor is infirm and needs to sit while visiting the grave of a loved one.
63	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
63	Disagree. These would be nice elements of the space.
63	I would delete this rule for the reasons expressed in Question #1.
Rule #	Rule
83	<i>The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.</i>
Rule #	Comment
83	Not sure I know what the problem is. Probably OK as is if enforced conservatively.
83	I'm not sure what this means. I have seen one plot that seems to have a raised rock/flower garden over it. It was kind of pretty when it was first installed, so it was fine, but now it has lots of weeds.
83	Agree. Uniformity and consistency of gravesites adds to the appearance of it being tidy and clean.
83	What are "additional mounds"? Piling on of additional dirt? Flowers?
83	I can understand this because some traditions do this practice. It interferes with the mowing. While new inters will have a mound, it is only temporary in nature. I am okay with this policy as is.
83	No opinion.
83	no additional mounds should be allowed.
83	Agree

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83	agree.
83	Agreed.
83	Uncertain what this refers to.
83	There are some old customs such as a mound with shells added to it. What is wrong with this?
83	I Agree. Everything should be at grade, and performed by Cemetery Staff.
83	agree
83	Agree.
83	Disagree. I put a cross over my son's grave, it was my right.
83	See my response to #3.
83	Agree. It angers the spirits.
83	I agree as to Memorial Park, which is not the only city cemetery. These rules cannot be applied across the board to all five city cemeteries.
83	If the cemetery has a policy to use vaults there is no need for a mound.
83	I agree
83	I agree. Would create problems for maintenance. Over time the mound would level out from rains.
83	I do not know what this means. I planted flowers, and have mulched. I only did this when the city did nothing for the grave other than leave the dirt.
83	yes. flat and easy mow surfaces
83	Agree
83	Agree. Again, cemeteries are shared, public spaces where no individual should be allowed to modify the grounds in ways that pose impediments to visitors and maintenance.
83	No change recommended.
83	Agree
83	Agree
83	Disagree if the mound is a small garden.
83	agree
83	I am not sure what is meant by this question....additional mounds? Please elaborate?
83	Don't know what that means. Will have to look into this.
83	agree
83	Forgive me on this one, I didn't see that practice when I visited. What is the purpose of the extra mounds?
83	Agree.
83	I agree.
83	I think there should be rules that govern the size, construction, and material if these mounds are used in place of a tomb stone marker.
83	Have never seen this?
83	I agree with the rule, assuming that concrete grave covers are allowed.
83	I agree.
83	Agree
83	I agree.
83	No opinion on this.
83	I think it seems reasonable, but... why would people do this? I do not understand.
83	Agree
83	Why is this rule even necessary?
83	Agree

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83	I agree with this rule. I don't know why you would want to mound over graves anyway. It would make grounds keeping very difficult.
83	I don't totally understand the rule.
83	Depends on the mound and the religious significance.
83	Agree
83	agree
83	I'm not sure what this means. Dirt? Ivy? Stone? If it is stone...it may be okay..but I'm not sure why it is needed? Dirt and Ivy? No.
83	Unsure, I have not seen this so don't know how I feel.
83	Again, why is this a problem?
83	Agree with rule. All graves should be uniform
83	Agree
83	Agree.
83	Agree.
83	I agree.
83	No problem with this. Since the city maintenance is basic, anything else would be hard for them to handle.
83	I can't imagine why this would be a problem to have a mound or not. I think it is another rule for the sake of a rule. Personally I do not care.
83	No, sometimes, that's part of the landscaping a person has done and should be respected.
83	Don't know.
83	What is the definition of "mounds"? that will determine whether this is reasonable
83	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
83	Agree
83	See answer to question #1.
83	I agree
83	I agree
83	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
83	agree with the rule
83	Agree. A uniform look is more pleasing, and additional mounds over graves would hinder maintenance workers by making it harder, or impossible, to mow over the area.
83	agree
83	Agree..again a hazard to the rest of us.
83	I'm not sure what this is referring to. If it's the addition of garden soil for planting on, then I think it's fine. Therefore I disagree with this rule.
83	Yes, I agree
83	This is another rule that merits review. What constitutes a mound? Is there a certain height that poses a problem?
83	Disagree. This is a personal issue and unless an additional mound created water runoff issues it ought to be allowed.
83	Unclear policy. Would this prevent planting?
83	Disagree. Mounds? Could the rule specify the size? One-two foot mounds are not a problem.
83	As long as tasteful, there should not be a problem with this.

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83	disagree with this rule
83	Agree
83	Not sure I understand this one.
83	Disagree. I would allow additional mounds over graves. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
83	That depends on the mound. If it's to plant flowers that remember the deceased, why not?
83	Agree
83	yes
83	Keep
83	This should be allowed also.
83	I do not understand this rule. If you mean allowing a person to plant a field of flowers over the grave, then, yes, the mourner should be able to do so.
83	Disagree if those mounds are used solely for planting purposes.
83	I agree. This also means that the city will keep the ground level.
83	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
83	Why would you make this rule? Like so many of the others, this doesn't seem to make any sense. What problem are you trying to solve with this rule?
83	Similar comment as before: Agree as it applies to new improvements; as to existing, agree as long as the existing improvements don't create a hazard.
83	Disagree, within bounds. I believe people should be able to plant flowers or a shrub over a grave and such mound as is necessary for that is reasonable in my opinion.
83	I'd have to say disagree because I don't know what "construction of additional mounds" would look like. If it's to landscape the grave for plants, I see no problem.
83	Disagree.
83	I would change it to allow for mounds to grow certain plants and flowers for the deceased. Especially if it is directly on the grave. I just don't understand what the harm is.
83	I disagree. City of Austin should be happy if there are families who care for the grave site. This means less maintenance for the city. Instead it should worry about neglected grave sites or neglected cemeteries in general. Encourage involvement and ownership by families, do NOT discourage it with unreasonable and petty rules and regulations.
83	agree - but sunken spots should be filled in by the cemetery (there may not be survivors to tend to it)
83	Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Some are attractive and fit the area
83	If the "additional mounds" are used to plant something and they don't exceed 6 inches, I would want some flexibility.
83	I would put in a height limitation. I would like to see people be able to plant flowers over the grave and add some much etc.
83	Again, if maintained by the family members it should be allowed.
83	?
83	Disagree, define "additional mounds"?
83	It depends on the size of the mound. I think anything over 12-18 inches is probably excessive. If someone wants to bring in some good soil in which to plant wildflowers and perennials, I think that's ok.

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83	neutral
83	I agree with this rule.
83	yes
83	Agree .
83	Disagree. In what way does a mound contained in a grave site impede the operations of the cemetery except to mar the sterile esthetics of the person proposing this rule.
83	I disagree - as long as the mounds do not exceed the lot area
83	I do not understand why someone would mound any more than already is there. But if it is not unsightly, and there is a reason, then each individual should be given a chance to make his case.
83	Agree.
83	I agree. Mounds create a hazard and would make it difficult for maintenance.
83	I disagree with this rule, to the extent it effectively prohibits plants and gardens.
83	I agree with this rule which promotes a uniform, level groundscape.
83	Agree.
83	I have no idea what this means, and again, I doubt there are myriad "additional mounds" popping up all over Austin cemeteries.
83	We agree.
83	Agree
83	Disagree. I'm a gardener and Austin soil sucks, and you have to add soil if you want to grow anything. And I like to see small gardens over graves. It's a good way to remember a loved one.
83	No opinion
83	Agree.
83	agree
83	I don't care one way or the other.
83	I agree.
83	Agree.
83	Agree: The construction of mounds should not be permitted. Rocks or other items should not be allowed.... only grass.
83	disagree
83	pls define "additional mounds"...what do you refer to here, I don't understand..pls be ,more specific or give an example. yes to be allowed a gravestone of some sort.
83	agreed
83	No opinion.
83	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
83	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle

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83	I agree.
83	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
83	Agree
83	I have no opinion on this one.
Rule #	Rule
84	<i> Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.</i>
Rule #	Comment
84	I would limit this rule to plastic or other disposable planters and to flower pots. Clay or metal urns or vases should be left alone unless they decay or break.
84	I think this is very reasonable, but this policy could be improved upon. The R&R state that if a family wishes to keep these items, they have 72 hours to pick them up. You might want to give people a week or maybe even two to come retrieve items from a new burial. These families are grieving and might not remember to come claim items in the first three days of the funeral. Families with new burials should receive some grace on the timeframe.
84	Agree. Unsightly.
84	Disagree. Remove the flowers, not the vases.
84	Yes, I think it has to be done. As long as the removal isn't premature, which happens a lot at cemeteries, I think it is acceptable to do so to prevent the further breakdown of material.
84	Agree. Flowers can be removed when decayed.
84	Communicate with a sign at the entrance that old flowers and pots will be removed otherwise its desecration of a burial site.
84	Agree
84	agree
84	I think the rule is fine as is. All flowers should be removed monthly by cemetery staff.
84	Agreed. Unless the family will be back that same week to remove their flowers, then the right should be left with the superintendent or cemetery personnel.
84	Agree
84	Yes, they can be removed so the cemetery is "kept up".
84	Agree. People bring flowers and leave them never to return. If it becomes unsightly cemetery staff should be allowed to remove them.
84	disagree, a person should be allowed to bring clay pots or containers for their loved ones.
84	They can be removed after posting a date removal will be made.
84	Agree.
84	See my response to #3 and #4.
84	Slightly agree. The flowers may be removed. The pots must stay.
84	I agree. Again the four other city cemeteries plot owners need to be informed. It seems that all the emphasis of these rules are to conditions at Memorial Park. Oakwood, Oakwood Annex, Plummers and Evergreen Cemeteries aren't acknowledged and their special needs no always a fit to rules that seem to apply only to Memorial Park.
84	Agree. Keep it clean and fresh looking.
84	I agree
84	I agree. The rule should not be changed.
84	Yes unless it is a silk flower and it is not faded.
84	yes
84	Agree

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84	Agree. These are undignified and disrespectful signs of neglect.
84	No change recommended.
84	Agree
84	Agree
84	Removal only if it's unsightly .
84	Agree
84	If the clay pot is expensive, I would leave at gravesite. I agree if the flowers fade or wither (same as decorations), they should be removed.
84	Disagree. Reasons given.
84	agree
84	If the flowers are faded and/or withered, they should be removed....however, I don't think it is up to the Cemetery staff to remove the pots.....If the staff can be discrete (I don't know what went before), I would say the rule should be kept.
84	Disagree. I think it should be up to the families and friends of the deceased to remove their pots and flowers.
84	I agree.
84	I have used a clay pot with artificial flowers on my grave for over eight years. The pot is anchored in a shallow space to keep it from turning over and the wind blowing it. It does not interfere with mowing, and I keep it maintained. I think there should be a set date each year that the withered flowers are removed so owners have the opportunity to do this for you and prevent any special loss of a meaningful arrangement or vase.
84	Agree, remove the flowers, not pots unless they a broken.
84	Just do it!
84	I agree.
84	Agree
84	I agree.
84	I don't object to this.
84	Yes! This is more like it.
84	Agree
84	Agree
84	Agree, same as above: this stuff can degrade and become trash.
84	Agree
84	I agree.
84	That is fine as long as the owners have the opportunity to retrieve them.
84	Disagree. Only remove the wilting or dead flowers. Let the pots await fresh flowers!!
84	The dead flowers should be allowed to remain. They at least represent that their loved one had someone who cared enough to bring flowers. I live in Dallas and can only come every few months. And I am my son's mother. His father and wife never bring him any flowers. I want my flowers to remain there so he knows he is always remembered and love by me.
84	agree

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84	I do agree for the most part because families must keep up with their stuff and not leave it to whither into nothing as we see each Christmas where people with good intentions decorate public trees but rarely return to un-decorate them and the items blow off and break and add to our trash issue on public roads! However, I again would like to see guidelines set up to offer a CHOICE.....perhaps urn(s) on the side of markers/stones/benches that may hold flowers (fake or real) and are thus contained and somewhat protected. I don't see anything wrong with laminated photos being taped to the marker/stone or something else that would allow a photo...but only on the marker/stone.
84	Agree, however if they are clay and out of the way, they should be left to plant future plants.
84	Removing dead flowers, decorations is ok. Removing the containers they came in is not. People spent money for those and will come to remove them.
84	Agree with the rule.
84	Agree, get rid of the junky stuff, it gets weathered and ultimately looks like refuse.
84	#s 9, 10 and 11 should be combined and simplified. Unless removed sooner by the persons to whom they belong, natural flowers and potted plants will be removed by city employees when they become wilted, and artificial flowers will be removed thirty days after placement. Holes may not be dug for placement of flowers or other plants. In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants and flowers shall be placed only in the bronze vases provided for that purpose.
84	Do not remove the holders. They are the property of others who will collect them at their next visit. Removing dead flowers is ok but do not toss the containers.
84	Disagree. People have paid for these and when flowers fade, they will remove it themselves.
84	Disagree unless broken or hazardous. Throw dead flowers out, keep holders.
84	I disagree, since they do not look bad. It should be the owners to remove it if they want
84	We maintain clay planters on 5 plots currently. When the plants or flowers wilt, then we replace or replant new ones. Sometimes we cannot meet your proposed time frame and the destruction of private property is not acceptable. The plots are not owned by the city any more. Just like real estate, appurtenances such as personal property, including personal property, are belonging to the owner of the land.
84	No. How is it that someone else decides when a flower, so lovingly placed by a family member, should be removed. Ridiculous.
84	Not unless they're broken or hazardous.
84	Agree. Remove dead stuff is ok.
84	Disagree, should notify owner first as they may want to replant flowers or items, should give owner 10 days to remedy alleged issue prior to cemetery taking action.
84	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
84	Agree
84	See answer to question #1.
84	I agree
84	I agree
84	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
84	Well I think a better rule would be to encourage use of paper flowers which look rather gay even when faded. I think it is usually disrespectful to remove flowers or vases.
84	Agree. Why would anyone want old, dilapidated containers and faded and withered flowers to remain on their loved one's graves? Isn't that showing neglect?
84	agree

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84	Agree.This rul
84	Agree
84	Yes, I agree
84	This rule needs a more nuanced review as well. The owners should have some opportunity to remove flower/decoration holders themselves. Removed and then what? Returned to the owners? Discarded?
84	Disagree. Faded flowers or other decorations ought only be removed after owners have been notified (this could be done easily via text or email) and given time to attend to them personally. If they are given the option to approve staff removal that is fine.
84	What if dried flowers are symbolically important to someone? Who are the aesthetic police on this front?
84	Disagree. Having holders of plants and flowers that may have withered are indicators that the grave has been visited. Is someone is required to come back to clean this up immediately? This is creating a problem that does not exist.
84	The flowers should be removed, but why create more for a landfill. Leave the pot, wire, frame, so it can be reused.
84	disagree with this rule
84	Agree
84	I agree with this one.
84	Disagree. I would allow flower/decoration holders on gravesites. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
84	Agree.
84	Strongly disagree. Since city took over I have had expensive silk flowers removed several times when they were less than six weeks old. Obviously city can't be trusted to make that determination.
84	yes, as long as the owner of such items can retrieve them
84	Agree
84	Flowers and other decorations should remain until the family changes them. If a paper item is disintegrating and blowing into other areas of the cemetery, it can be removed by the Cemetery.
84	I had two dove at my loved one's grave site, sitting very close to the marker. I came one day and they were gone. I was devastated. At first I thought someone had stolen them, but then I thought a weed eater must have broken them. The dove pair symbolized our devotion to each other and I had searched a long time to get ones that had the faces turned to each other. I am still hurt.So, I agree with the proposed removal rule.
84	Disagree. Cemetery could be allowed to remove items after X number of weeks vs. what is currently a subjective standard.
84	Needs some wordsmithing. I agree that withered flowers should be removed. I question the removal of the containers, especially those that has a value to the ones that placed it there. Some grave markers have a hole designed into them especially for flower containers.
84	parada !
84	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
84	This is now starting to be ridiculous. Even the military cemeteries allow for holders containing flowers to be there more or less permanently. What problem are you trying to solve with this rule? Again, if implemented, it would need to be a board determining, not a person.
84	Disagree, remove the rule.
84	Agree.

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84	Disagree. While I think it is ok to remove dead flowers, it is not the right of the cemetery to remove pots or vases.
84	I'd agree EXCEPT the grave owner should be notified first because they may have other plans for those clay or plastic pots, etc.
84	Agree.
84	I disagree with this rule. It should be the families discretion how long to keep holders. Especially ones that are durable and can be re-used.
84	No, they should be removed by the owner. However, the cemetery might contact the owner to remove these items if it thinks the grave site has become unsightly.
84	The rule SOUNDS fine but we have had newly placed artificial flowers removed.
84	Yes
84	This sounds reasonable, except if the "other decorations" area not flowers and cannot fade and wither, can they remain?
84	With this rule I foresee objects being removed against family wishes. This should only apply to "holders" that are temporary for cut flowers. I think in general, for other objects, there should be some criteria that says once the object has been obviously abandoned and left uncared for it can be removed.
84	Agreed
84	Disagree. Some flowers are actually pretty when dried, such as yarrow. Perhaps you could limit your list of plants to those in the Austin Grow Green Guide, published by the city.
84	Disagree, set up a removal date similar to other cemeteries.
84	Agree
84	I think only plastic pots should be removed and should be recycled, not thrown away. The others should remain, but the dead, cut flowers should be removed.
84	Take the flowers sure, but don't touch the holders. I'm sorry but why is this even on the table. What is wrong with you? I refuse to believe that FLOWER HOLDERS are becoming a widespread nuisance.
84	disagree Flower holders of a permanent nature should be left alone.
84	Yes, I agree with this rule.
84	agree
84	Only removal of dead flowers and not their container unless plastic.
84	While I agree with this rule, because of the arbitrary nature of the other rules I have little faith in the "the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal" will be done with discretion.
84	I agree, but allow individual lot owners to request an extension of time due to unusual circumstances - a valuable vase being used
84	As a gardener I do not like dead plants, and I think this should be okay with everyone that dead flowers be thrown away.
84	Disagree. The cemetery personal should work with the owners to make a determination of removal. All dilapidated articles should be removed.
84	I agree; have no problem with this rule.
84	This is a reasonable restriction.
84	I agree with this rule. Withered flowers and their containers are unattractive. They may also interfere with mowing and maintenance.
84	Agree.

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84	For plastic and wire, fine. Clay pots are meant to be permanent and are not cheap, so no, they do not need to be removed.
84	We agree.
84	Agree
84	I agree that if there's a vase standing water and wilted/dead flowers, that's gonna encourage mosquito breeding, so removing that is fine with me. But pots with plants in them that are alive and no standing water should be fine.
84	Agree
84	Agree.
84	agree
84	I agree, but only if the flower pot stays more than a week after the flowers die.
84	I agree.
84	Agree.
84	Agree: The seasonal floral arrangement should be removed after an appropriate amount of time. The times should be made available to all families. Dead plants should be removed weekly. Limits should be made on the number of planters, bird baths, statues, and other memorials on one grave.
84	disagree
84	agree
84	agree.. see above
84	No opinion.
84	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
84	DISAGREE!
84	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
84	Agree. However for decorative ceramic pots, the space owner should be notified in advance.
84	I agree.
84	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
84	Agree
84	I agree with this rule as long as the phrase "and other decorations" is struck.
Rule #	Rule
64	<i>Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.</i>
Rule #	Comment

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64	Totally OK as to real plants and flowers. Artificial flowers and plants should be left until they begin to decay or fall apart or badly fade.
64	Oops. I see the 72 hour rule applies to these items; not the items listed in Question #9! I would still give these families longer than 72 hours to retrieve these items. There are only a few plots that have new burials in them at any given time, so if items are wilting on those few plots, I think we could extend grace to those few families to have a week or two to come retrieve the items. All other plots should be clear of wilting things.
64	Agree, seems reasonable.
64	Disagree. The rule is too inclusive. Allow artificial flowers throughout the year, not just holidays. After all, the deceased had a birthday, a wedding anniversary, and may have commemorated events that were significant but are not holidays like Pearl Harbor day, Juneteenth, etc.
64	I agree. However, I know other cemeteries remove the flowers the day after burial and trash them. I think that is where the complaints may be coming from, by over zealous workers who do not care because most grieving relatives come back the next day.
64	Agree. Do not allow holes to be dug outside of burials. This policy is great - everyone can have flowers with the understanding they will be removed.
64	Artificial flowers are fine - they don't wither! Many families may not live in the area or they may not be able to face coming to the cemetery after a loss so 72 hours is ridiculous. You need a psychiatrist and social workers on this team. City personnel should certainly remove withered real flowers and garbage - this is totally obvious. Anything that is a ritual and harmless should be left alone.
64	Agree
64	agree
64	I agree. All flowers should be removed monthly or 30 days from a major floral holiday
64	Digging of any kind - by the public - should not be allowed in the cemetery. This can only lead to problems. However, it would be nice if artificial flowers (with the exception of holiday oriented bouquets) could be left up for longer than 30 days. Maybe 60 or 90?
64	Agree
64	I agree. Cemeteries are parklike, need to be attractive.
64	Agreed as long as there is a set schedule to the clean ups. It helps maintain a clean look.
64	This is a ridiculous to do such a thing while in mourning. Shame on you.
64	One month is not a practical time period especially for families who place flowers only when they visit Austin.
64	Agree
64	See my response to #3 and #4.
64	I disagree with the prohibition of digging holes. How else am I going to stuff coins in Grandpa's casket?
64	I agree. But keep lot owners of the other four cemeteries informed as well. This won't be easy as active, inactive and unknown lot owners.
64	The superintendant needs to use his own discretion on this matter.
64	I agree
64	I agree. No changes need to be made.
64	I believe planted flowers should be allowed. if potted plants are dead, remove
64	Agree
64	Agree
64	Agree. Again, these are signs of neglect.

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64	No change recommended.
64	Agree
64	Agree
64	Disagree. After my 4 year old son's death, I planted flowers on his grave. Tending the little garden was very healing for me. horticulture therapy, garden therapy, and healing with nature are becoming main stream alternative healing practices. I now am installing a healing garden at a grief support non profit. Not being able to express grief including plantings , as long as they are keot up, is behind the times.
64	Agree
64	I placed a large agave cement urn on my spouse's grave. It does not take any mainteance and looks natural.
64	I agree with the dead flowers. That's all. But, again, the owners should do this.
64	agree
64	This rule seems to be reasonable. I think it is pretty standard practice.
64	DISAGREE. See above.
64	I agree.
64	A limit of 30 days for an artificial arrangement to be removed can be very expensive. I think most owners are reasonable and responsible for keeping them maintained. Quality artificial plants last much longer. I keep my ceramic vase with artificial flowers slightly buried in the dirt to keep it from turning over or being stolen. I do not feel I have damaged or impacted the space in any way because I am not digging a substantial hole.
64	Question #9 answers this. Plant what you want on your space.
64	Just do it!
64	I agree.
64	Agree
64	I agree.
64	Agree
64	72 hours seems like a short amount of time, to me.
64	My family has always been able to place plants in our family plot at Oakwood Cemetery. There are several shrubs planted by my great grandmother 100 years ago. I think it should be permissible for us to replace those that have died because the city did not water Oakwood during the 2011 drought.
64	Agree - however: I feel artificial flowers/flower arrangements should be allowed at any time whether it is a holiday or not.
64	I agree in general, but think the planting flowers and other plants should be allowed.
64	Agree
64	I agree. It keeps the ground looking neat and kept.
64	That seems fine.
64	Digging of holes for appropriate drought resistant plants should be permitted as a way of beautifying the graves and cemetary. Wilted or dead flowers can be removed.
64	I disagree. The grass at my sons gravesite has been dead. There is nothing pretty at this gravesite. I want to plant some native ground cover or a crape myrtle or something there so his gravesite doesn't look like no one cares about it.
64	agree
64	I do agree with this entire statement.

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64	Only when they are unsightly.
64	It makes no sense whatsoever that plants and flowers cannot be planted in the ground. Why????? The cemetery looks like a pretty garden. Flowers and other plants do much better in the ground than in pots. I think both should be allowed. Potted plants and in-ground plants/flowers. If they are dead, and nobody is caring for them, remove them. Otherwise, let them be!
64	We had AMP approve the trees and shrubs and the cemetery planted them for us. I really do agree with the above rule.
64	Agree.
64	Disagree. There is no sense in not allowing flowers or plants to be planted in the ground. They last longer, are more drought and freeze protected. If they are overgrown or hazardous, feel free to trim them. It makes no sense that you cannot have flowers in the ground when you can have them in pots because either way, you can mow and trim around them. Funeral designs/flowers being removed after they are wilted is ok.
64	Disagree. Not sure what difference it would make to you to have potted versus planted flowers. If it is to mow, you have to mow around either.
64	Disagree partially. Funeral arrangements that have rotted or dried should be removed. Holiday flowers should be allowed with no 30-day restriction. No removal of potted plants every month. Some are permanently good looking. If they are rotten, that would be ok. Allow plants and flowers in ground.
64	I disagree, planting flowers adds to the beauty of the cemetery. This cemetery is so unique and beautiful, because it is so individual and different.
64	Partially agree, but the decision should always remain with the family.
64	NO! Really. Now we are talking of planting plants. I think that any such desire on the part of the city to remove such things should be done in consultation with the plot holder/family. If there is cause, then let it be shown.
64	No, disagree. Let people plant what they want. Funeral wreaths that have gone past their prime should be removed by families, not the cemetery. That's more respectful of the grief people feel. If weeks pass without action, then cemetery workers should remove. Also plantings in ground should be allowed. Artificial flowers should also be allowed at any time given the hot conditions in Austin.
64	Disagree. Cemeteries need to have nice decorations so they are not dead looking. Flowers and baskets and plants and decorations are good. They are there now already and looking good.
64	Why is digging hole over lot prohibited? what ill side effect is caused by people planting flowers on their lot? Disagree to the extent that cemetery has the ability to arbitrarily decide (without notice to owner) to remove items. Why do the funeral designs or floral pieces have to be removed within 72 hours? there seems to be several rules that are unjustified.
64	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
64	Agree
64	See answer to question #1.
64	Agree
64	I agree
64	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
64	I think artificial flowers should remain indefinitely as a rule and should not need to be associated with holidays. we try to keep artificial flowers on my parents' graves.

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64	Agree. These regulations are necessary to maintain the property. The planting of plants would eventually result in an over-grown appearance. And who would maintain these plants? Who would water them, trim them, dispose of the trimmings, etc.? Not to mention the problems that these plants would pose for the maintenance crews.
64	agree
64	This rule seems reasonable. I have often left cut flowers on the grave at significant dates, but I expect them to disappear in a short time.
64	Agree with all except the last sentence. I think planting on graves is perfectly fine, and it's silly to disallow that.
64	I agree.
64	Removing plants monthly doesn't allow for tasteful and water-conserving perennial gardens to commemorate loved ones. Owners could be required to maintain perennials. This is a wasteful and over-reaching policy as currently written.
64	Disagree. Small gardens on sites are appropriate when maintained and conserve water and other resources. 72 hours is too short a turnaround time for grieving families. Again, "unsightly" is too subjective a term.
64	Who decides what is unsightly? Who thinks more than 30 days is an appropriate length of time for certain decor? For example, an artificial Memorial Day wreath that honors military service and does not look "unsightly" to those paying tribute: why should that be removed in 30 days? This is not an HOA.
64	Disagree. These rules are unnecessary. Furthermore, no plants? Has PARD visited gracious current and ancient European cemeteries where plants (ranging from ivy to small shrubs) enhance the experience?
64	Planting on a grave is an honor toward the deceased. This should be allowed. In Austin, to choose a plant that requires less water than grass should be celebrated.
64	disagree with this rule
64	Disagree on planting....I don't understand why they can't plant a pretty bush.
64	I agree the digging holes should be restricted. Perhaps a specific part of a plot could be designated for this purpose. Personally, I'd love to have someone maintain a small flower plot for me as I am a gardener.
64	Disagree. Let families honor loved ones by planting plants and flowers. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
64	Agree.
64	This rule needs clarification. Is this first part pertaining to recent funerals? If not then NO you can't remove after one month.
64	no - again, the owner of the plot can do what they want. After all this is America, we have freedom of expression
64	Disagree. Plants should be allowed to be planted on the grave themselves.
64	Disagree. Let plants and flowers remain--who cares if they wilt. It's a cemetery for goodness sake.
64	Owners should be allowed to set potted plants or floral arrangements on the graves, and should also be allowed to plant flowers or shrubs on the grave.
64	I disagree with this rule as those of us who see the withering flowers and aging floral pieces know that the mourner is still dealing with painful loss. Some mourners just cannot bear the thought of returning to the grave soon after the burial because it is still a raw loss. By enforcing a "you must come and clean up your grave site" at a certain period is adding an additional burden on the mourner. Patience and time should be the rule.
64	Disagree.

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	parada !
64	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
64	Disagree. Sounds like someone making up these rules has some control issues he or she needs help to get under control. I don't like artificial flowers, but some people do and they could be quite meaningful to some families. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
64	Disagree, remove the rule.
64	Completely agree.
64	Strongly disagree with prohibition on digging holes for placement of plants or flowers. This is gross injustice if there is a parent mourning a lost child or such. The cemetery has a responsibility to aid in the grieving process, not just to maintain country club-like lawns.
64	Denying someone the right to plant something on their loved ones' grave is despicable. People need to be allowed to place artificial flowers on their loved one's birthday, anniversary, anniversary of death, too.
64	Disagree.
64	Live and well maintained plants should be allowed. The 72 hour and 30 day removal of floral arrangements seems reasonable for ground keeping.
64	I would agree until the last sentence. I think real flowers who grow there are much more sightly than any artificial flowers.
64	disagree - artificial flowers should not be limited to holidays and should be removed only when faded. A shallow hole secures the pot and benefits the workers.
64	Yes
64	I disagree only with the last part, which says that flowers and plants cannot actually be planted (by digging shallow holes). I have seen lovely plants and flowers growing in the cemetery that add to its beauty and to the personal nature of the tombs.
64	I agree with the removal of withered plants but I think plastic flowers should be left alone, along with plastic toys, for longer. I am not sure how long because I don't know how big a problem it is. My experience is that very few graves have anything plastic on them.
64	Again if maintained by the family members they should be allowed.
64	Agree
64	Disagree, allow digging of holes for secure placement of items on the grave.
64	agree
64	I think any plastic flowers, pots or funeral arrangements should be removed, as stated. I disagree with the statement at the end about "holes for placement of plants" I think living plants should be allowed, as long as they're maintained by the family.
64	This one is fine.
64	disagree To broad.
64	I agree with this rule.
64	agree with the proviso that 72 hours is much too short. One week is closer to reasonable.
64	72. Hours?
64	Disagree. While untended potted plants, cut flowers, etc. will fade and can be removed by the previous rule, many traditions allow remembrance gardens on graves and this rule would totally negate that tradition.
64	I agree
64	same as above, I believe that dead flowers should go. Artificial flowers after 30 days look bad, too. I understand why you wouldn't want plants growing there, as some could be quite large.

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64	Disagree. This requirement is too stricked that artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The removal should be every 6 months.
64	I agree; have no problem with this rule.
64	I disagree with the prohibition on planting flowers and gardens. The removal of pots, baskets, and dead cut flowers is a reasonable request.
64	I agree with this rule. Withered flowers and plants are unattractive, and they may interfere with mowing and maintenance. I like Portland's seasonal restriction on artificial flowers/plants. [See Question #15]
64	Agree.
64	Rule is fine until the last sentence. Seriously, people cannot plant the flora of their choice on their loved one's final resting place? This is ludicrous. And do you want to waste city worker's time requiring them to go around digging up beautiful flowers?
64	We agree with all except for planting of flowers or small shrubs should be allowed if well maintained.
64	Generally agree with everything except planting.
64	I agree with the removal of spent flowers, but I don't see why plastic flowers can't stay. And digging holes on private plots shouldn't be a problem unless it becomes an actual safety hazard.
64	What is wrong with digging a hole to plant something? Rest is okay but very wordy
64	Agree. I disagree with those who do not own a grave to put flowers without the permission of the owner. Putting dead flowers on a grave is forbidden in some religions and cultures and the general Christian types enjoy helping everyone out by placing them, in their well intentioned ignorance.
64	agree
64	agree
64	I agree.
64	Agree.
64	Agree: Potted plants, cut flowers should be removed when the plants are wilted or dead. The pots, planters should also be removed after the families have been notified of the removal. Artificial flowers have a longer life and may last longer than 30 days. Holes should not be allowed because of the safety hazard of falls caused by holes.
64	disagree need to work with the stakeholders
64	agree
64	agree
64	No opinion.
64	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
64	I would think that planting a native shrub would be more eco-friendly and take less maintenance than fake or real potted plants. It looks as if this rule would disallow that option.

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64	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
64	Disagree. If the artificial flowers are not in disrepair or not holiday-specific, I believe that they should remain. Holes should be allowed if the holes are within the owner's space.
64	I agree with the rule for cut or artificial flowers, but believe that living plants should be allowed to remain.
64	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
64	Agree
64	As long as the flowers are wilted, I agree with this rule.
Rule #	Rule
85	<i>In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.</i>
Rule #	Comment
85	Disagree. Too restrictive.
85	I would agree with this, however we do not own this type of plot, so my opinion might not be important here!
85	Disagree. I think approved permanent type vases that monument companies sell, such as marble or granite, should also be allowed. But no store-bought vases that people bring in.
85	Disagree. What is to keep the city from declaring that all future graves be flush-type just to prevent grave owners from placing vases and benches and such?
85	I think I have to agree with this, for safety reasons. A temporary vase could be glass, and cause a safety issue if it breaks. So I think this is a reasonable rule.
85	Agree, unless there is a cultural objection to the bronze vases?
85	some religions do not allow for vases! Bronze vases also discolor - cemeteries should have flowers and be parklike.
85	Agree
85	agree
85	I agree. No change is necessary
85	Agreed.
85	Disagree
85	Yes, I agree.
85	agreed.
85	disagree, you charge too much money, the city is money hungry.
85	I do not believe that these flush memorials exist anywhere except AMP. I do agree if that is the rule at the time of burial..
85	Disagree -- who wants a cemetery with only bronze vases?????????????????
85	See my response to #3 and #4.
85	disagree! Bronze? oh come on. plastic is perfectly acceptable.
85	I agree, but this seems to apply more to Memorial Park.
85	Agree
85	I agree! agree
85	Agree
85	with the increasing theft of bronze vases, I would like to see a standard placement of a PVC tube that is flush or just below grade. these could be installed by staff for a small fee to cover the cost of material + labor +20% makeup. no theft of Bronze Vases and uniform placement

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85	Agree
85	Agree. This uniform style is tasteful.
85	No change recommended.
85	Agree
85	Agree
85	Disagree, again expression of grief is personal.
85	Agree
85	Sometimes an easel will be delivered to the flush type memorials.....I don't think it should be restricted to only bronze vases.
85	Disagree. "Approved" containers will not work. We have our own age appropriate ones. Thank you.
85	agree
85	This seems reasonable.
85	DISAGREE.
85	I agree.
85	I think whenever you limit an item to one type of bronze vase; you are asking for division. I think you should have alternatives and substitutes.
85	Disagree, there is no problem now. Question #9 answers this.
85	Just don't designate an area for only flush type memorials, and then make exceptions for City favorites.
85	I agree.
85	Agree
85	I agree.
85	Agree
85	Disagree - seems like a stupid rule.
85	I agree, otherwise the grave monument could be overgrown.
85	Agree
85	I agree. It makes it easier to keep the ground uniform and clean.
85	I don't know where they exist.
85	Disagree. Let families choose their own appropriate vases.
85	How do you find out if your is designated as such?
85	agree
85	See answer above about urns/vases to allow flowers/plants. I have put holiday type fake flowers with stiff stems directly in the ground...I don't see that as a problem.
85	N/A
85	Disagree. Why not let people express their individuality??
85	I agree
85	Agree
85	Disagree. Those are unsightly and are a gathering place for mosquitoes when rain accumulates inside.
85	This would make the cemetery look so impersonal. I have seen cemeteries that have this in other cities and ours look 1000 times more respectful. Otherwise, it is like a cemetery for robots where everything is standard.
85	Disagree.
85	I do not understand the question, I do not know what flush type memorial is..

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85	Approved? I did not see anything in the rules about the approval process except that the Superintendent make decisions. There was no decision making criteria outlined anywhere. This about families and respect!
85	No I do not believe that it is appropriate for the city to dictated when and where to place plants. This is not a fast food restaurant where everything is uniform and the same.
85	Disagree. They're unsightly.
85	Agree.
85	Disagree. why only bronze vases? if valid reason for only having bronze, then the vases should be readily obtainable, which they are not.
85	The "stakeholders" should be allowed leeway to place holders of their choice on the plots they purchased.
85	Agree
85	See answer to question #1.
85	Agree
85	I agree. It is impossible to find vases satisfactory for every taste. A standard prototype is best.
85	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
85	Disagree. I think you should be able to place a flowering plant, in it's pot, on the grave of loved ones, but that these should be thrown away when the plants are wilted.
85	agree
85	As stated above, I leave cut flowers occasionally on the grave which has a flush marker. I don't have a vase, as that is difficult to mow around.
85	Disagree. Why make all these rules? Let people express themselves if it brings them a little peace and reminds them of their loved one.
85	What does it mean "sections designated for flush type memorials" Do u mean flush type headstones? Where does one acquire the approved type bronze vases? I might or might not agree depending on answers.
85	Do gravesite owners know about this policy before purchasing the site? Why is this restriction necessary?
85	This is fine - I presume these owners have chosen this option.
85	Do not agree.
85	Disagree. "Approved" bronze vases? We live in a city that is supports the arts -- local potter and sculptors -- and PARD wants imported bronze vases? Is PARD looking for conformity in a this creative city?
85	Disagree. Laying something on the grave should be fine.
85	disagree with this rule
85	Disagree. Those are stolen often. Also other flowers do not take away from the containers if removed when withered.
85	Agreed, assuming this understood at the time of purchase for this specific kind of plot.
85	Disagree. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
85	Disagree.

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85	DISAGREE!! Not all graves have the flower holders. I did not think of it when grieving so too late now. I have checked into cost and can't afford! So you will deny those of us who can't afford BRONZE to have flowers on our loved ones grave? Outrageous!
85	don't know
85	ok with this one since people who bought plots on those sections knew the rules when they purchased.
85	Any type of vase or other memorial items should be allowed on the graves in this section.
85	I don't agree with this rule. The vase itself does not reflect the location of the deceased's body. Often, one wants to place a memento or flower over the place where the person is actually buried. It's an attempt to touch what can no longer be touched, ever.
85	Disagree. Design a set of standards that permit people to have options.
85	I agree. Grave owners need to understand this rule up front. If not it may cause some unhappiness between them and the city.
85	parada !
85	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
85	Too restrictive. Let people tend to the graves of those they love in the way that brings them peace.
85	Agree generally, but why bronze? With thefts of metal objects becoming ever more common, why do you need to regular composition of the container as long as it fits reasonable size requirements?
85	I think if this is agreed upon in the initial purchase of the plot, this is reasonable, but not as a retroactive rule.
85	Have you contacted all the plot owner's and sought out their input, and then listened to it? They are the ones to be listened to here. This is too restrictive.
85	Agree.
85	I agree. The flush type grave areas should be easy to mow and keep up.
85	I am sorry, I am not familiar with "flush type memorials".
85	disagree - not everyone can afford the bronze vase, nor to have someone place it.
85	Remove this rule. The most beautiful cemeteries and memorials are the ones with beautiful gardens. You can't legislate beauty.
85	Yes
85	See number 10 above.
85	No I think people should be able to adorn their family plot as they see fit with plantings.
85	Too many rules! Come on! we purchased this property. Has been in our family for nearly 10 years. It is maintained weekly by our family.
85	Agree
85	Agree
85	agree
85	I disagree. I think the family has the right to place mementos or living flowers on the graves. If they choose to use the bronze vase for cut or plastic flowers, I think those should be removed according to the rules in question 10.
85	Sure
85	neutral
85	Not all flush type memorials have the bronze vases. Graves I visit in Austin Memorial Park do not have the bronze vases, requiring me to utilize green plastic vases designed specifically for placement in a grave.

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85	agree
85	Agree. For people who have chosen the esthetic of being buried flush type monument area, tight regulation of flowers and decoration is allowable.
85	I agree on condition these rules are made clear to prospective new owners
85	You cannot always get plants or flowers the size of those small bronze vases, so I believe that others should be allowed.
85	Disagree. Not all flush type memorials have bronze vases. There should be tolerance here.
85	I agree; sounds good and helps keep a dignified appearance.
85	I disagree with this rule.
85	This seems like a good rule, as it promotes a consistent, attractive appearance.
85	Agree.
85	I hate those sections, but if you get a plot there, I suppose you'd best abide by that rule, so Im okay with this one.
85	We agree.
85	Agree. We particularly chose a cemetery without this requirement.
85	As long as it's not a safety hazard and remains on the private plot, I don't see why people can't decorate.
85	Agree
85	Agree.
85	Disagree.
85	agree
85	OK, except during a sevice.
85	I would apply the policy in Question 10 to these graves too.
85	Agree.
85	Disagree. If the memorial does not have a vase there should be provisions for additional approved containers for floral arrangements.
85	disagree need to work with the stakeholders
85	agree
85	agreed
85	No opinion.
85	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
85	DISAGREE!
85	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
85	I agree.
85	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
85	Agree
85	I don't see the reason for having uniform styled vases, so I would strike this rule.

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Rule #	Rule
65	<i>In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Comment
65	OK, but I would allow planting of hardy bushes ad well as trees.
65	I agree. While I love the different textures of successful plantings, a lot of these plants don't get maintained by the families and end up growing out of control.
65	Disagree with language. Approval should come from Cemetery Manager, not Superintendent, and should be for all tree or shrub. Flowers, ivy, etc. plantings should not be allowed at all.
65	Disagree. Cemeteries can be botanical spaces, calming spaces. No maintenance is required to take care of crinum and flag irises and similar drought-tolerant bulbs.
65	Yes, any plantings that are of a permanent nature, not an annual nature, should be approved by the superintendent.
65	Agree. Shrubbery needs special maintenance and would take longer for workers to manage. Trees provide shade and are longer growing. Planting a rose bush on a grave may sound nice, but it might grow or die oddly without routine watering.
65	Ivy, flowers and shrubs use less water than trees - the City should thank people for helping keep the site beautiful. Just take care of it.
65	Agree
65	agree
65	I agree. Only trees in approved locations should be allowed. No more crepe myrtles.
65	Agreed.
65	Disagree as long as gardens are maintained by the plot owner.
65	I agree.
65	agreed, as long as plantings do not encroach on other peoples spaces.
65	no trees planted
65	There are other trees that should be acceptable such as crape myrtles.
65	Agree and the SUPERINTENDENT needs to do all in its power to keep the LIVE OAKS, SPANISH OAKS, and others healthy and alive.
65	With the continuing drought and the need to preserve water, PARD should be encouraging the use of drought-resistant, water-wise, native, low-maintenance plants, shrubs, and trees. During the summer, when the grass was largely dead, often the only green areas were the gravesite plantings and gardens. I have submitted proposed rules regarding plantings on gravesites, including requiring that any plantings be selected from plants recommended by the City of Austin's Grow Green Native and Adapted Landscape Plants guide and placing limits on the size and types of plants (for example no thorny or spiny plants). I also suggested that in addition to the hardwood trees, the rule should be expanded to include hardy native small trees or large shrubs, such as mountain laurel, yaupon holly, or crape myrtle.
65	Agree. The world needs fewer trees.
65	Yes, I agree. Especially as to historic Oakwood. The fabric of the whole should be vigorously maitained.
65	Agree
65	Possibly in my family's case, this trellis could have roses with written permission from the superintnedent's office.
65	Only in certain areas where tree growth will not intrude or grow in to plots.

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65	I would allow planting of such items with permission
65	yes. it all boils down to long term maintenance. you want to plant a tree an endowment fee needs to be established to help cober the cost of the addition water and trimming in the future. the drip line of the tree is a no use zone, over time the roots expand then someone wants to use a space and they cut major roots and the tree dies.
65	Agree
65	Agree. Again, it is the superintendent's responsibility to allow only plantings that will not interfere with burial plots, other trees, or damage walkways and roadways, and to prohibit all invasive species.
65	Agree.
65	Agree
65	Agree
65	Disagree, as long as the grave site is kept up.
65	Agree
65	I think ivy over a grave looks nice...and doesn't require mowing. I agree on the trees; except blooming trees like crepe myrtle, mountain laurel.....add color and beauty to the grounds. And they don't require a lot of maintenance.
65	Again, our bushes were torn out as was a tree. Shame on whoever did that. This was long ago.
65	agee
65	Personally, I like the idea of a small plant being dug close to the grave. I like the idea of being able to plant a tree. This seems reasonable.
65	Disagree regarding the planting of appropriate flowers at the grave site. This should be allowed.
65	I agree.
65	I do not think the cemetery should have the authority to limit the exact type of tree planted if the space is owned by someone and they are paying for it. I do think it is helpful to have a suggested list of what grows easily but if the owner is willing to take care of it then I think there should be allowances.
65	Agree with the tree part. If planting of Ivy, Flowers , Shrubs or Bushes is a problem, mow and trim around problem.
65	Just do it.
65	I agree.
65	Agree
65	I agree.
65	this seems fair
65	See question #10. Our family plot , which we have owned since 1908 has several shrubs planted by my great grandmother over 100 years ago, which should be permitted.
65	Agree. However, when trees are planted, I want to make sure surrounding burials will not be impaired from the tree's roots.
65	I agree, shade is wonderful.
65	Agree
65	I agree. Plants and trees become over grown and hard to maintain ground around them.
65	I agree
65	planting on individual graves should be permitted, or in the plots owned by families. But care should be taken to plant drought friendly and local trees, flowers and shrubs.

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65	Please give me approval to plant one of these trees at my son's gravesite. I agree.
65	I think an approved list of plants should be allowed in keeping with plants that were traditionally used as cemetery plants (iris, lilies, etc); plants that won't overgrow the graves or damage the monuments.
65	I completely agree!! I have had the displeasure of burying my mother next to the XXX family, who in disgust of not being allowed to be the only ones in the area, proceeded to get special permission (and so set a precedence!) to plant boxwood hedges around her entire plot of graves. She had a yard service tend to it but did not have the manners to keep her hedges from literally growing nearly halfway onto my mother's grave and headstone!! It took me and the manager of the cemetery at the time, exactly ONE YEAR to get her to remedy the problem! I am not really sorry to "Good Riddance!"
65	Disagree
65	I disagree. Again, planting flowers, bushes, shrubs is what makes the cemetery a park and a beautiful place to come visit to see your loved ones.
65	We planted 3 Italian cedars, 2 crepe myrtles and one oak tree. I've seen alot of boxwoods that look nice too,so i would think that it would depend on where the family wanted to plant something else besides the oaks and elms.
65	Disagree. There are a multitude of beautiful trees that thrive in our climate which could enhance the beauty of the cemetery.
65	Disagree. Planting of flowers/shrubs/bushes, etc. in the ground should totally be allowed. They add beauty and people are doing a good job. Why fix what is not broken? Tree planting control would be ok if there are too many and their root systems are going to cause problems to the graves.
65	disagree. Planting of flowers, shrubs adds the uniqueness of each person/family.
65	Disagree partially. Should allow planting of flowers, plants, shrubs and bushes. No ivy because it can take over. Trees should be allowed.
65	No I do not agree. This is up to individual what they want to plant. No rules should apply on what to plat.
65	See response to Question #9.
65	This rule is asinine. Really, no rose bushes but an Oak tree is OK? No, I think that the planting of a bush/flower/shrub is something that the person is doing out of love and, from what I have seen, in good taste.
65	No. These should be allowed. They add beauty and ambiance.
65	Disagree. Good vegetation planted makes cemetery pretty.
65	Disagree. If someone wants to put ivy over their lot then they should be able to do so. Of course there needs to be limitations as to where the ivy is permitted to grow, as in the owner needs to keep it maintained to the lots they own and/or if not pruned/maintained correctly, cemetery can remove (after giving notice of issue and adequate time for the issue to be remedied).
65	I disagree. It would not make sense to plant on a grave the hardwood trees mentioned above--they grow too large. Smaller perennials, flowers, and the like are more appropriate.
65	Agree
65	Change. Allow any trees that are native and drought tolerant, some examples: Redbud, Mexican plum, Mountain Laurel. Also, why ban the planting of shrubs or bushes? As long as they're native, drought-tolerant, and not aggressive spreaders I don't see the problem.
65	Agree
65	I agree

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65	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
65	Agree. I think allowing the planting of trees is adequate, and that allowing this practice is very thoughtful. The more trees, the better.
65	agree
65	Agree. I want the city employees to be able to do their job.
65	Disagree. People who want to plant a few flowers and shrubs to beautify their loved one's grave should be allowed to do so, so long as the plants are maintained by the owner.
65	Yes, I agree
65	This doesn't seem reasonable. As long as owners demonstrate that they can maintain these plants, I see no reason why they should be banned outright. I can understand banning species designated as invasive/toxic by local agricultural authorities, but beyond that, grave owners should have the right to plant whatever they are willing and able to maintain.
65	Disagree. A list of allowed native shrubs, bushes and flowers ought to be developed within size/height limits.
65	Disagree. There are many xeriscaped approved plants that would enhance the local natural beauty and reduce water use.
65	If the plant is on a grave, owned by an individual, and maintained by that individual, it should be allowed. Perhaps a list of low maintenance shrubs, etc. would be a happy medium in this.
65	disagree with this rule
65	Disagree
65	Disagree. I think flowers should be acceptable as long as the plot owners maintains them.
65	Disagree. Allow plants and require they be maintained. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
65	Good question. Perhaps something can be worked out on this issue.
65	Agree
65	yes
65	Xeriscape plants should be allowed.
65	Disagree. Planting native/hardy plants is preferable to continuing to water and mow. Perhaps the cemetery should encourage people to plant these kinds of plants, including trees.
65	All types of plants should be allowed on the grave sites, if planted by the owner.
65	I disagree with this proposed rule. Again, the mourner should be allowed to plant a flower, tree, shrub, different than the ones you propose etc, That's how nature does it. Memorial Park is a gem due to the various plantings. If
65	Agree. Because these are plants that have long and extensive root systems and ultimately affect more than just the plot they are intended to enhance.
65	I agree with the intent of not having the city responsible for additional maintenance. My concern is with the prohibition of planting other things besides the identified hardwood trees.
65	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
65	Any non-invasive plants should be allowed. Any long-lived hardwood trees need oversight as the roots and branches will ultimately affect many graves. The oversight needs to be by a board of the families of those buried in the cemetery.
65	Disagree, change to only prohibit all invasives listed by City of Austin.
65	Agree.

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65	Agree except in cases of native plants and shrubs.
65	Maybe
65	Disagree. Anything to replace water greedy grass.
65	I agree
65	I do not agree. I think planting flowers, shrubs or ivy should be welcomed and encouraged. I agree that before planting large shrubs or trees, the cemetery maintenance should be contacted to discuss possible issues.
65	agree
65	Absolutely disagree. The most beloved and visited cemeteries are the ones with antique roses, shrubs and bulbs. These rules are meant for the city's mow and blow crew and will destroy the character of this cemetery. It's ironic that the city encourages planting native flowers, shrubs and bushes in our homes but this rule will prevent this type of environmentally friendly environment for our loved ones. This rule absolutely should be deleted.
65	Shrubs and bushes should be included in the approval loop
65	See number 10 above. I do not agree.
65	I agree.
65	The owners of the gravesides should be able to plant shrubs/flowers on their plots. If it enhances the gravesite that should not be an issue.
65	Disagree. I do agree with not planting reseeding plants that can take over, or vines that can eat the world, like trumpet vine or Asian jasmine. But butterfly attracting plants would be delightful. Perhaps you can devise a long list of approved native plants that are drought tolerant and would add to the beauty. Again, I refer you to the city's grow green guide, available free at local nurseries. You also should request the advice of our Ag County Agent, Daphne Richards. That's why she has a job, for situations like this.
65	Disagree with the prohibition of flowers agree that trees should be preapproved.
65	Allow planting of shrubs and perennial flowers. Agree that hardwood trees should be approved by the superintendent.
65	I only agree about the planting of ivy or other plants that could creep and become an eyesore or maintenance issue. I love the idea of planting trees. I think smaller plants, maybe under 2' tall should be allowed on the graves without asking for permission. Shrubs and trees, I think should require permission, as placement for mature size is an issue.
65	I can see how this could get out of control. Amend it so that people can at least submit a request for planting with the understanding that their shrubs might have to be dug up but they will be NOTIFIED when this happens. Just use respect for stuff like this and it should be fine.
65	neutral
65	I agree with this rule.
65	Very much disagree. A variety of greenery keeps the cemetery attractive and interesting.
65	Disagree. As long as plantings are maintained by grave holders, no objection can be made to any planting on a grave site.
65	I agree because the items mentioned will grow to exceed the boundaries of the lot
65	I agree. I think anything that will be perennial must have permission/approval.
65	Disagree. As long as the vegetation is maintained on private plots their planting should be allowed.
65	There are many feasible options for plants that are both beautiful, perennial, neat looking and drought tolerant. There should be an acceptable list of plants to choose.
65	I agree and this will help us enforce our requests at the Agudas Achim Cemetery.

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65	Disagree. As for for the ivy, shrubs, and bushes, these should be permitted. For the larger species that extend beyond plots at are privately owned, I agree that the Superintendent or, more generally, the city, should have approval power.
65	I agree with this rule. Trees are great, providing welcome shade. Plantings require special maintenance and interfere with mowing. But I wonder about the list of approved trees. With Live Oaks at risk for disease, are there other species that are good candidates? An arborist would know.
65	Agree.
65	Disagree.
65	We disagree. If flowers or shrubs are properly maintained they should be allowed.
65	Disagree. Again, we chose this cemetery because we didn't want the flat mow over grave.
65	If you're already prohibited from maintaining this stuff, why is this even an issue? My only concern is that people don't plant invasives. Other than that, I think they should be able to plant what they want as long as it stays in their plot.
65	Disagree.
65	Agree.
65	If planted, then the maintenance should be discussed and followed.
65	agree
65	Agree
65	Would this allow owners to do the planting themselves? Or would they consult with a city worker over planting, watering, feeding? This seems inconsistent with the policy in Question 12.
65	Agree.
65	Agree
65	agree
65	disagree work with the stakeholders
65	I believe some native planets such as Crape Myrtles can and should be allowed to be planted. Perhaps a "donation fee" be required to cover additional maintenance cost/water.
65	agreed
65	No opinion.
65	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
65	DISAGREE!
65	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
65	Agree.
65	I agree that spreading plants like ivies and some shrubs should be blocked, but planting flowers should be allowed.
65	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]

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65	Agree
65	I would strike "flowers." They are small and from my experience, confined to the grave itself. Because ivy spreads and bushes can grow large and obscure other gravesites, I believe they should be prohibited.
Rule #	Rule
66	<i>If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Comment
66	Agree.
66	I do agree with this, but a strict Superintendent might overuse this. Some families may have planted a beautiful, ornamental tree in honor of their child or something sensitive like this. I would be sad to see it removed by staff - especially without conference with the family.
66	Agree except for language - Superintendent should be Cemetery Manager.
66	Disagree. Pruned, maybe. Removed, not without contacting the owner first. An exception could be made for dead branches.
66	Unfortunately, plantings done in the past that were for a person may have to be removed. Perhaps a replacement tree or shrub could be replaced in a nearby area as a gesture of good will to the family.
66	Agree. But the removal of plants could be referred to the superintendent and a panel of 3 public citizens.
66	Notice should be served to various managers for input before anything is removed, especially trees and plants and shrubs. 60 days Notice in writing.
66	Agree
66	agree
66	I agree. All trees should be maintained by the City and pruned as necessary.
66	Agree but plot owner should be contacted first to see if they'll take care of it on their own.
66	agreed, it is important to maintain a clean look to the cemetery.
66	agree
66	Trimming should be done in the proper manner. This year shrubs at Oakwood were butchered and are now in horrible condition.
66	agree
66	Agree, but in the least invasive manner.
66	Agree. The world needs fewer trees.
66	Yes, at Memorial Park. Care should be taken at Oakwood to maintain its integrity
66	The superintendant needs to use his own discretion on this matter.
66	I agree, but it would be kind to inform a member of the family if possible. Cemeteries are where dear people are buried not just a work place for others. I believe a kind balance should be remembered when dealing with other's deceased.
66	Agree. Maintain the appearance of the cemetery.
66	yes
66	agree
66	Agree
66	Agree. It is the superintendent's responsibility to control and maintain the landscape.
66	Agree.

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66	Agree
66	Agree
66	Agree
66	Agree
66	If the trees or shrubs are on a grave site, notify the owners....same as above.
66	Disagree. Again, the owners have this right.
66	agree
66	I agree to a point. Who makes the determination that the shrub, etc. should be removed? Will the cemetery notify you so that you can make the decision? I would be upset if I came to visit, and discovered a bush had been removed. I think the rule needs tweaking. Prune first, remove last.
66	Agree.
66	I agree.
66	I think if a shrub or tree is removed, the owner should be notified and given the opportunity to correct it before removal. I also ASK FOR THE MOSS IN ALL THE TREES BE REMOVED YEARLY. BEAUTIFUL OLD TREES ARE DYING BECAUSE OF THE MOSS.. .WHEN IT IS NOT REMOVED, IT MOVES FROM TREE TO TREE.
66	Agree, but try to work with the people.
66	Just do it.
66	I agree.
66	Agree
66	I agree.
66	Agree
66	Many trees in historic Oakwood cemetery have died due to the fact that the city of Austin did not water during the 2011 drought. The city should give attention to saving historic trees and watering to prevent the necessity of removing them.
66	Agree. I don't know why you mention shrubs since they are prohibited (see Question #13)
66	I agree, this seems like common sense to me.
66	Agree
66	I agree.
66	I agree but again I think the owner should be notified
66	agree
66	Agree
66	agree
66	YES!! see above.
66	Agree
66	I agree.
66	Yes, but I believe if the family can be notified first, that would be best, so they don't get angry if they go to the cemetery and their shrubs are gone.
66	agree
66	?? Shrubs are prohibited, according to #13.
66	Agree.
66	Agree
66	Agree.

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66	Yes i agree.
66	Partially agree. The trees surrounding the family plot have become un-pruned and unsightly and full of ball moss which are killing the trees. With this rule in place, I cannot prune or remove any detrimental growth to the tree or shrub within the area owned by the family. Again, see the reference to ownership in response to Question #9.
66	No. Pruned for equal access, fine. Removed at the discretion of the staff, no.
66	yes. that's reasonable.
66	Agree. Cleanup is good.
66	Agree
66	I agree that the city workers would have the right to prune judiciously if there was a case of a tree or shrub impeding a walkway or roadway.
66	Agree
66	Too much latitude. What do "unsightly" and "detrimental" mean? Any heritage trees should only be pruned or removed with the express consent of the City Arborist.
66	Agree
66	I agree
66	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
66	The rule is fine, but it should be a rare instance that this would happen with maybe some occasional pruning for better appearance.
66	Agree. How could anyone disagree with this provision? Decisions should be made by a reasonable Supervisor, who would make due note why such action was taken. Photos to accompany the written record would also help to document the reasoning for such action.
66	agree
66	Agree
66	Agree
66	Yes, I agree
66	Detrimental or impeding access--yes. Unsightly is too subjective a term.
66	With the addition of a provision that owners are notified of the problems and given a time span to respond first, this rule should stand.
66	Agree
66	Disagree. Seriously, if a plant impedes access to a road, it is already addressed. This is an unnecessary addendum.
66	Yes
66	disagree with this rule
66	Agree
66	Agreed.
66	I agree with this rule.
66	Agree.
66	Agree
66	yes
66	Agree
66	Keep... except pruned, not removed, unless diseased or dead.
66	the same board that I mentioned in Question 4, should also monitor the plants in the cemetery. If 2 of the board members feels a tree or shrub needs to be pruned or removed, the owner should be notified and given a reasonable length of time to do so. If the owner does not do so in the specified time, the Superintendent should prune or remove the plants as necessary.

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66	The superintendent should request the owner to remove or relocate the impediment to access. Just use common sense when making this judgment.
66	Agree if there is a criteria that stipulates what size plants you are targeting with this rule.
66	agree
66	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish]
66	It should be by a board, not a person, and the family should be given the opportunity to correct before employees making changes.
66	Agree.
66	Agree.
66	As long as the plot owners are consulted before it's pruned or removed.
66	Disagree to removal. Agree to trimmed if impeding walks or roads.
66	I agree
66	I agree with the condition that the owner of the space is contacted and a solution or alternative is discussed and agreed upon. A tree covering a street or entrance way is different from a flower that the Superintendent happens to dislike.
66	agree
66	Delete detrimental and unsightly unless you are prepared to define them. You cannot legislate beauty.
66	Yes
66	I think the family who planted the offending plant should be contacted once and advised that the plants are detrimental or impeding access, and be allowed to come prune them.
66	I agree but have concerns about how unsightly will be determined.
66	Trees should be maintained (if planted by the grave owners). If not, they should be maintained by the cemetery employees, and billed to the owners (only after written notice give to the owners).
66	Disagree with removed.
66	Agree on the part about impeding walkways and roads.
66	Disagree. First consult with the owner of the grave and let them hire a competent arborist to prune.
66	I agree, but I think the family should be notified first, and if they want to come in and prune, they should be allowed.
66	Agree
66	neutral
66	I agree with this rule.
66	agree
66	Disagree. I agree "any trees [sic] or shrubs situated on any space shall impede [sic - impede] access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads," it may be pruned or removed, But the definition of detrimental is not defined and unsightly is an esthetic. We need to be careful about writing rules around such easy terms to make a broad definition of.
66	I agree because any area outside of the lot is demed public and the City is responsible
66	I agree. As a gardener, I know how things can grow into something you don't expect.
66	Disagree. The Superintendent powers are too broad. Proper maintenance should be performed according to State Law.
66	I would recommend contacting the space owner first and allow them to comply.
66	I agree. The cemetery needs to look good.
66	Agree.

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66	I would keep this rule in the interest of appearance and public safety.
66	Agree.
66	Again, "unsightly" is a terribly vague and subjective term. If you want to regulate plants that impede access, that's fine. otherwise, the rule needs to be rewritten. One man's "unsightly" is another man's "beautiful native plant".
66	We agree.
66	Agree
66	Yes, but I think families need to be notified first so they have time to prune themselves, if they want to. I don't trust city employees to not completely butcher the job, sorry.
66	Agree
66	Agree.
66	A group decision should be possible.
66	agree
66	agree
66	I agree.
66	Space or section owner must be notified and allowed to self-correct first.
66	Agree: Safety should be the top priority. Branches become damaged or weak and can be a hazard and cause death if they break and crush someone. Trees need to be checked often for hazards.
66	again the question of unsightly
66	disagree work with tree experts
66	trees should not be removed because having shade is essential...in addition to the tranquil atmosphere they provide... and it takes sooo many years for them to grow...ok for shrubs to be removed
66	agreed
66	No opinion.
66	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
66	DISAGREE!
66	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
66	Agree.
66	I agree.
66	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
66	Agree
66	Again, I would strike "unsightly" as being too vague.
Rule #	Rule
67	<i>Personnel employed by the cemeteries are not permitted to solicit or accept money or other compensation from any person or persons for maintenance performed within the Cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Comment

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67	
Rule #	Rule
68	<i>All inquiries or complaints shall be submitted to the main Cemetery office.</i>
Rule #	Comment
68	
Rule #	Rule
69	<i>The grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton inquiry, disturbance, and disregard of the rules.</i>
Rule #	Comment
69	
Rule #	Rule
86	<i>There shall be a strict observance of all the properties due the Cemetery, whether embraced in the foregoing regulations or not, as no impropriety will be tolerated.</i>
Rule #	Comment
86	
Rule #	Rule
72	<i>Care shall be furnished for all cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin. Care shall mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the pleasing appearance of the Cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Comment
72	
Rule #	Rule
88	<i>Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term "care" shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.</i>
Rule #	Comment
87 & 88	Strangely worded and makes no sense. Is the definition of "care" intended to define "special care"? Does "in no case mean(s)" suggest that the staff CAN provide such care? I understand a rule limiting what the staff is expected to maintain or do. This rule does not clearly do so.
87 & 88	I agree with the rule in that it states the cemetery employees should not give special care to any one space. However, I recently received permission by the Superintendent of Austin Memorial Park to have some old shrubs removed from our plots. Cemetery staff removed them. I thought this was reasonable and very much appreciated.
87 & 88	Agree. City employees work for all taxpaying citizens, not for individuals.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	I agree, if you have something extra decorations that requires work, then the family has to attend to it. If heirs don't fix, then it becomes a problem requiring extra work on the workers part. Perhaps a solution would be to have a common area tree, bush or shrub not specific to one grave but for a general section.
87 & 88	Agree, but do you allow private maintenance? How does that work?
87 & 88	I think if people want to hire someone to care for their loved ones gravesite they can do so - especially if they cannot do so themselves. They will feel consoled that the gravesite is being cared for. Do NOT ban this - it just makes sense if a family can afford it.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	agree. all graves should be special.

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87 & 88	I agree. I costs more to maintain graves that impact normal maintenance. If you want to have a special grave, you should have to pay for special maintenance
87 & 88	Agreed.
87 & 88	Agree except that tilted / sinking headstones should be leveled by cemetery personnel.
87 & 88	The entire cemetery shall be maintained.
87 & 88	agreed.
87 & 88	agree
87 & 88	OK
87 & 88	I have no issue with this rule.
87 & 88	I disagree. If I slip the guy \$20 here and there, I expect to see my dead given just a little extra attention.
87 & 88	Yes, for Memorial Park. But the term 'care' with regards to the four other city cemeteries should be amended. There are responsibilities due them that are not the same as Memorial Park.
87 & 88	Disagree. Some places need special attention.
87 & 88	The plot where my Father is buried has an old trellis which needs something growing on it or it looks stark and out of place. I think if there is a long-standing trellis, family should be allowed to maintain it at their own expense.
87 & 88	Agree. They are cemetery employees not private contractors.
87 & 88	yes/ if the owner wants special planting, flowers, etc, they should maintain.
87 & 88	Agree - we can not have staff accepting \$\$ from families for services while on the clock for the city. this does not address others who may be hired to come in on a dialy basis and waver for others. there are people who provide services that can be found on the internet.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree. All plots are to be maintained with the same high level of care and must adhere to uniform standards as stipulated by the superintendent to maintain best practices.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree, care should be the families responsibility.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	I do not expect any special care by any cemetery employees. I would like to see the grass maintained and trimmed; however, many times when I am there, I see them driving up and down the streets in their "golf like carts" or not performing any of the maintenance that is needed and required.
87 & 88	The owners should do their own work.
87 & 88	agee
87 & 88	This seems reasonable.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	I agree.
87 & 88	I think cemetery employees should be allowed to suggest and assist if it is going to be a problem for the cemetery if the individual is allowed to proceed on their own. Good will and kindness is always a good policy.
87 & 88	Not a problem, do not need this rule, if the city gives special care to some graves sites it is OK
87 & 88	I still don't know what "special care" encompasses.
87 & 88	I agree.

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87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	I agree.
87 & 88	Owners should be able to pay extra for this.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	I agree, we all are equal after death.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	I agree that all grave should get the same care.
87 & 88	I agree.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	agree
87 & 88	I don't know. If it is their family they can do what they like as we do..shouldn't matter they work there. If it is for a dear friend with family there...I don't see why not...that person is there all the time. If it is to impress a well known member of our society...absolutely not!
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree. Nobody should have special care. Treat everyone the same.
87 & 88	We appreciated the cemetery planting our trees so we knew they were in the correct location.
87 & 88	?
87 & 88	Simplify. Cemetery employees are limited to performing the care and maintenance functions provided in their job descriptions and may not provide additional services for any owner with respect to any cemetery lot or space.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	I agree.
87 & 88	This is the most egregious rule of all. This needs to be removed from the rules. This is disrespectful to the deceased and the families and to Austin as a whole.
87 & 88	I have no idea why this rule should even be mentioned. I care for the graves of my family and friends and do not need someone else to do it above and beyond their normal job description.
87 & 88	Don't think this is being done. If the families agreed to pay the city for it then special care might be ok but otherwise, everyone should get the same treatment.
87 & 88	Don't know.
87 & 88	Disagree to the extent that the rule is written in an unclear manner. If there are certain actions that staff cannot take list those as opposed to the use of double negatives.
87 & 88	I don't think the cemetery employees should be required to maintenance a grave that has a garden or like upon it. They should be required to maintenance the area surrounding.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	See answer to question #1.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	I agree. Slippery slope.
87 & 88	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
87 & 88	Agree. Cemetery employees are just that.
87 & 88	agree
87 & 88	Agree.

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87 & 88	I do not understand this. So an owner could request special work be done or unusual work....like what? Work could be consumed by special requests leaving no time for necessary maintenance. This rule seems too open ended.
87 & 88	This sounds reasonable. Owners should assume responsibility for any special care of items on their gravesites.
87 & 88	This is fine. Owners must be responsible for the care of their sites.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Disagree. I do not think that loved ones are asking for special care of the grave site.
87 & 88	I think it is reasonable not to ask maintenance workers to go above and beyond for one grave over another... unless it means mowing around a bench or something.
87 & 88	disagree with this rule
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	No problem with this rule. Maintenance of gravesites should be up to families. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
87 & 88	Agree. Families who want to maintain special grave memorials should do so.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	sure
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree, within reasonability. People shouldn't erect curbs or other enclosures because they're hard to maintain and must be given special care. But items and plants placed directly over mulched plots should not cause issues.
87 & 88	Leave this rule as is.
87 & 88	The owner of the grave site should bear all the responsibility of its care and the cemetery staff should not be responsible for special care.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	agree
87 & 88	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
87 & 88	This is the first one so far that DOES make sense! It would be completely unfair to expect or pay a city employee to tend a private plot would be a poor use of resources.
87 & 88	Disagree, remove the rule.
87 & 88	This is a rule that's regulating the conduct of your employees. Why do you need to impose a rule on us that really attempts to regulate your employees? Why can't you just instruct your employees on what it is they can and cannot do and then, when they are asked to do something they can't do, it's their job to say so?
87 & 88	Agree. If a plot owner decides to plant something, it should be their responsibility to maintain it.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	If the families want to create grave markers with items that require special care then the family should maintain it - not the cemetery employees so yes, I agree
87 & 88	Well, first of all, the wording is contradictory. Care by an employee is prohibited. But care does NOT mean "maintenance, repair, placing flowers, etc."? So since this is not care, they are allowed to do all these things? And what exactly would you consider "care", since you only defined what it is not?
87 & 88	disagree - If it is on the personal time of the employee, I see no problem.

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87 & 88	Yes, however, our family has arranged with the city and the contractors before to do our own mowing and edging weekly. It is something we like to do and helps us give back and maintain a personal feeling.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	I agree.
87 & 88	Remove the rule.
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	What exactly do these employees do? If they only cut grass, then let's keep their business to cutting grass.
87 & 88	I agree, as long as the family members are permitted to maintain the plantings on the graves. If the plantings aren't being maintained, I think the families should be notified. I think it should be clearly stated somewhere who is responsible for what. There should be a schedule of quarterly maintenance which is clearly stated. If the families want to plant flowers on the graves, they should be required to come and maintain them at least quarterly.
87 & 88	Cemetery employees supposed to maintain the cemetery itself. My family can take care of our plots just fine. We never expect or look for special care, in fact we'd rater be left alone.
87 & 88	disagree- Cemetery employees, on their on time, should be permitted to contract with individual owners for special care. I do not know the hourly rate paid workers however I am confident it is not that great.
87 & 88	I agree with this rule.
87 & 88	don't understand it. The second sentence is not at all clear.
87 & 88	Disagree, because the rule doesn't parse :-). As long a 'care' is defined as active action I agree with you, but if 'special care' is interpreted as including passive action such as avoiding or not touching or handling those momunents, gardens, statues, etc. placed by the grave holder, then this rule can be a force to uniformity.
87 & 88	I agree because it is the responsibility of the lot owner to care for their lot
87 & 88	I don't understand why an employee would be giving special care to any one grave, but I agree that they should not, unless they perform the same task for all of them.
87 & 88	Disagree. To confusing to understand.
87 & 88	I agree. The cemetery employees take care of the entire cemetery and are directed by the management of the cemetery.
87 & 88	The double negative makes this question confusing. I'm not sure why we need to have a rule prohibiting any special care by employees, but it has always been my understanding that city budgets for the cemetery are limited.
87 & 88	I agree with the spirit of this rule, but the wording of the 2nd sentence is confusing. The term "care" in the 1st sentence does indeed mean "the maintenance, repair or replacement..." This needs a rewrite.
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	Disagree.
87 & 88	We agree except if cemetery workers disturb a grave site they need to fix it.
87 & 88	If this means the the maintenance of memorial headstones the city set, I totally disagree. We requested that the memorial company set the stone and were told no. It is no longer level..
87 & 88	What is wrong with special case if done after hours and people are willing to pay?
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	Special care should be allowed.

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87 & 88	I don't understand what this means.
87 & 88	It's hard to understand because of all the negatives. I would revise it to: An employee may not make any special arrangements with an individual owner to maintain, repair, replace...
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	Agree: All maintainance should be approved by the cemetery officials. It something needs to be done the families should notify the employees and it should be taken care of after receiving approval. The individual owners should go through the proper method for approval of items needing to be done.
87 & 88	disagree use reasonable sense to care
87 & 88	agree
87 & 88	agreed
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
87 & 88	DISAGREE!
87 & 88	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
87 & 88	Agree.
87 & 88	I agree.
87 & 88	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
87 & 88	Agree
87 & 88	I agree with this rule. Owners should be required to maintain any special plants and features they install themselves.
Rule #	Rule
74	<i>The City of Austin reserves the right to correct errors made by staff that is associated with interments or conveyance of property. In the event such error shall involve interment, the City reserves the right to remove and re-inter the remains to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. Should an error develop in the conveyance of property, the City may correct such error by conveying property of equal value in a similar location insofar as possible.</i>
Rule #	Comment
74	
Rule #	Rule

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75	<i>The right to revise and/or add to Cemeteries (a section of sections) from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of or any part thereof or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks is expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for water sprinkling systems and drainage, is also expressly reserved, as is the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparation for interment, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of passage to and from other spaces.</i>
Rule #	Comment
75	
Rule #	Rule
76	<i>No easement is granted to any owner in any road, drive or walk within the cemeteries, but such road, drive or walk may be used as a means of access to the cemeteries and its buildings as long as the City of Austin devotes such road, drive or walk to that purpose.</i>
Rule #	Comment
76	
Rule #	Rule
77	<i>The City of Austin disclaims responsibility to owners, their personal representatives or successors in interest for the loss or damage to cemetery spaces or memorials by any cause, natural or otherwise, direct or indirect, beyond reasonable control of the City of Austin.</i>
Rule #	Comment
77	
Rule #	Rule
78	<i>The statement of any employee of the cemeteries shall not be binding upon the City of Austin except as such statement agrees with the document conveying the right of interment and these rules and regulations.</i>
Rule #	Comment
78	
Rule #	Rule
79	<i>The City of Austin reserves the right at any time and from time to time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind, or add to these rules and regulations or any part thereof to adopt any new rule or regulation or any temporary exception with respect to said cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.</i>
Rule #	Comment
79	
Rule #	Rule
80	<i>In all matters not specifically covered by these rules and regulations, the City of Austin reserves the right to do anything which in its judgment is deemed reasonable pertaining to the cemeteries and such determination shall be binding upon the space owner and all parties concerned.</i>
Rule #	Comment
80	
Rule #	Rule
AC	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Rule #	Comment

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AC	<p>This might be cumbersome, but in the event that the Superintendent chooses to exercise the current R&Rs and intends to remove an item that seems to have been permanent for some time (tree, shrub, "dilapidated or unsightly" monument, etc.) I would suggest that the family be given sufficient notice so as to be respectful.</p> <p>I believe that the current staff has been very respectful towards families and I would like to see this continue.</p>
AC	<p>might want to consider policies on the placement of unopened soda cans, beer, liquor bottles, santa hats on angels (in Feb), balloons & tinsel decorations related to holidays. Also, have seen simple wood crosses, among monuments oft granite. The memorials were actually tastefully done, but I can also see problems if there wasn't a time limit on when they should be removed. Also seen Garden fencing and rock borders, shells on top of grave, wildflowers covering the whole cemetery, etc.</p>
AC	<p>since it is the custom in many religions to leave something on the grave marker when you visit, please publish a list of allowable items. i.e., pebbles, stones, flowers, etc when can be removed after a month by staff.</p>
AC	<p>The city should actively establish a maintenance plan to keep current shade trees healthy.</p>
AC	<p>Headstones that have become tilted, etc. should be straitened.</p>
AC	<p>I think the city should maintain the trees it has. all of the trees near my sons grave are covered with the horrible moss balls that kill the trees. they fall all over the graves. please take care of this.</p>
AC	<p>I feel that the city should be responsible for keeping headstones leveled. We just paid \$369.00 to have our headstone installed. For that price, I don't think it would hurt for them to maintain the position, not the condition, of every headstone in order to enhance the visual appearance of the cemetery.</p>
AC	<p>Allow dogs in cars and to visit a specific grave provided they are leashed and waste is picked up</p>
AC	<p>Cameras need to be installed for security. While visiting my husband's grave @ 2:30 on July 8th, the driver's window was smashed and my purse was taken. I was not more than 50 feet from my truck. I have not felt safe visiting his grave, alone, since then.</p>
AC	<p>The city will mow and trim the grass every two weeks all year along. (mowing leaves in the winter). The city will fix all headstones that are on the ground.</p> <p>The cemeteries wil close 15 minutes after sundown and open at 6:00 am each day.</p>
AC	<p>I don't know if this is a rule, but after a funeral there should no less than 2 people from the cemetery to finish placing the dirt on the grave. I know that some religious leaders do not leave until that is completed and it can take a long time with only one person to take down the tent, put away chairs, finished placing dirt. etc.</p>
AC	<p>I propose we expand the use of this space by allowing leashed dogs on the premises.</p>
AC	<p>a system of fines should be instituted to ensure compliance with the rules with the fines escalating for repeat offenders.</p>
AC	<p>I suggest a new rule:</p> <p>The wishes of the plot owners will be followed respectfully whenever possible. Cultural heritage (placing stones on graves, for instance) must be honored.</p> <p>That needs to be the primary rule under which every other rule operates. Unfortunately for these people, homogeneity from birth to grave may rule out, and then everyone loses out. Keep it Austin.</p>

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AC	Any action on removal of art, memorials or planting should be made with first contacting the owning grave holder and getting their permission. Only once sufficient attempt to contact fails and sufficient time passes (120 days?), should items or planting be removed without permission.
AC	I did not see the following addressed directly: There is a long-standing custom for a Jewish mourner to place a small stone on the headstone of grave he/she has visited. At one local cemetery (and perhaps others), a small birdbath containing stones for this purpose has been placed among the Jewish graves. Mourners seem to take care not to scatter these stones where they would become a hazard to visitors or caretakers, and this practice should be permitted to continue.
AC	Jews traditionally place stones on graves. We'd need to have a container holding stones and the ability to place them on graves when visiting. We also wash our hands and need to have a fountain to do so.
AC	I agree that the personalizing of graves inhibits efficient maintenance, but it is essential to the purposes of a grave or cemetery to allow for individualized expressions and memorials. The city needs to budget accordingly and the staff needs to embrace the concept or find more routine work. Do the best you can to leave people's stuff alone and allow the cemeteries to be real places for people not just stones. Items placed with love should be left until they are truly deteriorated.
AC	I would like to suggest that most of the rules are the wrong rules - you have to realize that these are places for grief, solace, faith, hope and not just a tract of land. The Rules are also badly written by any grade school standard, including long lists of contradictory items.
AC	Just enforce the current rules. Enough is enough.
AC	The cemetery is used for dog walking and bike riding. I find this much more distracting and disrespectful than the violations addressed in this survey.
AC	ALL CEMETERIES SHOULD BE CARE FOR EQUALLY. THIS INCLUDES WATERING.
AC	Rules to reflect the needs and issues at all five city cemeteries and not just Memorial Park. Commitment of City to actively and equally address the individually five cemeteries.
AC	ownership history is the key to most of your issues. the owners recieve the rules but friends and relatives are clueless and decorate at will. this needs a good quility video to explaine why.
AC	This cemetery has been a favorite because of the beautiful trees, the ambiance and ability to place things there. It should not change.
AC	My input is simple. Leave these cemeteries be. If you know Austin, you know one of the favorite sayings is "Keep Austin Wierd". I loved the cemetery I selected...Austin Memorial. I love the beauty, the originality and I was willing to pay good money to be buried there. If you remove all of the "wierd", you are destroying something wild and wonderful. If you want a military-style cemetery, go to Ft. Hood, Ft. Rosecrans, anyplace you want....but leave our cemetery alone!
AC	The friends and families who have loved ones buried in this cemetery have already suffered an enormous loss. It is additionally painful and unfair that they be subjected to management rules which do not allow for plantings at the grave sites or to incidents where their plot has been nearly destroyed by the lawnmowing. Please treat these cemeteries and the families with the respect they deserve. Also, please do something about the wind chimes. Had I realized this cemetery allows wind chimes EVERYWHERE, I would have definitely chosen another location. It is extremely disturbing.

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AC	I sincerely appreciate the work the City of Austin has done to improve the cemetery. it is part of our history and it reflects how much you care. It is a partnership with City and owners. The cemetery staff has an opportunity to be ambassadors for the city of Austin and should be building relationships. This is an opportunity for the community to feel goodwill.
AC	I suggest that the City actually enforce any and all such rules.
AC	Our historic cemeteries should be preserved and cared for, including watering during times of drought to preserve the trees. Although they are no longer a source of income for the city, they preserve our city's history, and if properly cared for and maintained as has been done in other cities, could be a beautiful place for all to enjoy for walks and learning about history.
AC	I have 2 plots in Block 1 under an oak tree. I want to be assured that my future burial in these plots will not be refused as it is very possible the tree roots will be cut to bury me.
AC	I don't live in Austin but I do have family buried in the cemeteries there. I like the Idea of upgrading and fixing the problems in the cemeteries that have come up over the years. I don't mind the things people leave to remember family like a bench to sit on while they are there or a chime left in a nearby tree if they are small and do not look unsightly.
AC	seems like a lot of these rules eliminate human interest issues
AC	How about mending the rusted fence surrounding the cemetery??
AC	I'm afraid it is May and a very busy time for parents and have barely enough time to finish this...it has taken three days. I'm sure I will think of something later unfortunately.
AC	Please think about what you're trying to achieve. If it's a safety concern, add a new rule. Otherwise, let things be. The cemetery at Memorial Park is beautiful. Do NOT destroy its uniqueness and beauty.
AC	I think every thing is covered
AC	Exempt existing sections from these rules. People don't like having different restrictions based on when they bought the plot. If someone wants a restrictive set of rules for the burial of their loved ones, they can buy at other cemeteries or buy in a more restrictive new section of the cemetery. I would suggest also doing exemptions by section. If a section has no problems, don't fix it. Please exempt section 6.
AC	Memorial Park is a cemetery with a lot of dignity and respect while preserving each person's way of grieving. Please do not change how things are or at least for the people that already paid for the graves of their loved ones. People made a choice to go there based on how it is at present. If you want to change the rules, you can do it for the new sections people have not bought graves on.
AC	Cemeteries look mostly good right now. Just fix the gravesites whose stones have moved. Those need maintenance and it's not being done. Otherwise, estetically pleasing and reflective of the city of Austin.
AC	I love this cemetery, because is so different and so individual from other cemeteries. Please do not force all the rules that you have, leave people alone to do their individual mourning.
AC	Create or allow the creation of a foundation to enhance the respectfulness of these special places. Obviously, the City of Austin only cares about the income it derives from the sale of plots and not the long term condition of the cemeteries. With family members dating back to the 1870's buried in both public and private cemeteries, special days have provided an opportunity to re-unite with other family members to remember those who have gone on and pay respect to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice among those whose remains are placed on sacred ground. These rules need to be about the lost, the families and Austin heritage. I don't see that here.

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AC	<p>I have two points. The first one is that we selected this cemetery for various reasons. At this time you are proposing that things will change making this cemetery a cookie cutter place. I do not believe that the people affected by these rule changes are being cared for. Stop messing with something that has worked and brought great love and joy to countless people.</p> <p>The second point is that this should never be considered retroactive. If you proceed with what you intend, and you do historically ignore those affected by taking your own course of action, then under no circumstances should this be retroactive.</p>
AC	Gravesites whose stones are no longer sitting right in the ground should be fixed by the owners/funeral homes/city?
AC	Don't know.
AC	The city of Austin should not be enforcing draconian rules which have never been advertised or enforced. The graves should be left to the care of the "stakeholders" and the city employees should be responsible for roadways and areas between graves.
AC	<p>Though cemeteries bring a sense of peacefulness and reflection upon the user, not many people use them, except for the recently bereaved. And, while that certainly is their chief usage (use for the recently deceased and bereaved), the benefits of cemeteries could be expanded by creative ways to encourage non-impactful uses of the space. The least impactful use of the space is walking. But, beyond visiting the deceased, again, there are not many users of this space. I propose we expand the use of this space by allowing leashed dogs on the premises. This gives a reason for people beyond the bereaved to visit cemeteries. This will encourage a greater appreciation for our ancestors our shared past. I am sure I am not the only citizen who would appreciate such a change. I look forward to the planning team's response.</p>
AC	Stone only headstones and benches should be allowed. My parents grave is next to one with a homemade wooden cross that has flaking paint and leans. I feel it lessens the memory of my parents.
AC	The State Cemetery in Austin is an inspiration. It is beautiful. There are no tacky artifacts. Everyone who goes there is comforted. The State Cemetery has a bigger budget, but its philosophy is sound.
AC	<p>What a lot of rules! I agree that occasionally someone who is mega-messy may need to be reined in, but a completely orderly cemetery is a dead cemetery, not an alive one where people show their love for their loved ones. The focus should be on LENIENT (and hopefully, tactul and kind) enforcement to make it a nice cemetery like for instance Assumption Cemetery. People should be encouraged to tend any graves they care too, not get the idea that it would be better to abandon them.</p> <p>I wonder if this is the "Anglo cemetery preservation" movement. I am an Anglo myself but I really like the warmth created when others pay more attention to their graves than I usually do and I think it makes me happier about my parents' resting place.</p>
AC	Even though the rules were not enforced for several years, they did, in fact, exist. They are not new rules. I agree that the rules must be enforced, even though there will be push-back, and even anger.
AC	I will use this as an oppportunity to thank the city for reclaiming the maintenance and operation of the cemeteries. At Austin Memorial, there was an immediate & observable improvement in conditions. I don't know if there will be any improvement in administration (like those in the office).
AC	This entire policy seems more suited to an HOA or private cemetery than it does a public space with diverse and varied cultures and classes.

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AC	Many users of this site see no problem with the existing situation. PARD is creating a problem and issue.
AC	OPEN RULE MAKING UP TO THE STAKEHOLDERS...
AC	I am not understanding why this level of control over gravesites is necessary. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
AC	Work with those who have loved ones buried here. This is no time for arbitrary enforcement of ridiculous rules.
AC	Remember this is Austin and we value individuality. There are limites, but the people buried in the cemetery lived and were loved here. They existed. Most people do not want antiseptic grass, sprayed, watered, and mowed. It's a waste of resources and not what Austin is about.
AC	none.
AC	none.
AC	No rule shall be made that prohibits customs of differing cultures to be performed.
AC	¿Dónde está mi encuesta en Español? [where is my survey in spanish?]
AC	Fundamentally, these kinds of rules need to be on a cemetery by cemetery basis and at the discretion of a board of interested parties, NOT city employees.
AC	None.
AC	I am not sure who came up with these rules. The clear goal seems to be a depersonalization and "uglification" of our local cemeteries. I was hoping for a more balanced questionnaire or set of regulations. Is not the purpose of cemeteries to provide a welcoming space to remember a loved one? An individual, unique person who should be allowed to be remembered with all of their uniqueness? Not anonymous mass graves!
AC	Please remember this is Austin, a very special and unique place. City government is making tremendous strides to accommodate wishes of all citizens all over town. Cemeteries are extremely personal and sometimes emotional places. All care should be given to compromise in individual cases. This is not a place to put down hard, unbendable rules. Some families like myself have been enjoyed and been comforted by our cemeteries as they are for decades....let's not swing the pendulum too far....Thanks
AC	Plot owners must be included in these decisions and must be respected. Remember, your clients in many cases are people who are living out lives in grief and one way to manage that is by tending to the grave of their loved one.
AC	In general I would give family members significant control over the gravesites, where no obstruction or dangerous, or obviously offensive modifications are made. If visitors to the cemetery or family members with persons in other plots find any modifications meeting the above criteria distasteful, they should be more accommodating.
AC	I would be interested to know who is behind this initiative? If there is an outside source that the city of Austin is using (paying for with our taxes) to provide this enforcement policy.
AC	These rules are too general and lack specific definitions leaving all the discretion in the hands of the city. There should be an open process so that stakeholders are allowed to give input.
AC	I have no other rules, but these are my closing thoughts: I think a pleasing compromise can be reached, as long as both sides attempt to understand and be respectful of each others' feelings and requirements. I think too often, cemeteries are sterile, boring places which don't honor the memory of our loved ones or bring peace to their survivors. When families are allowed to bring tokens of memory to the graves and plant flowers, and the space draws in birds and butterflies, it can create a sacred space of healing and not just a repository for the forgotten.
AC	Less rules please.

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AC	n/a
AC	We need a truly public process and not asked questions on the internet. This process is completely inappropriate and behind closed doors.
AC	Maybe the Master Naturalists and Master Gardening groups could help to make a suitable plant list of permi
AC	I have no issue with rules not included.
AC	I would like to see more done to trim the trees and to periodically (perhaps every five-to-ten years) have moss cleared so as to extend their longevity.
AC	I like Portland's seasonal restriction on artificial flowers/plants. Seems like this would facilitate summertime mowing in Austin. I also like the look and the formatting of Portland's cemetery webpage. Their lists of do's and don'ts make rules clear, so noone can say "I didn't know..."
AC	Not at this time.
AC	To close, I cannot believe that we are wasting city time on this very unpopular and unnecessary rule when there are so many more pressing issues for our community to deal with.
AC	Do these policies allow wind-chimes? I'm OK with those. Do they disallow electric lights? I'm NOT ok with those.
AC	Limit number of items on any one grave to avoid clutter and unsightly appearance.
AC	quite making 'rules' without getting the input from the stakeholders... WORK WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.
AC	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit "A" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
AC	KISS principle... https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". Other variations include "keep it short and simple" or "keep it simple and straightforward".
AC	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
Rule #	Question
	<i>Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?</i>
Rule #	Comment
	I want the cemeteries to be welcoming, dynamic places where surviving friends and families and other visitors feel free to express their emotions and create personalized memorials for their departed loved ones. I detest the dry stone deserts that the cemeteries have become now that the rules have been enforced. All the life has been sucked out of them.

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
 Speak Up Austin Results - As of 5/28/14

	One of peace, nature, beauty and serenity. It is important to me, with family members buried at Austin Memorial Park, that we adhere to the current Rules & Regs in order to keep these aesthetics.
	Quiet, peaceful, serene, uncluttered (clean) surroundings - cluttered environment clutters the brain, which doesn't allow for quiet reflection.
	I see cemeteries as an extension of a city's green space and as potential botanical gardens. They offer space for quiet walking paths and reflection.
	I like it when the grave stones tell me something about the person who is under it. The flags, the statues, the football memorabilia add to the personality of a cemetery that may otherwise appear to be a forgotten place.
	a compromise between formal and from memorials that have gone too rogue. I've seen all sorts of cemeteries from fancy to country, and I believe I know what works and what doesn't work.
	Safety: safe parking, well-lit, and wheelchair access. Mowed grass or longer native grasses - visual maintenance must match landscaping plan. Drought-tolerant plants are ok. Should have picnic tables, restrooms, and other amenities suitable to mourning and to burial services. Park-like.
	clean, quiet, good roads for access, well maintained consistently by City. Plant more trees!!
	Peaceful, serene and consistent.
	clean, neat, well manicured without trash or acts of desecration
	A respectful and contemplative space that reflects the historical nature and purpose of cemeteries.
	A cemetery should be peaceful, serene, calming; a place that pays respect to those buried within its gates, as well as those coming to visit.
	I do not mind grave ornamentation - it shows that someone still cares about the deceased. I do mind forgotten graves, those with dead grass and tilted headstones - this sadly suggests that there's no one left to care.
	I love to visit historic cemeteries. Respectful and solemn places to sit, walk, contemplate.
	Less clutter and more natural look to the cemetery. Nothing is more beautiful than clean, well maintained grass.
	simple and quiet, safe place for my loved one along with my safety while visiting the grave site
	They should look respectful and serene.
	Not as simple grave marker with vase of fake flowers. Windchimes, benches, personal touches, large trees, well tended grounds.
	I think the Austin Memorial Park already balances the long-established tradition of individualizing grave sites, the right of certain religious groups to practice their traditions, the need for families to mourn and memorialize their loved ones, and PARD's need to maintain the cemeteries. I visit the park every week, and have not seen any items left on the gravesites that are not in keeping with respect to those who have passed or the peace and beauty of the Park. If anything, the memorials lend a warm and individual touch to the Park and add to its special atmosphere of contemplation. The memorial gardens and plants add a touch of green to the Park, especially during the dry summer. The benches give visitors a place to rest and meditate. Plus, many of these memorials have been in place for years, and removing them would desecrate gravesites and add nothing to the Park. On the other hand, the rusted and sagging chain link fence, deteriorated roads, and neglected trees seriously detract from the appearance of the Park and are disrespectful for those who rest there.
	Basically everything I've come to expect from Happy Hour at TGIFriday's would be great.
	Cemeteries intent can grow and be added too. Respectful can also be not neglected, protected from not only vandals and thefts, but physical care and upkeep. Sacred means also respect, does death mean that citizens are to be forgotten. Educational programs and events insure that the dead or recognized as honored citizens of Austin.

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
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	I expect the grounds to be well taken care of. The monuments straight and things looking orderly.
	Respect and the ambience of a sacred place...just as it should be.
	Serenity and respect. Plot decorations should be tasteful and not extend outside of the plot. Austin maybe 'weird' but cemeteries should not.
	peaceful but with people able to decoate their loved ones graves with personal items.
	well maintained with maintenance cost considered when it comes to tree plantings and ornimantation
	Peaceful and quiet places to reflect upon the dead and appreciate the living.
	As noted, they are intended to be respectful and sacred places, and this is what I would hope would be provided at all.
	Clean, organized, well-kept grounds.
	We do not thank the rules should be changed. When we purchased our lots we expected this to be inforced. Its not fair to change the rules that were in effect for current owners.
	I would like Hancock Memorial stay as it is, where we can express our grief. Maybe have quarterly clean up days, removing tattered decorations and dead plants.
	Nice environment, quiet
	Everyone grieves differently....Usually women visit grave sites and take pride on maintaining them. Of course we all want a place that is respectful, peaceful, safe and sacred!
	I want it to be homey. A place to come, sit on a bench, decorate my son's Christmas tree, have his toys out. This is the way it has been for years and years. No change please.
	peaceful and quiet.....
	I recently purchased a plot at Austin Memorial Cemetary. I loved this park the minute I drove in. I purchased my plet based on what I saw. I love the lack of military precision on the grounds. I love the freedom people have used to "warm up" a beautiful setting. I bought my plot based on the good feelings I had when I entered the grounds. I don't regret my decision.
	Peaceful environment; well-maintained cemetery.
	Calm and dignified. My favorite cemeteries are the military cemeteries at Arlington, San Antonio, and Fort Leavenworth. The Texas State Cemetery is also very nice.
	Trees, green grass and flowering shrubs provide a beautiful, peaceful, refreshing environment.
	Water, Cut and trim the grass, correct headstones that on the ground.
	Headstones erect and repaired.
	Cemeteries are for honoring the deceased and for the living. CoA cemeteries should be places that welcome the living. The landscaping should be cared for and maintenance should be careful.
	Oakwood particularly has many faded and broken grave stones. Often those buried here have no family left to maintain the sites. The city has an obligation to preserve the graves. The cemetery is a historical site as well as a burial site, and must be preserved as such.
	Peaceful and serene. A beautiful, natural final resting place.
	They are a place for the families to find solace and comfort and to display whatever expression of grief that might ease their pain.

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	<p>This question presupposes an experience being had which, by asking the question, you anticipate the respondent having had (that is, having had experience at City of Austin cemeteries). Though cemeteries bring a sense of peacefulness and reflection upon the user, not many people use them, except for the recently bereaved. And, while that certainly is their chief usage (use for the recently deceased and bereaved), the benefits of cemeteries could be expanded by creative ways to encourage non-impactful uses of the space. The least impactful use of the space is walking. But, beyond visiting the deceased, again, there are not many users of this space. I propose we expand the use of this space by allowing leashed dogs on the premises. This gives a reason for people beyond the bereaved to visit cemeteries. This will encourage a greater appreciation for our ancestors our shared past. I am sure I am not the only citizen who would appreciate such a change. I look forward to the planning team's response. Thank you, XXX</p>
	<p>A beautiful, peaceful place to for famiies to visit and remember their loved ones, and where community can use as well- for walking, learning about Austin's history, perhaps see landscaping that uses appropriate drought tolerant trees and plants.</p>
	<p>trees, green grass, landscaped, paved roads</p>
	<p>The presence of shade trees is welcoming. Visiting deceased relatives should not mean standing in the hot sun.</p>
	<p>Clean, clear of clutter, neatly kept grounds,and quiet.</p>
	<p>well-kempt landscaping, native flowering plants, maintained trees and plots, buldings in repair, attractive fencing and gates, maintained roads and patways</p>
	<p>Healthy trees and grass; to contrast the sadness of death</p>
	<p>To honor Austin's unusul and eclectic ambiance - individual grave owners should be allowed to adorn private grave sites as they wish - with religious symbols if necessary or appropriate items honoring the human being or child buried there.</p>
	<p>I'd like the environment to be beautiful and green with colorful native crape myrtle trees, dogwood, magnolias and orchid trees planted near our loved ones resting places. Also, proper watering options. I have offered and am willing to pay for a crape myrtle by my son's gravesite.</p>
	<p>a safe place to go to contemplate family and appreciate history</p>
	<p>Beauty. Serenity. Peace. Quite. Shade Trees. Benches. I don't like tons of yard art and wind chimes.</p>
	<p>I love the personal touches that people add to their loved ones final resting place. It makes me feel that they are not forgotten and people still care.</p>
	<p>Austin cemeteries should reflect what Austin and Austinites are: unique. If I wanted to bury my father in a plain vanilla cemetery I would not have chosen Memorial Park. Memorial Park is beautiful because it allows the expression of love, grief and culture. Please DO NOT mess with it!!! I love that young parents can put toys on the grave of their 11 day old child, that I can plant flowers for my father, that someone can put a little rock garden for their loved one. If I wanted uniformity and a boring cemetery, I would have gone to Cook Walden on I35!! I love the benches of different colors and styles and types. I love the diversity of the trees/flowers/bushes/decorations. Why are you trying to mess it??????</p>
	<p>Clean, well kept, uniform, not alot of cheap benches, windchimes and folksie memoriabilia.</p>
	<p>Cemeteries should be peaceful and void of yard "art." I have plots at Austin Memorial and will sell them and buy somewhere else if the grounds are not cleared of junk.</p>
	<p>To "respectful" and "sacred," I would add "peaceful," "orderly," "well-kept" and "dignified." As to Oakwood, specifically, "historic" is especially applicable, and it is a bit disconcerting to see leaning and fallen monuments and other evidence of neglect.</p>
	<p>Beauty, serenity, respect for cultural diversity and expressions of grief.</p>

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
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	I love Memorial Park where my family and some friends are buried. It is a place which exemplifies respect and sacredness, but is not as lifeless as Cook Walden on 35 North.
	A place of serenity, peace and beauty.
	respectful and and sacred.
	A place of respect for those who have passed and the families.
	A place to feel the warmth, atmosphere that I have come to expect from a very peaceful cemetery.
	Keeping it the same, park-like setting, beauty and serenity.
	different from other, corporately owned cemeteries. historically preserved. beautiful. green and tranquil zone.
	Peaceful and calm
	I would like the city to allow "stakeholders", those who have purchased plots and own them in full to respect that those "stakeholders" be allowed to keep personal mementos on those graves. The city should only be responsible for enforcing the removal of items which are potentially dangerous--like the fence which surrounds the cemetery.
	Well maintained with no broken headstones.
	I don't want to talk about little plastic flags on tombstones. There's a waste of time. Let's talk about the deteriorating condition of our cemeteries, the dying trees, the crumbling buildings, the defunct irrigation systems. The City and it's contractor gives no regard to Oakwood cemetery. Please don't waste my time on meaningless distractions about dead flowers.
	My parents are buried there, and I will be too. I wish for the cemetery to be a quiet, beautiful, reflective space that my kids will want to come and remember their family.
	Serene, beautiful and uncluttered. A place for contemplation.
	A cemetery should be a place for quiet reflection and remembrance. Anything that detracts from that should be prohibited. While it's understandable that some people might want elaborate or extensive memorials to loved ones, a city cemetery is not the place for such things.
	I want City of Austin cemeteries to look like places where people care about their loved ones. My parents are buried in El Paso and I am always pleased that the cemetery there with many Hispanic graves looks like people care about their loved ones (especially on holidays when people visit and picnic and play music, but also because of the artificial flowers and other decorations).
	An uncluttered environment lends itself to allowing all to experience feelings of serenity and peace when visiting the resting places of their loved ones.
	quiet, peaceful, pleasing to the eye
	While I don't expect uniformity, I want quiet, serene surroundings. I remember Austin Memorial Park from my childhood and it was well maintained and appropriate. More recently it has some graves decorated like those markers on the side of a road, lots of signs, wind chimes, and silk flowers.
	I think people should be allowed to express themselves with personal items at City of Austin cemeteries so long as those items do not create a hazard for maintenance workers and are appropriately scaled. Certainly plants, flowers, toys, wind chimes, benches, and the like are additions that harm no one and give pleasure to the bereaved.
	Cemeteries should promote the healing and peace of the bereaved, and the bereaved should have the right to include any plant, token of affection and remembrance, cultural artifact or seating area for rest and reflection that doesn't cross the boundaries of other gravesites or pose a threat to the safety of workers or visitors. Austinites cherish our individuality and our stories; a public cemetery should honor and uphold personal expression.

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
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	I believe CofA cemeteries should be places where differing cultures can express and experience their reaction to the deaths of loved ones in their own ways as long as there is no boisterous noise involved.
	It should allow expressions of grief that reflect the plot owner's culture, belief system and faith. Just as our city and country are strengthened by diversity, so should the expressions of grief in a PUBLIC space.
	Restful, contemplative, appreciative of the thoughts of the relatives of loved ones. Individuals' grave sites should reflect the loss and thoughts of loved ones.
	I want them to be a place to celebrate the life of an individual. This often means plants on a grave, or a toy of a child, or a flag, or rocks on the stone. They should NOT be sterile places of just manicured grass and grave stones.
	respectful and sacred places
	Personal expression!!
	I want the cemetery to be for the families. If the plot are owned by the family than they should be able do as they want with it. I like seeing the individualism of the publics. It gives you a sense of who the person was that is buried there.
	I would like you to stay out of the business of policing gravesites. Period. End of discussion.
	It's not about what environment and ambiance I want to experience at CoA cemeteries, or you, or the Mayor or City Council - it's what people whose loved ones are buried at CoA cemeteries want to experience.
	Remembrance of any personal sort by the families.
	A place to pay respect in peace.
	They should be orderly, but individualized according to the belives and tastes of the persons who own the grave
	Respectful yet personalized environments are important for those who are grieving. I believe that barring dangerous situations, that mourners be allowed to decorate their loved ones' resting places
	Respectful and remembering. I like seeing mementos of those who came before us, bits of their personality, evidence that they existed and were loved. As long as the mementos don't interfere with others, they make me smile.
	I think people should be able to leave mementos at graves and plant flowers on them or do whatever they want to pay tribute in a respectful manner.
	I would like to see an area that is clean with no trash, such as paper or other debris. I do not consider sentimental items as trash. It should be peaceful and comfortable, with benches and even, tables, to accommodate the families and friends who visit the graves. It should include plants, from wildflowers to trees, and other landscaping items, such as birdhouses and bird baths. It should not be a sterile, bland area that is depressing and boring.
	I want to see that mourners are allowed to place mementos that represent the love they feel for their lost ones. I like seeing Christmas trees, Easter motifs, baby toys, etc. which allow the mourner to deal with the tremendous loss of the loved one.
	Tasteful individualism. Individuals should have latitude with their graves.
	one that is personal, and reflects the love that people have for those who are deceased.
	Clean and maintained, allowing me to visit with out being distracted by the look of neglect.
	Encuesta en espanol? [survey in Spanish?]
	The environment should reflect the city and those interred. If a cemetery is not a military one, it should not be ordered and consistent. Austin is diverse, and the graves in an Austin cemetery should reflect that.

City of Austin Cemeteries Rules Regulations Public Input
 Speak Up Austin Results - As of 5/28/14

	A personalized environment! This is a place to honor our loved ones, not turn over to someone else for sterile homogenization.
	The cemetery should be well cared for but existing garden improvements to plots should be grandfathered and not affected by any rule changes... at least unless or until they create some hazard.
	Peace and tranquility where people can keep the memories of their loved ones alive in a manner they choose at their gravesites.
	I want diversity, not homogeneity. I prefer memorials decorated by the families and friends, with symbols of their love and remembrances of the person buried there. But then it's not about the ambiance I want, it's about the environment and ambiance the grave owners want. THIS IS AUSTIN. KEEP IT AUSTIN. Private cemeteries can have their boring, severe, cold look, but public cemeteries need to be an expression of those buried there and their families.
	Whatever the bereaved need to honor their loved one so long as it does not pose potential harm to a cemetery worker.
	I'd like the environment to be well kept - free of litter and greenery not overgrown. I think the grave markers should be the decision of the family and not homogenized.
	It should be a serene and beautiful place, somewhat like a park with lots of trees, bushes, flowers and benches to sit and contemplate and remember loved ones. It should NOT be a sterile all-lawn no-personality place.
	Reasonably quiet and well tended, but not sterile. Should reflect different cultural traditions of honoring loved ones. A place to sit and remember. No runners (it is not a track or public park)
	Freedom to express how you would like to remember your loved one. Especially planting personal gardens at the gravesite. Gardens at grave sites are a historically appropriate way to remember a loved one.
	Calm, peaceful, personal
	Beauty and tranquility, but I expect and appreciate individuality in the graves, such as plants, flowers, flags when appropriate, and other tokens that can be an expression of a family's feelings for their dead loved one.
	I would like to know that those with loved ones buried in the cemetery are allowed to express their remembrance of their loved one with reasonable modifications, to the gravesite, such as plantings, special objects, etc. It is moving to see the occasional gravesite with beautiful flowers or some precious plastic toy. Seeing these items tells you that someone has drawn comfort by placing those objects or plants there.
	A place to reflect remembrance and solitude of those lost. Personal artifacts are part of the process to remember. As long as it is maintained by the family member, it should be allowed.
	Peaceful, and also acknowledging our green initiatives and water emergencies. Planting grass is completely against city policies, at least that's what one department would say. But I know that departments don't talk to each other. Let people plant native plants, plant flowers that were favorites of their loved ones, and customize the memorials. Austin is unique, after all, and cemeteries shouldn't be one size fits all.
	I would like people to have the opportunity to engage in remembrances that are in keeping with their ideas of "respectful and sacred". That would include following such sacred and respectful traditions as placing flags and celebrating Dia de los Muertos.
	I want to see the deceased honored in a way deemed appropriate by their survivors.
	Native flowers and grasses, wind chimes, pretty benches and bird houses, and personal mementos should be allowed, as long as they're maintained by the families / appointees of the families. It shouldn't look like a golf course.

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	I want a peaceful place where I can sit and reflect with my loved ones that have passed and share with them what I have been up to.
	A place for personal reflection and remembering loved ones in a manner of a personal nature and in keeping with family customs.
	I want to experience an environment that dignifies those buried in the cemetery and is respectful of those family and friends who visit the graves to pray and pay their respects.
	Quiet, green, and attractive.
	Focal points a plus.
	Expanses of grass are a minus.
	A cemetery is a place for remembering and therefore I am happy when I see that someone buried there has not been forgotten. Whether it be flowers or a favorite plant or even some special memento tells me this.
	I want to go to a site where people who have died are properly loved and memorialized by their families. The cemetery should not be a sterile wasteland, but a vibrant locale where people can represent the love and respect they have for the people they have buried there and vistors can feel and witness it.
	a peaceful place where I can sit on a bench and contemplate surrounded by the blessed dead and vibrant nature.
	Knowing that each person buried there is very individual, I expect to see all sorts of things on graves, out of the respect for those that died. They are very sacred to those whose loved ones are buried there. we should respect their wishes as well.
	Markers and stones straightened and leveled per State Law. Trees well maintained with no ball moss or dead branches, regular watering of trees which will help prevent future marker settlement. Pickup the dilapidated articles and flowers on a regular schedule. Repair the buildings and roads. Respect the cemeteries for their historical significance including the historical boundaries.
	At City of Austin cemeteries, I would like to see maintained green spaces with plants that are water conservation with low water plant requirements. Families should be allowed to provide these conditions at their personal grave sites.
	The environment and ambiance I want to experience at COA cemeteries is one of peacefulness and comfort so I can reflect upon the memory of the departed.
	I believe that the City of Austin's practice of allowing families to plant gardens and place objects that allow the families and friends of those they have lost to express their grief and respect believes of the departed is extremely important.
	I have personally spent a considerable amount of money to care for trees at the cemetery. Rather than spend city resources removing gardens, bird houses, benches, rock piles, wind chimes, and the like, I wish the city would do more to protect the trees.
	Peaceful, quiet, respectful of those who are interred and their loved ones. A natural landscape. Trees are great; trinkets belong in the trash. Wind chimes are particulary annoying.
	Peaceful and Reflective
	I want a peaceful environment which is flexible enough to accommodate each family's choice of memorabilia.
	A place that has well maintained grounds that allows meaningful momentous to be placed on grave sites by family members.
	Reverent, respectful, peaceful
	I want lots of peaceful green space.
	Peaceful. Quiet. Tasteful (no plastic windmills and colorfully tacky objects).
	I don't much care.

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	Clean, quiet, simple.
	Peaceful. Nicely maintained landscape...like a quiet park. Occasional benches.
	Peaceful, restful, neat & uncluttered, well groomed and maintained, with improvements & repairs made as needed.
	quiet but with environment for people to enjoy
	respectful
	sacred
	clean, no garbage, with plants and trees
	devoid of plastic ornaments, flowers - which are not religious
	should be kept clean with no dead plants
	Relatively quiet; respectful to a reasonable degree of the various cultures and religions of the family members of those interred; and demonstrating concern for those responsible for the care and upkeep of the cemetery.
	respect; sacred place
	A place where families can remember their loved ones in the way they feel best captures the deceased's personality
	cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred
	I would like that the space owner and the individual's spirit to prevail! The addition of personal items helps the healing process and provides others with an insight to the life once lived. These items give life to the park! I personally spend more time in the memorial park (quite the undiscovered resource) than in other city parks.
	I want to see a place where people of all ages can walk and sit and reflect.
	si-, respetuoso y sagrado [Yes, respectful and sacred]
	Open, serene, natural setting. Uncluttered, maintained and tidy.
	First of all, cemeteries are places for the families and friends of the deceased to visit. They are not "environments" to be "experienced" by visitors. The use of the term "ambiance" is in itself disrespectful. My own father and grandparents are buried in a cemetery in another town in Texas, a place where people leave flags, footballs, toys, plants, mementoes at the graves of their loved ones. I find all of these to be incredibly touching whenever I visit. They are expressions of heartfelt love.
	Items placed by families should be left in place as long as they are not dilapidated, rotting, of that nature. The cemetery staff should remove items that are decaying. If they pose a safety concern, remove them. If they aren't harming anything and are just inconvenient for maintenance, they should be left alone.
	Peacefulness. Not constant bickering with the City. Not having the City take heavy handed approach.

COMPILED RESPONSES TO SMITH/ASSOCIATES PHONE INTERVIEWS

Prepared by Steph McDougal, McDoux Preservation LLC
February 2015

The following data was collected by SMITH/Associates during telephone interviews with eight individuals during May 2014. One individual answered questions via email. Additional information provided after the telephone calls, via email, is also included. Original documents provided by SMITH include notes recorded by consultants Tim Sueltenfuss, Leah Suttle, and Amanda Gangawer, as well as email received by SMITH, all of which were provided to McDoux as part of this data analysis project.

The interview template included a total of 14 questions and provided an opportunity for respondents to share additional open-ended feedback. Rule identification numbers shown below (notated as “Rule ID#”) referred to a project-internal numbering system developed by SMITH to ensure consistent data collection across multiple public engagement activities.

Please note:

- For the purposes of this report, only Steph McDougal (McDoux Preservation) had access to the names of the interviewees and SMITH’s summary of interviewees’ Individual Responses.
- In most cases, the interviewers appear to have summarized the comments of the respondent; these notes should not be considered a transcription of the interviews.
- The terms *cemetery administrator*, *superintendent*, *director*, and *manager* all refer to the same person/position.
- The respondent may be referred to in the first person (using pronouns such as *I*, *we*, *our*) or in the third person (*his*, *her* and *their*) depending on how the interviewer recorded the comment or whether it was received via telephone or email.
- Where the response was recorded “Leave as-is” it is not clear whether the respondent meant “leave the cemetery as-is” or “leave the rule as-is.”
- To preserve respondents’ anonymity, all personal identifying information has been removed and comments lightly edited to correct spelling and punctuation as recorded by the interviewers or for ease of understanding; otherwise, no changes have been made.

Each respondent may not have answered every question; in some cases, individuals provided multiple responses to a single question.

- Four respondents answered every question.
- One respondent answered 5 of the 14 questions; 12; 6; 11; 9;
- Two respondent provided only comments and did not answer questions about individual rules.

On the following pages, a list of individual responses follows each question. Where general comments were recorded as responses to a specific question, these comments have been moved to a section titled “Additional Comments” at the end of this document.

Two respondents further provided extensive proposed revisions to the rules, or complete rewrites, via email. These documents are appended to this report.

Question 1. Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?

- Items placed by families should be left in place as long as they are not dilapidated, rotting, of that nature. The cemetery staff should remove items that are decaying. If they pose a safety concern, remove them. If they aren't harming anything and are just inconvenient for maintenance, they should be left alone.
- Peacefulness. Not constant bickering with the City. Not having the City take heavy-handed approach.
- A place where people in the community can share their loss.
- He agrees with the statement that cemeteries should be respectful and sacred places and would add that they should be audibly and visually quiet, contemplative, and serene. He believes that those words mean no distractions or moving objects (whirly-gigs, tree hangings) ... only natural landscape. He recognizes that we are asking for his opinion—he is Jewish, and they have their traditions and others have their differences, and he wants to respect that as well—but, from his perspective, it should be quiet and serene from the minute he drives through the gate. He doesn't want to drive past the circus-y looking stuff to get to his area. Peaceful.
- Peaceful and tranquil. One arrangement per plot. There is too much stuff out there right now that takes away from the tranquility.
- Just like at church. A sacred burial place. Respected more so than anything. The people [buried there] can't speak for themselves.

Question 2. Please review the rules listed below. In your opinion, should any of these rules be changed? If so, what specific revisions do you recommend?

Question 2A. [Rule ID #20] *Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.*

- Disagree. Items placed by families should be left in place as long as they are not dilapidated, rotting, of that nature. The cemetery staff should remove items that are decaying. If they pose a safety concern, remove them. If they aren't harming anything and are just inconvenient for maintenance, they should be left alone. Use reasonable judgment on this.
- Support enclosures or fencing, but could allow concrete curbs to show where City maintains up to, and the family would care for their own plot. Absolutely don't agree with the rest of the rule, scratch entirely. Selected Section 6 for its eclectic nature with temporary/seasonal memorials. Owns 8-10 burial spaces. Iron cross put up for grandson. Family doesn't have standard granite memorials. City should remove dilapidated, rain-soggy items.
- Probably a good rule within reason. It also could be stated that any installations will need to have approval of the manager of the cemetery or a citizen committee that would approve or disapprove. Family has eight plots. My grandparents, my uncle and aunt, my parents and my husband are buried there and it is where I will reside when the time comes. After my

husband was buried, my grandson went to King Ranch Grass Co. and purchased enough grass to totally sod all of the plots. As a gift to my deceased husband, our oldest son has taken on the responsibility of keeping our plots weed-eated, trimmed, and cleaned up at all times. With permission, we placed wrought iron pieces around the circumference of our plots to keep the crew's mowers from hitting our tombstones as I know they do. I also know that rarely will anyone take responsibility when a tombstone is damaged. The cemetery crew does not have to have any maintenance on our plots.

- Totally opposed to the language, much too restrictive. Allows City to prevent anything that can be an enclosure. A rule should prohibit fencing or concrete or stone enclosures. Permanent/harsh enclosures should not be permitted. That kind of language could prohibit anything. Need to be very careful about language, need to be clear about what enclosures are. Horrible, prohibit 50% of the items that are out there right now. Plastic toys should be allowed. Absolutely opposed to this. Could provide that deteriorated items can be removed.
- With the cemetery being so old. Some people have put things that are sentimental to them, that should be considered when looking at what has already been there for years and may cause a problem with the families that have put in a planter or angel or something like that. He knows some of that stuff is worn out and rotten and should be addressed.
- Rule generally sounds adequate; however, it prohibits almost anything. He understands banning mausoleums and such, but wants vase with flowers. Feels the rule is overreaching. Possibly implement a board or committee that would approve or disapprove with consent.
- This is an absolute statement, but he believes that there are exceptions to many of these. Consider saying "without the written permission of the Cemetery Administrator." For example: in his area, they have planted hedges and trees with the permission of the City and paid the City employees to plant them. He feels that he is legal because he paid the City and the City did it. He feels that someplace in here, there should be some flexibility relative to planting trees, shrubs, and improving the area. May want to consider allowing some of these things, but we recognize there are exceptions with the Cemetery Manager considers it an enhancement to the Cemetery as a whole. Permitted with his approval or discretion. He [respondent] feels that, according to this, rule he was in violation even though he had permission from the City. A lot of these rules address the individual gravesite. May want to think about what could be allowed with the permission of the superintendent. What happens if he [respondent] comes and asks if he can put up a Cross at his family member's headstone. This rule says you can't put those there; he thinks this is worded poorly, because there are exceptions. Objects of a religious nature may be allowed with the discretion of the Cemetery Director.
- All of these rules address specific sites as opposed [to ...?]. He feels that the Cemetery Manager should have to make decisions, that he should be able to make exceptions. This puts more responsibility on [the cemetery manager].
- He does not know this for a fact, he is guessing, but there should be something in here that states that if you are going to do something with your gravesite, it has to be ONLY in your gravesite. If someone plants a tree, where would you propose that someone would plant a tree. Consider the root issue with trees: roots can be obtrusive. He has a space next to his wife that is already buried there. Temple Beth Shalom has its own rules and regulations. All of them are fully compliant with PARD rules; [in fact] they are more strict. He manages his part of the cemetery and enforces them. He personally clips the one rose bush that is out of compliance. Their rules say no landscaping or flowers without approval of the Beth Shalom committee. They also approve every headstone. They allow [only] certain sizes [which] are smaller than typically found in the cemetery.

Question 2B. [Rule ID #33] *Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.*

- If the family is actively alive and still participating, that's one thing, but if you have families that are long inactive ... not sure. It's a tough call.
- This is against State law. It is the City's obligation to pay for this. (Change the last sentence as such).
- Agree. Wonder about the freedom the cemetery has to decree something a "safety hazard." Add a qualifier because [respondent] does not trust their judgment.
- Not "unsightly" – unsightly is a matter of taste/personal opinion. Safety hazards, yes.
- Leave rule as is.
- I agree with this without suggestion.
- If the person is dead, how can a charge be given to them? May not be possible. Like I was saying at the meeting, some people have done the best they can to make a marker for the family and some of them have died. It's hard to go back and find a family member. Might be a problem if someone were to come into town and be unable to find their loved one's marker. That would be a big problem. Evergreen is a very old cemetery and out in the country when it was put in there, there was not too much interest put on what the rules were more than burying six feet deep. According to the video at the meeting, some people have a long history of going to their loved ones' sites and putting in stuff that looks like no one has taken care of. This man in Houston, he doesn't want to sell his house; it's a big problem between two people. Like cemetery spaces. It's a lot of family involvement. The more stuff around the grave, the more people are going to be hurt. Need to inform people about what should be taken out. It would be hard to bring in rules that haven't been in place at the old cemetery. Hasn't been kept up since the man lived on the property; he has been gone for years and the cemetery has gone down. [This may refer to the former caretaker at Evergreen Cemetery.] Has been neglected for a number of years. So has the one off 35. It's kind of embarrassing. People have paid their dues and should be respected. Recommends that new rules will go against what people have been doing, so if we get new rules, will be a problem. Might be able to enforce rules in new sections. People will find out that the rules that are brought up are from an existing rule book. Has been neglected since the 1970s. Grass was always so green and soft when the guy [former caretaker] lived on site.
- Appropriate rule. Appears the soil where originally plotted has a lot of Del Rio clay, causing headstones to tilt. Somebody needs to do something with soil stabilization; [this could be] a shared expense.

Question 2C. [Rule ID #48] *No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.*

- Where should they be? If you don't allow any of those things, where can they be? Specifically water hoses? The Cemetery does a very poor job doing watering, understanding the water restrictions. They [not sure if respondent is referring to City staff or individual lot owners] have water hoses out there connected to spigots; that's where they leave them. He would think that's okay, but does this mean they are not permitted at all? Some of them belong to the city, and they leave them there.
- Disagree. Items should be allowed if they are reusable, but realize this is difficult to define. If they are dilapidated or pose safety risk, remove them.
- It is appropriate to have water hoses. City won't do it and sprinklers don't always reach. Hoses can be left hooked up to the water spigots.
- I think this will be an emotional issue. I understand that items distributed over a grave make it a maintenance problem and can be unsightly. But explaining that to a grieving parent or to anyone in the grief mode will be very difficult to do.
- Disagree. Family should be able to leave items to memorialize their loved ones. Sprinkled a broken glass bowl among their family's flowers. Would want to take a beer bottle if they loved beer.
- Don't totally disagree with everything in this rule. Doesn't agree with water hoses. Who cares if someone leaves shells? City could say that you can't completely cover their space in shells.
- Leave rule as is.
- Appropriate rule.
- If someone has a small toy on their baby's headstone, that maybe should be allowed. Big stuff that takes up more space than the gravesite itself would be encroaching on someone else's space. Has not seen talk on the news about this, but thinks the community needs to know before they are enforced. Word is not getting out in the right way. Suggested paying for spots on Gospel 1060. Don't want to get the neighborhood mad at the city about things that they hold dear.

Question 2D. [Rule ID #52] *No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.*

- Agree. Okay with this rule; should get approval from Superintendent to install signs. Approval shouldn't be withheld for arbitrary reasons; should have some guidelines.
- Totally disagree. Family near them that has their son's high school banner on display, very tastefully done.
- Disagree. Prohibit signs would be insane. What kind of signs are they talking about? Some should be allowed. Meaningful signs should be allowed.
- Leave rule as is.
- I totally agree.
- Does not know what type of sign people would want to put into a cemetery. If people put one out, it should be taken out after a set amount of time. Any sports sign should just be for a limited time. It would help if everyone used the space that has been paid for by the person

that owns the spot and not extend out beyond that. Would be hard to put the rules in place this late in the game, but if there was a new section, this would be ideal. You will have more leeway on something that never existed before. If you are going to put in rules, you need to have a starting place where the rules are going to be implemented. If someone sues the city about something, that would be a problem; would have to back it up with documentation.

- Temporary signs, directional signs for temporary purposes should be allowed. Signs should be placed and removed by the people having the service.

Question 2E. [Rule ID #54] *The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.*

- Disagree - Benches and chairs should be allowed within reason and be made of sound constructed material. Other items should be at the Superintendent's discretion.
- There are people concerned about cement benches being removed; if in good shape, no reason to remove them. If a plot is well maintained, people have the right to do anything they want. Problem is if they become dilapidated or encroach on someone else's plot.
- I don't want to see dilapidated benches. Wooden will deteriorate over time; don't allow. Cast iron, concrete [are acceptable] if done professionally,
- [In] Section 6 [someone has placed] a non-dilapidated bench that is in a public place; [that bench] should be placed on his property.
- We paid \$2,000 to have a granite bench placed on our plots. I don't see granite listed above so assume it would not be affected. I can understand banning wooden benches as they deteriorate rapidly but concrete and cast iron would withstand the elements. I imagine that this rule is for easier maintenance by the cemetery crews.
- Totally disagree. Love the individual benches. They have a former City of Austin park bench that they painted and placed in their family area. Does not like the sanctioned marble benches. Likes personalization.
- Benches should be unique and any material, but once it starts falling apart or becomes a safety hazard, it should be removed. Rule needs to be wiped out completely. The worst thing you could do is make all benches look alike.
- Leave rule as is.
- I agree.
- Reasonable requirement, but City should have some nice metal benches placed throughout the cemetery; i.e., park benches and trash containers. No proper place for trash right now
- People have already done that, so it would be hard to come up with a rule now. The main thing that I do believe needs to be stressed is that the only space the person has is the grave itself and the headstone space. If you go past that space in an area that someone else needs to be buried, the grave diggers will have to deal with that. It will be cumbersome to put in a new grave without going through a lot of changes.
- Why in the world would you want to describe materials. Take out materials to make it more general. Every time you add more words, you are digging yourself a hole.

Question 2F. [Rule ID #55] *The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.*

- Agree with this. No sense in changing landscape up and down.
- Probably agree with this, but could see exceptions. A woman near her has a mound less than two feet [unclear in which dimension] with broken flagstone. Actually disagree with that [rule] if it's tastefully done.
- Leave rule as is.
- Concur.
- I agree.
- That is something that was done years ago; people have been accustomed to doing that. On Mother's Day, people get together and put mound back in place. The word has to get out. They should be handed [a list of] what is permitted at a funeral home from now on. No one is going to try to contact the city to see what they can do as far as a family member's plot, but if it's something that the funeral home hands out, that would give you a point of contact.

Question 2G. [Rule ID #56] *Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.*

- Agree.
- I agree.
- Good rule. No objection to imitation flowers. Subjective judgment is difficult, but they need to be maintained/removed when faded.
- [The word] *May* means that it can or can't; should be specific. Determine who is doing it. If you say that they will be removed, the City is going to do it. If it says *must*, the plot owner is responsible. Define who is doing what. "May" indicates that it can stay.
- Plastic flowers never fade or wither. How do you handle that?
- Okay. Exempt clay memorials for this.
- Keep current rule, but add: Cemetery does not have to specifically notify each family they will be removing items from their plot. There should be a set schedule [of when] removal happens and families are given that schedule for notification. Suggested a removal schedule of once a month or after big holidays.
- That has been in place already; those things are things that can rust and get stuck in someone's foot and cause problems. When the flowers begin to wither, they should be removed. It just doesn't look good.

Question 2H. [Rule ID #57] *Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.*

- Disagree. It's hard to consolidate people's feelings into a policy; may have to revisit this one. In general, he is more prone to allow people to grieve in the way that works best for them. Should allow plants to be planted as long as they are within the confines of the person's gravesite and don't interfere with neighbors.
- 180 days (versus 30 days). Great concern about, in the rules, flowers will be removed after 30 days (too soon).
- I agree.
- Who is going to remove them every month? [When?] First of month, end of month, etc.? The way this is written is meaningless. What is expected of the public in this? He believes this rules are written poorly. Doesn't know how you can enforce the 72-hour rule; no one is going to count. What about real flowers? Can they be there forever? What holiday? All holidays? Could every culture has their own holidays? How will you keep track of/enforce this? Write the rules that you intend to enforce; [these are] too open to interpretation. This overlaps with the previous rule. Rules should be written clearly so that everyone knows what's expected.
- He does not like the other stuff; whirly things and extra décor are an abomination.
- Items that are hanging are distracting. Thinks this needs to be combined in a crisper document. He feels that *whirlygigs* is a good descriptive word. Chimes are distracting; you are driving by and see them.
- The key to enforcement is to keep it simple. The more rules you have, the more interpretations you have. Decide what's important and keep it simple.
- Relative to all the flowers – real, artificial, plastic, etc. – [this is] too specific. Should have exemptions with approval of cemetery director.
- Agree, but who determines when “each month” is? How do they know how long something is out there? Add a standard cleanup day. Disagree if the family is coming out quite often. One month is too soon, 2–3 months is a better timeframe.
- Funeral service flowers: agree.
- Don't agree with artificial flowers portion. As long as they still look attractive [they can stay].
- Disagree with digging holes being prohibited. Paid a small fee to have cemetery dig hole for a bush.
- Add: Specific time frame for removal of funeral designs or floral pieces, suggest 2 weeks after funeral.
- Add: No hanging plants permitted.
- That sounds good, but the only problem is that the people that put the flowers in may just be in town for the funeral and may not have access to come down [and remove items later]. There needs to be a common-sense rule; the flowers need to be removed. If people have stationary pot that they can put love flowers in, it really should be up to the family. Let the

family know that flowers will be taken out when they wither [and] they aren't serving a purpose anymore.

- Good rule.

Question 2I. [Rule ID #58] *In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.*

- Disagree. Doesn't like these type of memorials. Flowers/plants should be allowed to be planted within burial space.
- Disagree. Don't want to lose the character of Austin.
- Add: Only one urn allowed per plot.
- I agree.
- Who provides vase? Didn't see any of them. When you buy a plot, they should be offered a vase to buy as well. No idea what size or where to put it or how it's fixed or attached. He has taken flowers out and dug a little dirt recess by marker 6" wide and 4" deep and set a potted plant. They pick up and throw away when it dies.
- Does not think Evergreen has flush memorials with containers provided. Some cemeteries provide a holder for flowers for a uniform look. Evergreen doesn't have these. Doesn't think any cemetery in Austin has this.

Question 2J. [Rule ID #59] *In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.*

- Disagree. Planting should be allowed within burial space as long as it doesn't interfere with neighbors.
- I agree.
- Planted where? On the gravesite? Next to a loved one? With the approval of the Superintendent in a place designated by Superintendent?
- Are you saying in the interest of maintenance, because the City is not going to maintain them? The City of Austin planted the items in their area at the expense of the Temple. He expects the City to maintain them. Gravesite is 40 inches with an 8 feet long in his section. If you are going to plant a tree, where are you allowed to put it? In writing this rule, need to be specific.
- Agree. Trees should be approved by Superintendent, provided Superintendent isn't unreasonably denying people just because they can. Maybe every fourth or fifth grave would be allowed to do it?
- Did not plant a bush per the Cemetery Manager's request. Disagree with. Did not plant anything taller than a three-foot-tall bush. Disagree with tree rule. What will the superintendent agree to? Too much or too little. Roots cause more maintenance. Trees must be approved by nearby spaceholders.
- Leave rule as is.
- Agree. Definitely allow trees with approval.

- That should be something that definitely need to be in place. When trees get big, the roots break headstones, sidewalks, etc. When a person buys a plot, that [a tree] is probably an old-school way of marking the spot. But they do damage the headstones.

Question 2K. [Rule ID #60] *If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.*

- Agree.
- Agree.
- Good rule.
- Leave rule as is.
- Some of the trees he's seen that have taken over the headstones ... you have to do something with the tree or the marker that is supposed to be there. A tree, if it does damage to the headstone, needs to be adjusted and possibly moved to a space with no graves. It should not be a place for families to plant trees; trees have to be maintained. If they are just put in haphazardly, it can encroach on someone's gravesite. They do not want tree limbs on their gravesite.
- Again, not clear, where can they plant a tree or a shrub? You can do some stuff, but it better stay in your space. The older sites are more than 40 inches. Some people may have purchased more space to bury loved ones and put a bench and shrubs.
- I agree.

Question 2L. [Rule ID #66 & 67] *Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term 'care' shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.*

- In favor of as written.
- Not worded well – there is a double negative. What does care mean? Needs to be completely reworded.
- Agree.
- This is supposed to mean that the cemetery workers will not do work on an individual gravesite. Trying to say, once we see the gravesite and put up the headstone, the City is not responsible to do anything on that gravesite. Once the person is buried, the City is not going to do any maintenance, repair, or curbing, etc. Not going to put in flowers, shrubs, or anything with a grave once someone is buried there. He believes that is the intent. Just say “Cemetery employees are not going to perform any....on and gravesite or space.” However, now that he's said that, there is a concrete foundation that is placed under each headstone. Within the last 30 days, a piece of cemetery equipment cracked the foundation on a headstone in his area. Also chipped a headstone. Looks like it may have been a riding lawnmower. Pushed it over enough to crack the foundation, so the headstone is leaning to one side. There is a piece of green paint in that corner where it was hit. It happened in the last week. He was out there for an unveiling. He went back and took pictures and discussed with the Cemetery Manager, who said they would fix it. They are going to do special care/maintenance on that one because they broke it. Maybe add “unless directed by the cemetery superintendent.”

- Agree, but Cemetery Manager told her they would help take care of a bush she had in a pot in her area.
- Leave rule as is.
- I agree.
- That should be something that the workers should be told when they begin working there. Some people do stuff for money and don't report it. That is something that the workers can be told. Nothing other than normal maintenance. There should be something that the attendants should be able to get ahead of. If no one is doing it, someone needs to do it.

Question 3. Do you have input on a rule not included in this survey or would you like to suggest a new rule?

- No further rules

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- [Rule ID #24] *The City of Austin shall have the right to establish a charge and time of payment for each interment and disinterment.* City is charging people extra \$350 if they don't give the City 12 working hours notice of burial. I think this wrong.
- [Rule ID#28] *All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.* State law says that city is responsible for straightening memorial stones (Tx Health and Safety Code 713.011 – municipalities responsibilities for cemeteries).
- Main concern, aside from aesthetics, is leveling and straightening of the stones (not the owner's responsibility, it is the city's responsibility). Poor condition of stone (leaning, unsupported) is a bigger issue than the ornamentation with dilapidated materials.
- The 2008 policy of semi-annual removal of dilapidated items worked fine. Put out signs to notify people. Twice a year removal of dilapidated items. (e.g., no stuffed animals, etc.) Wrong that the city has not cleaned up dilapidated items since last fall. City already has the right to do so. Nothing that can deteriorate should be left (stuffed animals, ball caps). Should be able to place non-dilapidated items anywhere on your plot.
- Last year Cemetery Manager announced that he would enforce rules – sweep everything off the cemetery. Wrong to sweep cemetery clear of everything. City does not understand the emotionalism and what cemeteries mean to people. They are overlooking this.
- City doesn't realize that the plot owners should have more weight than just regular members of the public. The stakeholders are the plot owners. Influence should be weighted toward plot owners (as compared to other stakeholders).
- City should establish a subcommittee of the Parks Board (maybe not a good idea) or its own Board for Cemeteries to get public input. Need to establish a citizen's board for cemeteries (primarily plot owners). City has people they could be talking to on policy changes but they don't do it.
- City should not have such a heavy hand on citizens that are trying their best to make the cemeteries better. City needs to understand the sensitivity and emotionalism of the cemeteries.

- Scrap the rules and start from scratch. These rules were originated a long time ago. Cemetery manager added to them without public comment.
- Should not have put up that fence around the construction site without public comment.
- Too much turnover at City. Every time someone new came in, we would have to start over regarding rules, maintenance, upkeep, encroachment.
- We chose section 6 in march of 2006 when we had a grandson, still born, full term. his ashes are buried there. he was joined 2 years later by the ashes of our beloved daughter-in-law. This spring we buried the ashes of our dear mother in our garden plot. We have enough room in our 'garden' for our entire family. We chose section 6 in Austin Memorial Park because of its heartfelt eclectic nature. There is such love and personality and deep connection shown in this section (and other areas but perhaps to a lesser degree). I hope that these few photographs will show what we so appreciate in this area. We often experience families visiting their loved ones, sitting on a bench and visiting and drawing other visitors to them because of the nature of the memorials. We love strolling through the area and 'reading' the gifts left on individual plots. Enjoying so much what families leave to manifest their love. I can't imagine this being a sterile 'by the rules' area. Horrible to even contemplate. We look forward to continued dialog and a sensitive outcome that allows families individual expression.
- Have family members in Section 6. This section is unique and has a lot of benches, chimes, etc. This is a critical part of Austin Memorial Park. They want diversity to express their thoughts in a unique way. Express uniqueness of the individuals and develop a community feeling. Has a real personal quality to it. Does not have a problem with City taking the dilapidated/dangerous items. People have chosen the center section for what it is, don't take away the feeling. Wants to keep the unique feeling, the community feeling. The uniqueness facilitates communication between people. Want the rules to allow this feeling to continue.
- Need to take into account the uniqueness of the different cemeteries. Totally against a blanket set of rules that apply across all cemeteries in the city. There needs to be two layers: a blanket set of general rules and a specific set to each cemetery to keep the different cemeteries unique.
- Need someone with experience in rules development to be involved in this process to eliminate the ambiguity of words.
- Because there is a pre-existing pattern established by the fact that many of these things have been allowed over time and because of this, the cemeteries should grandfather in ornamentations already in place providing there is no safety or health concern.
- There should be some mechanism in place for the public to revisit these issues from time to time and potentially revise based on responses at that time. The bottom line is this is a graveyard and things change over time.
- Went to a funeral there and saw the news report about upset people. Saw opening gate, reminded her of a park in San Francisco. Charming and beautiful. Sees some of the points that are being made. Does not want some type of military type feel to the cemetery. Don't willy-nilly remove items. Did notice that some items are excessive. Love the idea of wind chimes in trees. Benches okay. Remove dilapidated items, i.e. plastic bench cushions. Understand need for cleaning up some items. Encourage us not to destroy the ambiance. Make sure dilapidated items are removed. Own judgment can be used, not a committee.
- The main thing: the City has done a tremendous job of making Austin Memorial Park look much better. 100 percent to whoever is taking care of it.

- Concerned about amount of objects that families put out there that seems to be in excess. Other cemeteries in Austin allow only one urn.
- There needs to be a limit for what is put on grave for aesthetics and maintenance.
- No specific problem with current rules, they just need to be enforced
- Benches: allow for some benches for those that can't stand long period of times. Keep that the cemetery can approve the benches, as long as they are good quality.
- City has every right to enforce what needs to be done.
- Some people dug into Plummer's Graveyard and disturbed the grave, that shouldn't have been done. They should have found out beforehand. They shouldn't have been digging up remains. No burying on top of other graves, that's not good. Thinks existing gravesites that are not marked, a marker should be put in place. If the graves are scattered, that whole section should be marked off by some means, a concrete border so that people know. Have a plaque with the people that are buried in that section "This section dates from....and holds the remains of..." That way no one will go in and dig by mistake.
- Question he has: wondering if they can place a bench. Suggest space for a bench to be allowed at if you own at least three adjacent plots or more.
- Possibly implement a board or committee that would approve or disapprove with consent.
- Somebody needs to do something with soil stabilization ... a shared expense.
- City should have some nice metal benches placed throughout the cemetery; i.e., park benches and trash containers. No proper place for trash right now.
- This is hurtful: What is severely lacking is another document stating some rules/regulations /guidelines that govern the roles/responsibilities/action/limitations on the part of the cemetery maintenance staff. They put down the sod, don't water it, then it dies. For several months, it's just dirt. He sees footprints and tire tracks that go right through the grave. At least have some respect for the families of the loved ones that come out to the cemeteries. They don't want to see a tire track over a loved one's face. Cemetery staff needs training, or refresher training, to be more sensitive that they are working in a gravesite/cemetery to maintain the serene setting. Should walk across grave. Once grass is in, it's different – not as obvious.
- Have a funeral, very solemn, 10–50 people there that are mourning. 200 yards away within easy site, there is the truck or earth loader, or equipment just sitting there waiting to swoop in to fill in the dirt and get out of there. A few weeks ago he could still hear the engines going. They shouldn't be there; they should be somewhere else. He would call or stop by to let them know when it's done/appropriate to finish the work. Need to be out of sight of mourners.
- Once sod is down, who is responsible for maintaining it? He's 70 and he's the one that keeps going out there to keep it looking decent.
- The sinkholes; casket gets buried, dirt goes on top and fill in the holes, wait a few months to let dirt settle. At least a few times a year, a sink hole is created. A few times he could put his arm in past his elbow. Maintenance people go by there and don't do anything – should at least report it. They are creating a situation that could get worse – leaving things exposed like that. Once it's pointed out to the cemetery manager, it's usually fixed within 24 hours, but they should be required to fix them before people have to complain. Define perpetual care vs. special care.

- Perpetual care has a different meaning up north than it does in Texas; seems to him that perpetual care [here] is just cutting the grass.
- Another issue is, what are the City's responsibilities. Are they responsible for weed control? Make the appearance of the Cemetery look a little bit better. Last year and the year before, he put down weed and seed himself. He shouldn't have to do that. Define what the City is supposed to do. Would make him a lot happier to follow rules if he knew what the City is going to do. Would help the relationship with the citizenry.
- Some of this is the rules that people are unhappy with. Another whole issue that bugs people are when you go to the Cemeteries and a lot of the headstones are tilted and cockeyed. It doesn't look like a respectful, well maintained Cemetery – it doesn't look like a nice Cemetery. Who is responsible for them? Who makes those corrections? Manager's answer is that they are not responsible? But can't say who is responsible? Half of these deceased people have been dead for a long time.
- Who is going to be looking over the City's/Cemetery Manager's shoulder to make sure things are getting done? Who makes sure the best interest is being served? Always want to make sure that one level of management [???]. He doesn't agree with most of the feedback he's heard in the media so far.
- [The interview script] made a good statement at the beginning, but then we [SMITH] have 12 rules that we picked out and the last line. He thinks we are doing ourselves a disservice; every time something happens, we make up a new rule that may conflict and [we] get too specific so that it doesn't really cover anything. He thinks the rules are too specific. There are too many, why do we need so many rules that say the same thing? He feels that we are doing the City a disservice
- All of the rules are poorly worded, not easily understood, and not enforced. What we are trying to do, is to appease the uprising of the general public.
- She would like her rules suggestions to be formally submitted through our process
- She initially put together her rule changes to get something on the table due to the six-month timeline from City Council
- Shared a family example: Niece died suddenly and was buried in Memorial Park. Sister-in-law visited frequently, twice noticed tire tracks on the gravesite, called Memorial Park twice in 2006 asking if she could put a memorial garden on gravesite, nobody ever responded. Suddenly last year, the cemeteries team wanted to enforce rules and make her remove the garden, but they never said anything before then.
- The cemetery team wanted to send out forms with boxes showing why gravesites aren't compliant and you only have 30 days to remove/fix.
- She understands the need to maintain.
- She likened it to an HOA. If HOA rules say your fence can't be over 6 feet, but people start putting 8 feet fences, and HOA doesn't say anything, they can't legally go back and change it. She thinks they can't enforce the rules now under law because they've allowed this to go on for so long without saying anything.
- I would very much like to see in the Rules and Regulations a section that states emphatically that there shall not be any encroachment on cemetery property by any entity wanting to open the cemetery up to all sorts of problems by putting in any type of walking, jogging, biking trails. There have been attempts to do this and every once in a while there is an attempt to do an "end run" and accomplish such a feat. There is state law backing the prohibition of

such endeavors yet they still keep trying. Once and for all, there needs to be a statement and notification that this type of desecration of the cemetery will not be tolerated. They need to cease and desist.

- I think the name of the cemetery needs to be changed as Austin Memorial PARK Cemetery is a misnomer. A park by definition is a large public green area in a town used for recreation. The cemetery is not a recreational area but a sacred and designated area to bury the dead. Do you have a suggestion about how to go about changing the name to AUSTIN MEMORIAL CEMETERY?
- [In the suggested rules draft that the respondent provided separately] I tried to preserve the long-established tradition of individualizing grave sites, as well as balance the right of certain religious groups to practice their traditions and the need for families to mourn and memorialize their loved ones with PARD's need to maintain the cemeteries. To that end, I have proposed limits on the type, size, weight, number, and materials of items to be placed within a space or on a grave. Certain items, such as items with political statements or offensive language, non-weather resistant items, and bird baths and bird feeders, are barred. The regulations make it clear that the space holder is responsible for maintaining any items or plantings within the space. However, the regulations also provide a simple process that would allow PARD to remove noncompliant items. I also clarify that PARD has the right to remove any dangerous or neglected materials without notification. Although the regulations grandfather in existing grave site memorials within their allotted space, the regulations also encourage PARD to work with space holders to bring such sites within compliance. I have proposed specific regulations regarding plantings, limiting the type and sizes of plants that may be used within a space. There are also several alternate proposals regarding benches. Finally, there are provisions requiring the publication and distribution of the regulations to avoid future conflicts.

CONCLUSION

As in the Cemetery Master Plan public engagement process, which included stakeholder interviews, including several with the same people who were interviewed by the SMITH team, public opinions varied widely regarding whether and to what extent ornamentation and/or plantings should be allowed on graves. This process provided additional data, including helpful, thoughtful suggestions from stakeholders who clearly had invested a great deal of time considering these issues, but shed no new light on a path forward.

Austin Cemetery Master Plan

Stakeholder Interviews

Steph McDougal
McDoux Preservation LLC
May–June 2014

As part of the Austin Cemetery Master Plan public engagement effort, project team member Steph McDougal conducted 25 telephone interviews with community stakeholders to solicit input, gather feedback, and identify top-level issues that can be further explored through the online survey tool, *Speak Up Austin*.

Methodology

Sixty people were identified as potential interviewees. Kim McKnight, cultural resources specialist with the Parks and Recreation Department and the project coordinator, provided an initial list of 35 stakeholders. Ms. McKnight identified 25 of the 35 as especially high-priority interviewees. An additional 25 people were added to that list, primarily because they emailed Ms. McKnight asking to be included in the interviews or were recommended by other interviewees.

Stakeholders were identified or recruited from the following general categories:

- People whose loved ones are buried at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery or Evergreen Cemetery
- Descendants of people buried at Oakwood Cemetery
- Members of Save Austin's Cemeteries
- Community leaders and activists
- Funeral home directors
- Religious leaders
- Members or officers of neighborhood associations located near the cemeteries
- People who attended Cemetery Master Plan meetings and volunteered to be interviewed
- Preservation specialists, archaeologists, cemetery conservators
- Members of local and county historical or landmark commissions
- Genealogists
- Representatives of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas

A list of respondents is provided at the end of this report. All interviewees will remain anonymous. Comments have been lightly edited to correct spelling and punctuation, for easier reading, and to delete identifying information.

Ms. McDougal initially contacted each person via email if an email address was provided. Any email addresses that returned an undeliverable response were researched, corrected, and re-sent; those addresses were also reported to Ms. McKnight. A follow-up email was sent about a week later to anyone who had not originally responded. Telephone calls were also made, both to those people for whom email addresses were not provided and to follow up with people who did not respond to email invitations. In all, Ms. McDougal invited 55 people to participate; one person declined, and 29 did not respond.

Ms. McDougal scheduled an interview appointment with those who did agree to participate. Most interviews lasted around 30 minutes. Some took only about 15 minutes, while one gentleman spoke for two hours. Ms. McDougal transcribed the interviewees’ comments in real time and asked follow-up questions to ensure that she understood their responses. In some cases, when interviewees had questions about goals of the master plan or made comments indicating a misunderstanding (for example, about which cemeteries were City-owned and subject to PARD oversight), Ms. McDougal provided information to participants.

At the end of the interview, Ms. McDougal asked if the participant could recommend anyone else to whom she should speak. Most respondents either identified specific individuals or recommended funeral home directors, members of neighborhood associations located near the cemeteries, or nearby churches or synagogues.

The City’s Public Information Office requested that Ms. McDougal ask each participant if they would be willing to share their ZIP Code and race or ethnicity, in an effort to ensure that the project outreach efforts represent the diversity of the Austin community. Of the 25 people interviewed, 19 provided their ZIP Code and 20 identified their race or ethnicity.

Racial/Ethnic Identification (per interviewee)	% of Austin Population (2010 Census)	Identified as Potential Stakeholders	Invited to Participate (% of invitees)	Accepted Invitation (% of those accepting)	Did Not Respond	Declined Invitation
African American	8%	10	10 (17%)	2 (8%)	8	0
Asian American	6%	5	5 (8.5%)	0 (0%)	5	0
Mexican American/Latino/Latina/Hispanic	35%	9	9 (15.5%)	3 (12%)	6	0
White/Anglo/Caucasian (“not Hispanic”)	48%	43	35 (59%)	20 (80%)	15	1
TOTAL	97% (3% two or more races)	67	59	25	34	1

ZIP Codes represented include 78702 (2); 78704 (2); 78705;78730; 78731 (2); 78736; 78741; 78745 (2); 78747; 78751; 78753; 78758 (3).

Ms. McDougal read the following introductory script at the beginning of each interview.

Hi, my name is Steph McDougal. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. Is this still a good time for us to talk?

I have 8 questions for you today, and I expect that this interview will take about 30 minutes, depending on how much you have to say. Does that sound all right?

I have just a few things to cover before we begin.

First, as I've already mentioned, I'm part of the project team helping the City of Austin to develop its Cemeteries Master Plan. My role includes community engagement and gathering public input and feedback, so I'll be the person running the public meetings, creating the project website, and managing other outreach and information gathering activities. It's my job to make sure that the people of Austin have multiple opportunities to make their voices and opinions heard.

Now, I know that, as the City was preparing for the master planning process over the past few years, there were working groups, interviews, surveys, public meetings, et cetera. You may have participated in some or all of those activities, and I want to assure you that the feedback from those past activities has been documented and shared with the project team.

In this interview, I'd like to hear your opinions about the master plan process itself and the community's interaction with the cemeteries going forward. Does that make sense?

Second, I want to let you know that your responses today will be anonymous. The City provided me with a list of about 50 potential interviewees, but I'm only talking to 25 of you, and I'm the only person who will know who I've talked to. Your responses will be compiled and aggregated in my report, and no one will be personally identified. So please feel free to be completely candid.

Finally, we'll take the top issues mentioned by you and the other stakeholders being interviewed, and we'll use that information as the basis for surveying the greater Austin community and gathering what I hope will be broad input to the master plan.

All right. Do you have any questions before we begin?

The interview questions and answers are provided on the following pages.

The comments provided for each answer, below, have been edited for brevity.

Question 1: In your opinion, when we get to the end of the development of this project and deliver the finished master plan to the City of Austin, how will you know whether the master planning process has been a success?

Most of the answers to this question fell into three categories: the master plan must be implemented; it must incorporate the input received from citizens; and it must result in an improvement to the appearance of the cemeteries.

Implementation

- It will be a success if the City will take action on the master plan and fund the recommendations in it.
- The master plan is only as useful as it is implemented. City Council has to let the cemetery overseer do his job and not make it political.
- The city planning projects that I've been involved in have been very thorough, but not all of them have been implemented.
- The master plan is not an end because I'm familiar with other city master plan projects; they are ongoing. PARD makes their presentation to Council and Council accepts the plan, but sometimes they only go forward with only portions of the plan, like the development of Town Lake. Sometimes Council has to make bonds and get citizens to approve them and then implement things.
- PARD has to pick up the master plan and present it to Council. This is a continual process with many steps to implementation. A master plan is just guidelines or suggestions; you're not making policies or ordinances or passing laws. I don't think a master plan should contain minutiae. I know some people feel left out if all of their issues aren't addressed in the master plan and its intent (e.g., the Holly Shores project), but we don't need to please everybody.
- The short answer is, how easily will the city incorporate it? How easy is it to adopt? A lot of master plans have high ideals and lengthy goals, but you can't achieve any of them. The master plan must be laid out in short steps that are attainable.
- Many master plan items require long term planning. Some things can be done fairly quickly or with temporary fixes, although that's (quick fixes) how we got where we are today.
- I'll know it's successful if it actually has implementation attached to it – either city ordinances, city policy changes, or funding. It's not about the planning itself. Austin plans itself to death. We have had some really bad consultant-led processes.
- It will be a success when I see remedies either in place or plans for remedies at all five city cemeteries. I also would like to see specific recommendations and additional plans for revisiting the master plan process on a five- or 10-year basis, because as we know, things change. Once the plan is done, I look forward to being continuously participating in the evolution of the plan.
- A lot of the time, the city wants to create master plans, but they don't implement the repairs and maintenance.
- If the city actually applies what the master plan recommends, as opposed it just sits on the shelf, which is what always happens.

Citizen Feedback

- Transparency and a continual flow of information is important. My experience has shown that the stakeholder input meetings, and the online surveys from stakeholders and the feedback that we get, keeps everyone on top of the progress, no matter what the topic is. We're getting a whole lot of information back from the folks in charge. We hear what the consensus is.
- The main measure of success is that it reflects the stakeholders and the feedback that was given; that it is accepted by the public; and that it reflects the values of Austin as a whole and doesn't contradict *Imagine Austin* and other accepted plans.
- It will be a success if clear takeaways and action items come out of the process, which directly address concerns that were brought up by residents, and if there is a timeline for each of action items – a target schedule, plus an estimate of the amount of time that it will take to reach those solutions.
- The City should continue to engage the community and get some Memoranda of Agreement with groups like Save Austin's Cemeteries.
- I will know if it's been a success if people go to a public hearing and they're satisfied that they've had an opportunity to have input.
- After you get feedback on the draft master plan, make the revised draft available to the public before it goes to the other bodies so that people can see what has happened to their feedback and if you got their feedback right.
- I go to so many meetings and processes where stakeholders were led down the path to the answer the City wanted. If the process was equitable ... but you're only getting feedback from the city staff and the people who sent up the process. Get the neighborhood and the stakeholders talking about the results that were provided in the plan to City Council or to the Commission. People need to give feedback on the validity of what's being shown. If we know that's going to happen at the end, that might affect how you get that feedback.
- I would measure it by looking at all the input that you have received from the public and seeing if most of those concerns had been addressed or at least acknowledged. And it has to be implemented.
- There would be a mechanism in the system where stakeholders when the information is presented to staff or council or whatever and they give feedback on the effectiveness of the process. If it's not effective and the stakeholders are not being heard and you're just checking a box, you'd be getting that information there because people would tell you.
- I've been in these meetings and have come out really frustrated because the answer was predetermined. We know when that's going on. We need to have a voice at the end of the process to say if that happened.
- I'll know it was a success by the acceptance that you'll have from people – not the majority of people who all come to the meetings and have the same point of view, but by everybody. No one is going to get everything that they want, but everyone should get something. There has to be diversity.
- The plan has to deal with all of the concerns that people had before.
- If the community voiced their opinion about things that need to be Improved and if those are mostly done, then you know you did your job. You need to make sure you

get a lot of opinions and that the groups are not all aligned. You need to go out to where people utilize areas. You can't just say you'll have one meeting at that one place; you need to go to where the people are, instead of having people come to you, like at a festival or something else. People do want to talk to you and have input. The people who have limited resources are using these.

Visible Improvements

- Oakwood will be more attractive.
- I do hope there will be some arrangement made for the resetting of headstones. Right now, the family is responsible for that and they are just not around. I think it would be very easy to do a fundraiser and put money for that into the cemetery fund.
- I want to see how the process works and what the city will do to maintain those sites – like cutting the grass, fixing the markers, etc. There is physical evidence of the lack of maintenance and if that's dealt with, that will be the most obvious sign of success.
- My main concern is maintenance. The City has done a wonderful job of getting some things cleaned up, but I don't know what their overall plan is or funding for staffing. If they contract out the maintenance again, it must have more oversight than before.
- It all comes back to who takes care of the cemeteries. Because we have to follow the rules that the cemeteries have of what is proper there and what is not. Of course that's under discussion now. And when that's decided on that needs to be followed.

Question 2: In an ideal world, five years from now, when you spend time in one of Austin's historic cemeteries, what would you like to see?

Most respondents were very specific about their concerns and their vision for the cemeteries. The comments have been organized below into eight categories: general maintenance comments; the need for all five cemeteries to be treated equally; a desire for public-friendly spaces within the cemeteries that provide areas for quiet reflection; requests for the restoration or preservation of buildings, grave markers, and monuments; comments about cemetery trees and turf; comments about perimeter fencing around the cemeteries; requests for wayfinding and signage/information; comments for and against cultural activities and programming in the cemeteries; and statements for and against gravesite ornamentation regulations.

Maintenance (General)

- Primarily I would like to see less disrepair.
- We need ongoing maintenance of the landscaping and the cemetery markers.
- The City cannot, unless they're willing to spend a ton of money, maintain Oakwood to be like the State Cemetery. We're never going to have green lawns and stuff like that.
- I've still heard complaints about [maintenance at] Austin Memorial Park Cemetery as recently as a couple of weeks ago.
- In cases where old families might have moved on and people might have lost connections to their family plots, it would be nice if descendants could be located to help with the conservation and funding and maybe use the plots themselves.

- Some graves are not maintained; perhaps there aren't any family members nearby to maintain them, and that makes me sad in a place that's already sad. You need to be able to walk away from a cemetery with some sense of peace.
- I want to see better landscaping, mowing, basic maintenance and cleanup, and making sure that the guys who have the contracts to do the work actually do their job.
- I want to see healthy landscaping, headstones that are in good shape, perimeter fencing (if there is any) is in good shape, signage regarding either the folks interred there or the history of the cemetery, and the buildings in good shape. I'd also like to see some sort of obvious vandalism prevention, such as lighting, locked gates, etc.

Equitable Treatment

- Bethany, Plummers, and Evergreen Cemeteries should all be treated equally to Oakwood Cemetery and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.
- The main thing is that they all be treated the same. They should all be watered the same, have the same upkeep, and be treated with the same respect. One shouldn't stand out from the others. I have people in different cemeteries and those people get treated differently. That's not how it should be.
- I'd like to see them all equally look the same in terms of treatment, maintenance, landscaping, etc.
- I would like to see them maintained on an equal basis.
- I would really like to see all of the cemeteries in as good a shape as Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. There are some problems at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and all the cemeteries. I would like to have more emphasis as money allows in the other cemeteries.

Creation of Reflective Spaces

- I would like to see the City put money into creating treescapes and places for people to have seats, where they can visit with their loved ones.
- I would like to be able to access them more easily. I spend no time there now and that's mainly because I find them alienating and unwelcoming. I would like to feel welcome, whether I have ancestors there or not. I would like to see it be more of a welcoming public space where I'm welcome to move through the cemetery, even if I'm just spending time there as a visitor. I don't want to be barricaded by fences or feel like it's inappropriate that I'm sitting on the lawn.
- I would base it on cemeteries that I grew up near and visited as a child [in another state]. They were a good balance between pleasant relaxing places and places with historic information. Places to sit down or to walk, green spaces with tours and plaques and good information about the people there.
- Cemeteries can serve as an important community resource. They should be meditative places. Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is used as a park in addition to being a cemetery. People jog and walk there, and bicycle, and the cemeteries can serve multiple purposes. They are valuable resources. I'm so glad that the City acquired these spaces because they provide a unique area where the community can interact in different ways. I've met so many people in Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, like the couple whose son is buried near our people, and we see them almost every evening and I've started going out just to see him occasionally, to connect with him

and learn about him and come together. I think a cemetery does that. It helps us feel like we have a connection because we share that loss.

Buildings and Markers/Monuments

- I would like to see the chapel at Oakwood Cemetery being restored.
- I want to see headstones set up properly.
- I would like to see [attention paid to] old tombstones, which have various conservation issues and are not all at right angles, whether by City funding or a combination of City and nonprofit funding, I would like to see a mechanism for the repair of tombstones.
- I'd like to see the headstones properly leveled.
- I think that where they take out dead trees, if there is a known area that is vacant, we could install columbariums. That would increase the income at some of these cemeteries, which would increase the perpetual care fund.
- We need to save those fragile monuments that are at risk. We're losing a lot of that stuff over time. Footstones also tend to get displaced and moved around. A cemetery in Sacramento that's about the same age as Oakwood has an Adopt-A-Plot program for "abandoned" plots, which includes training in cleaning headstones, planting approved vegetation, etc. However, some people are concerned that a program like that might start changing the historic fabric of the site and morph it into something it never was.
- Basic maintenance includes putting up markers that have fallen down.
- Headstones should be up straight.
- The buildings should be rehabbed and in use by the public – just in general, not only for specific uses. Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery have such great buildings, and they just sit empty and deteriorate.
- We need to fix overturned and knocked-off headstones.
- I really look forward to seeing the buildings at the cemeteries in good shape.

Trees and Turf

- I would like to see it as pristine as possible, with grass and trees growing well.
- Mainly I want to see greener grass.
- I don't care much about landscaping if nobody is going to be there to see it.
- We need trees that are being taken care of through watering; I want to see good health for the existing landscaping.
- I would like to see cemeteries where trees of any age are maintained and taken care of, where they are mulched and watered when there is insufficient rainfall. At least 400–500 trees have died in the last five years.
- I am constantly fielding complaints from Temple Beth Israel congregants because that cemetery does not meet the standards of a Jewish section of a cemetery. Not only does it have to be separated by a physical boundary, but ideally, out of respect for people who cannot thank us or give anything back, which for us is a high calling, we'd like to improve the condition of the grounds. It's not park-like in appearance. However, since we're good citizens about water usage, we don't feel like watering would be a challenge. We could do that responsibly.

- I want to see much cleaner landscaping. Most of the stakeholders have issues tied to a specific cemetery, and I'm concerned with Evergreen Cemetery. I want to see consistent landscaping, no fire ants, and no burrs.
- I'd like to see that care is being taken of the landscaping.
- I don't expect us to have street lamps.
- I would like to see better landscaping; i.e., trees that are tended to and that are not dying or falling over.
- I don't agree with replanting trees, although you have to have something in there because it's so hot in the summer. Some people think if you have a tree that died, we have to replant it.
- The dead trees need to be removed, because they're such a hazard. I think there needs to be a thorough landscape investigation. The city did a whole clean-out-the-cemeteries thing in the 1970s and they might have done a lot of planting then. I'd like to see what was historically there but I don't think we know what that was.
- I know the last two years have been really hard on the trees and some have died and more may die. I hope that there will be a program for maintenance and selective new planting.
- The bushes should be taken care of.
- Grass or sod should be put on the graves and taken care of. I know of several burials this year where, even after five or six months, sometimes there's no sod put down yet. I don't know what the rules are, but where sod has been put down, it never gets watered and it dies or goes dormant. So instead of having a 40" by 8' area of dirt, it's an area of grass that has turned brown and looks dead – maybe *is* dead. It's more upsetting to see that, the dead grass, than for it to not be there at all. It just goes back to the management and operation of the cemetery; they just don't seem to care. The quiet peaceful reflective environment I want also includes trimming trees and keeping things well-groomed. In some cases, I've put down fertilizer for the trees and weed-and-seed to get the grass to grow and get rid of the cruddy weeds and stuff.
- I would like to see new trees planted in a manner that's the way people want – near their graves, not just at the perimeter. We want long-lived shade trees, not just little crape myrtles just because that's easier for maintenance. I go to the cemeteries a lot and I observe what people go through, and I have my share of losses, so I would like to see a place that's taken care of, that looks like someone cares for the place and that shows they respect the people who are buried there and who come to see the people who they love who have died.
- Graves should be covered with grass that is watered.

Fencing

- Appropriate boundary fencing is needed, both to keep the cemetery secure and also to give it the respect that it deserves. Right now, it's wire and barbed wire fencing, and that's not appropriate. That should be something like nice and aesthetically pleasing, with gates that can be secured as well.
- We need something nicer than chain link fencing. It's too easy to destroy and gain access, and it has a tendency to look like prison or vacant lot.
- I really want additional access points in the fencing. I understand that there are crime concerns, but just having more access points (like at the corners) would be better.

Most of the entrances are mid-block, and those make you have to walk another 200 feet along a car-lined street. So something as simple as access points where they make sense about how people get to the cemeteries, not just in vehicles but on the bus or on foot. Look at how you can get in without feeling like you're being herded to an entrance.

- I don't care if the fence is green or whatever color, but I'd like to see the barbed wire taken off the top. That makes it not very inviting. With that said, fences are a waste of money at this point. We need the money for more pressing problems.

Wayfinding and Signage/Information

- I would like to see better navigation for the public. Having spent a lot of time in these places, I can navigate them pretty easily, but it's hard for people who are only there a couple of times a year. We need section signs and kiosks and maps on site.
- I would like to see an actual entry gate that includes the cemetery's name, as well as usable convenient restroom facilities and perhaps an information kiosk of some sort. That should be consistent for all of the cemeteries. We also need accessible information about who is buried in the cemeteries, like an historical archive. QR code technology cannot be the only option. Coupled with other kinds of information, including a phone number or some sort of registry, it would be okay. This is especially important for unmarked graves. Some families may not be able to afford a really nice gravestone, so the only markers that go up are the very temporary markers that come from the funeral homes. I think it would be nice if in the fee for the burial there is a minor fee for something a little more long-term. Maybe not a memorial stone, but even if there was just a small flat marker, that would be helpful. Families that can put up memorial markers do so, but some families just can't or don't know how. And once the funeral home markers get knocked down or run over or whatever, we've got unmarked graves.
- Technology with smartphones and things like that would be great. People should be able to go to a website like the Texas State Cemetery's search engine where you can look up someone and find their grave. Or they should be able to call someone, even on a Sunday. A lot of people that I see in the cemeteries are older and they aren't up on technology. We have to have ways for people to access this information no matter what their access to that information is. It's especially hard if they have had to come so far and not find what they want. We need a docent program too, where someone can be on site and can provide this information and help people.

Activities and Programming

- My favorite cemetery is Oakwood Cemetery because it's so historical, with so many famous people and great stories. I'd like to see them doing more with it. I'd like it if people knew more about it. They take it for granted.
- My specific area of interest is Oakwood Cemetery. I would like to see it utilized more as a destination point for any number of cultural and educational activities. I would like to see Oakwood as a tool for the city to hold events and celebrations. I would like to see it utilized as what it is and can be. I understand that Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is active, but Oakwood is more of a cultural place. PARD has any number of museums under their direction, and they could utilize Oakwood as a museum.

- I would love to see interpretive brochures on the older cemeteries about who is buried there and what their significance was and if there are especially interesting gravestones from an artistic point of view. I'd like to see a series of tours of the graveyard, the sort of historic tourism like they do well in other cities that is respectful but can make the cemetery a destination for more than just funerals.
- [The cemeteries could be] tourist attractions. Fulfill the mandates of the memorial park architectures on which some of them are based. Have a public education component with school tours.
- Ideally, it would be great to have our cemeteries be where tourists go and learn about Austin's history.
- Cemeteries can be cool public spaces with multi-function uses. That's good for the people who have families buried there because other people have a way to enjoy the space that's not disrespectful. Plays can be performed there, for example.
- I've run into other cemeteries in Austin that I biked past, where there really aren't a lot of signs. There were a lot of 19th century graves, so I thought it was odd that it wasn't announced more specifically. I would like to know that sites as old as that cemetery are there. I know it's complicated, because Austin is growing and there's so much building. I don't know what the policy is for graveyards, if you ever move a plot or whatever. It was exciting – my experience with cemeteries in the past never included stumbling upon a cemetery like I do now.
- PARD should make a distinction between the cemeteries and use them for different purposes. I think there is too much emphasis is on what's going on at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery with rules and regulations. They're the ones who handle the administrative and burials. They're concerned with the staffing and financial side, and that's geared to their needs, but Oakwood is left out of that. There needs to be a separation of administration needs for the different cemeteries based on how active they are and how they're being used. We should look at Oakwood differently from AMP.
- There should be a cultural director like they have for museums or cultural centers. I was very disappointed when, a couple of years ago, a young man made a presentation to the Mexican American Cultural Center board and wanted to do a Day of the Dead celebration at Oakwood. He was very ambitious and the presentation was exciting, involving dance, music, food trailers, and I thought that was great. I was disappointed that he didn't get approval. You could have a great celebration of the different cultures and how different cultures celebrate. Instead, it's all about "Let's not offend the white people; let's not offend the white Protestant majority!"
- I would like to see cultural events in Oakwood every month. Not just tours but also celebrations, and all different cultural communities. Why can't there be a Chinese New Year celebration?
- There's that main street that cuts right through Oakwood which could be used for all sorts of things. The Heritage Society [now Preservation Austin] did something at Oakwood last year which did really well. I would like to bring the cemeteries alive. Lots of cities embrace their cemeteries in a lot of ways. It's a burden for the cemeteries division because that's not what they are staffed to do.
- The cemetery culture right now is that you drive there, park, visit, and drive away. I like the idea that, especially if you have ancestors there, that you could make a visit

there part of another trip. Like it would be more of a part of your normal life, more integrated with your life.

- We (community groups) need to be able to raise money and pick projects and work on those projects.
- Some cemeteries have tours, activities, even theater. SAC put on Macbeth at the Masonic cemetery for several weekends in a row, and that was very popular. Even at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, if people can come out and realize that the cemetery is more than a collection of bones and stones – that there are people at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery who are interesting, like the Texas Ranger who captured Bonnie and Clyde, or [author] James Michener – getting people to engage is going to be important in order to get funding through Capital Improvement Projects and bond issue items. The master plan has to include using the cemeteries and making people aware of them.
- Evergreen is going to be sold out within a couple of years. Once it's no longer being used actively for burials, it should be a cultural place.
- I got involved because I really like the monuments and the artistry and the epitaphs, the life stories that really makes cemeteries interesting to me. Being able to preserve those old monuments and make it so people can come out and do activities and programming, that's important.
- People like to go there for reflection, for grieving and to visit loved ones. It needs to be quiet and respect their losses. It cannot be a park. A community garden or trail would be disrespectful. There should be no distractions with noise and other activities. There's also the aspect of the historical and people could go from one grave to another but in a respectful manner, but not like a circus atmosphere. I think we can make a lot of improvements in five years because it's mostly attitude.
- I continue to see the cemeteries as restful places but also places of activity. It's wonderful to see people in a cemetery, either doing things or walking or driving around and having activities in the cemeteries.

Gravesite Ornamentation

- I think decoration should be minimal. That's my idea of a cemetery.
- The whole business of the families of the deceased, especially those people who add an awful lot of clutter, you need to be respectful of them but there needs to be a better way of recognizing the accomplishments of their forebears.
- The whole atmosphere that's been created at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery between the tilted headstones and whirligigs and balloons and plastic flowers, where it's overdone to some degree, is not conducive to what the environment of a cemetery ought to have.
- I enjoy all the decorations that people put up for holidays, feast days, etc. That adds more color to the cemetery.
- I like the cemetery the way it is right now. We already have more rules and regulations than we need. I see a lot of things there that I would never do; it's too much clutter for me, but I'm perfectly all right if someone else wants to do it. I would hate to see that change.
- I've read some of the comments online that various people have made about the ornamentation and what would be allowed and not allowed. The word I kept seeing

crop up was “sterile”. People were concerned that the cemetery would be different than what it is, if they enforce the regulations and don’t allow people to do things – trying to define what a bench could be made of, and so on. I think it’s just majestic when you go into a military cemetery, when all the gravestones are identical and perfectly aligned and all the grass is trimmed and everything; and for a military cemetery, that’s the way it should look. And other people like the private cemeteries where things are flush with the ground and it’s easy to mow. But that doesn’t appeal to everyone. That’s exactly why we chose Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, because of the variety of memorials. But I know if you set up a group to study something, they have to come up with something or people say you didn’t do your job. So I expect a lot of things are going to change.

- I know that the cemeteries need to be all things to be all people and there are controversial issues including what people can leave by the gravestones, so I’m hoping that that will be dealt with in a fair and systematic sort of way.
- I like the cemetery the way it is. It might be cluttered and some of the people who have Spanish surnames, their gravesites quite often have rocks or stones around them, and they plant flowers and plants there and sometimes they don’t maintain it and it looks trashy after a while, but I don’t think that happens enough that it’s really a problem. That’s part of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery’s charm. I look at the date on the headstone and I can see that it’s been 10 years and they’re just not coming around as often. I find it interesting.
- I had several conversations with the man who managed the cemeteries before the City took it back over. He said that the rules in the rule book weren’t being followed because someone had buried a loved one and put up some kind of memorial, and it wasn’t according to the rules. That person was told that the memorial had to be taken down, so then he went before City Council and they said he didn’t have to take it down. So there you go.
- We chose Austin Memorial Park Cemetery for the diversity that it allows. We own a pretty large number of plots there where my relatives are buried. And it’s so important that there can be a meditative atmosphere and people can express unique things about the people buried there, and it’s a place where people want to go and they can feel comfortable to be there. I enjoy the central area in AMP, walking around and seeing how other people have done unique things to express their individuality. It has a feel of welcoming spirit, where it’s not just a place where bodies or ashes are buried. It’s a place where people can remember and feel connected to their loved ones. It is a place where I can reconnect with my past. We specifically chose Austin Memorial Park Cemetery because of all those things and it feels good when we are out there. We are very committed to the fact that there needs to be a balance. I know there was a plan to prohibit all of those decorations, and that’s wrong, but the City has to be able to keep it clean and remove things that haven’t been taken care of. They can’t allow things to just deteriorate right there. I want an area where expression can be made on an individual basis, but the City doesn’t have to just let things go to pot there. I don’t see any conflict. You don’t have to be able to run a mower over everything. We’ve seen people out videoing Austin Memorial Park Cemetery from other private cemeteries who want to know why people are buying lots there instead of their cemeteries. About six or seven years ago, when it was still managed by a contractor, the Parks Director decided they would remove the benches,

and I went out and photographed that central part and met with the director, and I showed him where the family had placed memorabilia and benches and things on the grave of a young Hispanic Marine. I told him if he forced that family to take that stuff off, he would be on the front page of the *New York Times*. There are some really special things there, and if they adopt across the board rules to get rid of everything, that would be a problem.

- I would like to see the ornamentation cleaned up and more respectful.
- I would like to see an area that looks neat and clean and well groomed and taken care of. The whole cemetery should be an area that allows quiet reflectiveness and is well cared for, a nice peaceful quiet area, both audibly and visually quiet. In other words, I personally don't like driving through the cemetery and seeing the silver balloons and hanging stuff and whirligigs. That's a circus atmosphere and destructive and takes away from the solemnity that a cemetery should be.
- For the places where people attend, like Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, people need to have a positive experience in the cemetery where they feel comfortable, where they are respected, not harassed.
- We need a consistent grave decoration implementation plan.

Question 3: As you may know, our team will be providing the City with very specific recommendations for the care of the five historic cemeteries. One of the project goals is to help the City preserve the historic character of the cemeteries while developing their value as community resources. That includes encouraging people to recognize and connect with the City's heritage, while maintaining the reverence and respect that these sacred spaces require. What do you think about that concept?

Many people interviewed were open to the idea of cemeteries as community resources, as long as that was done in a respectful way and represented the diversity of the city, instead of focusing on white men. As one person put it, "There needs to be a balance between opening cemeteries to the public, inviting them in, and making them feel welcome, while still being respectful. But it's an achievable balance."

Public-Private Partnerships

- I think the community can play a big part in the maintenance of the cemeteries in terms of volunteering. That would be a good concept for the prolonged maintenance of them. For example, if the maintenance was about landscaping and will cost X amount of dollars and X amount of time, the community could be involved in litter clean up or something like that after the City has invested money in that.
- Atlanta, Georgia, has the Old City Cemetery, which is the same time period as Oakwood. Margaret Mitchell is buried there. They're about 15 years ahead of where we are with SAC. They have a foundation with an office and a big budget, and they raise a ton of money every year. The pub across the street is called Six Feet Under. After a tornado a couple of years ago, the non-profit did a lot of the remediation work that the City just couldn't do. The non-profit can take donations that the City can't. The non-profit actually goes a section of the cemetery through based on the master plan and they pay an outside contractor to do the maintenance. That way the City has

no maintenance cost in the future. The non-profit still has issues with the city, and they all do, but it's a good working model.

Heritage Tourism

- I do like that concept. Oakwood is full of history and it is probably our most important cemetery in terms of how history is concerned.
- I think tours and education are okay. People are either interested in history or they aren't. Exposing people to that can't be a bad thing. But would the city have to employ some guides that would be paid by the city? Volunteers would be okay.
- Some of the military cemeteries, such as Vicksburg, have paid guides who will spend a couple of hours with you. We were interested enough to have made the trip there, and it was great to have someone who knew the details about what had happened and the stories behind some of the memorials and things. That works for people who have a similar interest, and volunteers could do that.
- I'm all for it. I'm a history nut, particularly about sites of historical interest. Respect for those things and people who came before us, and had an impact on us today, is always a source of reverence and respect.
- I think the greater community can become involved by approving a 5% ad valorem tax to fund the city cemeteries. Citizens need to understand that if the cemeteries go down in a disrespectful manner, like Oakwood and Oakwood Annex, which are a disgrace, it affects property values. It's a citywide issue.
- That needs to be explored. The state cemetery has been extremely successful in doing educational outreach and public tours, and that's not detrimental to the cemetery aspect. These are such historic places that the opportunities for educating school children is phenomenal. They'll be filled up in a short time and they won't make any more money. That is a way to bring the public in and making them publicly usable and making money.
- SAC has been trying to get people to get involved for 8–10 years. It seems to be a lack of communication in the community. People seem to come over from the hotel there near Oakwood, or from the convention center. How can we get the word out that we do tours, etc.? We (SAC) want to have a decent program, but it's hard to get the word out. This sort of thing is so much easier in a small town because everybody knows each other. It's hard to plan events in Austin because there's so much else going on.
- This resonates with me a lot because I've done a lot of genealogy work. My family came from Europe so I have to travel a lot to cemeteries to get information. For me it's more like a history tour of the cemetery. It's me looking into history. There's such a huge impact on whether I can get information from cemetery management. It's easy in some places but really hard in others. We need to have a public liaison with the public. I've also visited graveyards for heritage tourism. Heritage is a really powerful word. I've heard some kind of extremes in terms of respect, like the idea of "sanctity" like having people visit a cemetery for reasons other than grieving is a problem. I think those aren't mutually exclusive. You don't need to restrict cemeteries to burying people and that's the end of it. There are other things involved. Certainly now in a highly populated urban area like Austin, these are being served to the public as a place to walk and contemplate and get into nature, not just look at graves. I think the possibilities are pretty good as community resources. Some of the events that

I know are going on in Oakwood, are really neat. I went to one of their heritage days and was really impressed with the array of stuff they had available.

- I think that maintaining respect for cemeteries includes recognizing its historic significance within the City's culture. I don't think people can be educated about the historic significance of a cemetery if they never have a chance to visit it. Cemeteries can be emotional places for some people, and you want to give those people privacy, so that's important. But at the same time, a lot of the cemeteries have so much history and people want to be able to tell that history so people know what that is. We need to be able to talk about what happened in Austin's past on a local, personal basis, especially with people who live in the neighborhoods where the people buried in the cemeteries used to live.
- It's easy to do that at the older cemeteries because, unlike at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, you're not going to have burials all the time. You couldn't have programming at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery – it would always seem irreverent, because there are so many burials out there every day. At the rest of them, it's a lot easier to do programming because of the long history of who's out there and also because it's not active. One of our [SAC's] most popular tours is Murder Mayhem and Misadventure, with costumed characters. There's a cemetery out in California like Hollywood Forever that has movies. But these cemeteries that have programming are really the old closed cemeteries.
- It's okay because I do see that, in other parts of the country, cemeteries can have historical or genealogical ways of helping people find out about things and people. Sacred ground is a sacred ground and it has to be respected, but there has to be some value attached to it as well. I don't mind there being historical information attached to the cemetery.
- I like the idea, but I don't want to spend a lot of money on it, to be honest. There's so much value in respecting history, and I love walking through cemeteries. I love history and artifacts. I see grave stones as above-ground artifacts. When I'm in a cemetery I'll have a contest with my husband to find the oldest gravestones, and families buried together and when the children died, and to get a feel for what was going on during that time. But I don't want to spend a lot of money on it. We have issues that involve people who need these services today. We just need to keep our cemeteries landscaped and respected. We can market or advertise the benefit of cemeteries but I don't want to spend money on it.
- That's great. I know that at Oakwood, which I'm most familiar with, they're putting out some sort of signage to find out a little bit more about those interred. A lot of people have a weird feeling about cemeteries, and I'd like to see some measures to bring people in and interested in former members of their community.
- I don't think that people are disrespectful because of ignorance. People do what they do because they don't care. People in Austin, not all, but a lot of people feel like if it's a green space then it's a public park and "I'm entitled to be there and do what I want." It doesn't take a lot of those people to make it bad for everybody. A lot of Austinites, especially younger ones, don't have respect for a cemetery and they feel like "green space is green space" to be enjoyed by the public.
- As far as education is concerned, that's a great question. As our synagogue's membership changes radically and the average age of our families has dropped from mid-50s to mid-30s (people with young kids), many don't know about Jewish burial

practices and mourning and funerals and how to behave in general. We're talking about creating an adult education class and a publishing little booklet. The attempts that we've made at education so far, they haven't showed much of an interest. The younger folks aren't disrespectful, but they don't really care. It's not a priority. "Cemeteries are for old dying people." Most younger people, in my opinion, don't think about death and dying. I don't know how to instill an awareness and a respect for not only the death and dying and mourning process, but also the cemetery practices.

- There should be respect for the people buried there. There is someone who cares for that person who is related who cares for that person. It is good to have the historical but there has to be respectful. There cannot be so much noise. There might not be many people who come visit Oakwood but people do come, and we should be more sensitive. How do we promote historical significance? How do we do homes tours in the cemetery? They don't allow people to come in with boom boxes in those homes and let kids play wherever. We need to treat cemeteries even better than that.
- In many different cemeteries they have cemetery day or a memorial day when people come to clean up the cemetery. I haven't seen that in any of the city cemeteries – that might be more of a rural thing.
- SAC helps explain why cemeteries are important and why you can find so much of our local heritage in our cemeteries. They do four tours annually, sometimes with actors, sometimes just guides. Sometimes people request a tour with a specific theme. I've also heard some talk about what is or isn't appropriate in a cemetery. I think everything that SAC undertakes is appropriate. We (SAC) give people instructions on cemetery conduct. If little kids are playing on monuments, we ask them to stop, for example.
- One of the things that has happened in the past is "It's my park day" It happens all over the City of Austin and volunteers choose what they want to do – plant trees, clean up parks, etc. One has been at Plummers and two at Oakwood. Those are helpful.
- It would be helpful to have restrooms at each of the cemeteries and places where people can actually sit, with benches under a tree. Long ago, people would have picnics at the cemeteries. They were green places with lots of trees and the whole family would come out and have a picnic. I think that's not so traditional any longer, but I enjoy seeing people in the cemeteries.

Diversity

- If you're recognizing things like the establishment of the state or the city of Austin, we have to make sure that the non-Anglo people get as much recognition as the Anglo people. You have to be sure it's an equal playing ground or it will just be the same thing as always where the Anglo people get all the credit.
- I think that's fabulous. I don't know how hard that will be to accomplish, but I do think that the cultural flavor of that will be dynamic, especially in Evergreen. People in my generation are going to have to try to pick up the history and tell you who are the leaders who were buried there. Our elders are dying, so now people like me are the elders now. People like my mother had fabulous knowledge of these people. The King family with the mortuary, we would have to put together a group of our peers, of native Austinites, and solicit their input. My friends and myself are all going into our

70s. There are still a lot of people in their 80s who will be our best cultural assets right now, before they start dying off.

- That's a tricky question. I mean, being from a Latino background, when our family members pass on, we are big on decorating the gravesites for holidays, birthdays, etc., creating shrines, and at the end of the month city staff comes along and throws everything in the trash. And we get that, because that's the way it is. Having some kind of marker that's really nice that says the name of the cemetery and when it came to be, etc., something of that nature would be okay. But I wouldn't promote tourism! Maybe you could make a brochure or something that's like a point of interest. But in terms of people's place of rest, you don't want to put one person over the other.
- I've worked with a lot of these groups who are doing this master plan, and I even have a problem with the word "master" because it's like people are going to be our "masters". These master plans are all being done by people who aren't here and our opinions just end up on a sticky note that gets lost forever.

No "One Size Fits All" Solution

- When you talk about Oakwood and Memorial, those are apples and oranges, two very different venues. For a lot of the gravesites at Oakwood, there is no one to contact about the grave. The whole family line has died out with no heirs, so the ornamentation on the graves becomes an altogether different matter, whereas at Austin Memorial, they're still burying people there.
- It would be helpful if there was a distinction between the cemeteries. People would have more of an issue with this sort of idea at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery rather than Oakwood, where you can focus on the historic aspect. It might seem disrespectful at AMP, but not at Oakwood. You need to clarify how each cemetery should be treated individually. If there are active burials at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen, treat them differently than Oakwood and Annex and Plummers Cemetery. Don't try to find a policy that fits all of the cemeteries, if they're really not all the same.

Questions 4 and 5: One of the areas that we're exploring is the potential for partnerships between the City and other organizations that may be interested in supporting the preservation of the cemeteries, encouraging people to experience the cemeteries in various ways, et cetera. Are there any partnerships that you would especially like to see the City pursue? Conversely, are there any partnerships that you would not be in favor of?

Ms. McDougal began by asking this question as stated above. At first, most people did not have any idea what such partnerships might look like. When they expressed uncertainty or asked for an example, Ms. McDougal suggested that one such partnership might include working with volunteers from a Master Gardeners Club to plant annual flowers as part of a beautification project. Many people were generally in favor of the concept of the City partnering with community organizations, although some expressed a negative opinion about the idea in general. People also expressed skepticism about how a collaboration might be implemented and whether the City's perceived favoritism for certain organizations would tarnish the community's opinion of any such partnerships or projects.

Positive Response with Specific Suggestions

- It would be great to partner with a gardeners organization or something like that.
- We (SAC) work with other preservation groups. The little museums are already connected to the City. We work hand-in-hand trying to get them to partner with us on some of our projects.
- The City Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) needs to promote Oakwood more. I was disappointed that they didn't take advantage of the National Convention of Funeral Directors when they were right there nearby. Funeral directors are very involved in historic cemeteries and historic preservation, but the CVB didn't do anything. There was also a Goth convention here and it would have been a natural fit to have at least awareness of Oakwood and its close proximity to the convention center.
- I would like to see something along the lines of the Texas Historical Commission's Heritage Trails program, which highlights cemeteries across the state. That ties into people's interests in hiking, so that would be the number one to look at. I'm interested in the history of people, even if they're not famous.
- There has to be a role for the African American Cultural Heritage District because that organization has a mandate from City Council to be the stewards for the African American community.
- The Texas Historical Commission and their cemetery program would be the most logical allies. Official Texas historical markers could be placed for some of the most significant people, in terms of permanent information.
- Preservation Austin would have an interest but no funding.
- Travis County Historical Commission might be able to help with documentation on some of the people who are buried there.
- The Northwest Recreation Center could be a good partnership if people in the recreation department would be interested in beautification or volunteer efforts. Just some low-level stuff that wouldn't get in the way of the maintenance department.
- If a church is nearby, that might be a good resource to tap.
- The concept sounds good to me, especially partnering with smaller arts or music or neighborhood organizations.
- I represent a neighborhood association and I think that's a good partnership to pursue. Those people might not have financial resources but they have a lot of interest and could provide manual labor resources.
- The big Halloween thing they do in Oakwood is interesting, and if someone wants to go into a cemetery because they're interested, that meets my criteria right there.
- The master gardener idea is fabulous. We are going to need some thoughtful ideas. I know we need shade and a few well-placed trees, but in a place like Oakwood where it's already really dense, the tree roots will have a negative impact. Large shade trees are impractical. The whole issue of what is planted in the cemeteries has to be really sensitive. Arborists and horticulturists are excellent collaborators.
- Some places have high schools with junior historian programs that can be useful.
- Sons of the American Revolution.
- I know someone who works extensively with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts on different history-related projects, and they might be retiring flags or that type of thing, but they

could have a role in cleanups and other projects, in a small way to recognize the notable features of the cemeteries.

- The Austin History Center.
- There needs to be a mechanism for communication with the Latino community. After Latinos began migrating to Austin, they were buried mostly in in the Travis County International Cemetery (indigent) and it's filled up and now they are burying them in a second indigent cemetery in Manor. In the 1920s, Mexican groups began organizing their own cemeteries. Tracing that history is very important. There's a Mexican cemetery in Montopolis that's one of the oldest cemeteries in the city.
- Partnerships could be with the the Veterans Administration or VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) posts who work with getting cemeteries ready for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- I can imagine working with different colleges across Austin, high schools, etc., where people are studying archaeology and history and educating people on the timeframes of these older stones and demographics and all that stuff and having them write articles or stories or research papers.
- The Mormon church has a big genealogy department.
- I'm sure SAC will be heavily involved.
- Churches or congregations might be interested in partnering on maintenance or cleaning.
- Neighborhood groups, especially in east Austin.
- I think bicycling would be fine. I know people who bring their kids into their cemeteries to learn how to ride a bike. It would also be a good place for people who maybe aren't so steady on their bike and need a safe place to learn to ride.
- I would recommend the African American Cultural Heritage District.
- If we [SAC] had more volunteers and more interest, SAC could be at every one at the cemeteries, but mostly we work with Oakwood.
- We [SAC] had an arborist that came out to Oakwood and gave a presentation that was fascinating. We had a geologist from UT who gave a talk about the different types of stone, how it weathers, and why lichen forms on things. I would like to reach out to the universities who have specialties that are related to cemeteries or would help people understand the cemeteries.
- The Austin Trees Foundation would like to help participate with watering and maintenance of trees.
- SAC had a delightful event at Oakwood with Preservation Austin where they served dinner and we gave tours. Some of the other organizations that have worked closely with us [SAC] include the Neil Cochran House, Elisabet Ney Museum, and Buffalo Soldiers from Camp Mabry and Fort Hood.
- Museums and repositories in Austin and Travis County, like the General Land Office and Austin History Center, would be good partners.
- Partnerships are going to be crucial. The City parks have partnerships with non-profits and volunteer groups, and those partnerships help the City to carry out the work and the maintenance and the use. The City can't do it by itself.
- The gardening clubs would be good, in terms of landscaping.
- The Audubon Society could do educational outreach in terms of what wildlife you see in the cemeteries.

- Photography groups would be good.
- I'd like to see partnerships between the City museums and the cemeteries.
- SAC hosted Heritage Day for two years at Oakwood, partnering with the Susanna Dickinson House, French Legation, etc. and we had good feedback from those entities, but not a lot of public attendance. If we could partner and cross-pollinate, that would be good for them too, because they have trouble reaching the public.
- SAC has to be on the list. They served as the City's shadow cemetery department, and Dale Flatt is the unofficial city sexton.
- People who are walking in the cemeteries are fine.
- We need an African American advocacy organization brought on board to deal with the cemeteries; the African American Cultural Center is the one to do that. Evergreen is in their district. The City Council just agreed to seed that organization with \$300,000, so they have some resources to do things.
- We've been contacted by theater groups who want to put on performances. We refer them to the City. I think anything that's done with respect is fine.
- I grew up in a small town where the cemetery association was the leading social organization (it was mostly widows) and I know that those sorts of groups are very valuable. I would join a Friends group in a nano-second.
- Swede Hill Neighborhood Association is interested in the chapel project because they want a place to go meet. None of our cemeteries have any meeting places like private cemeteries do.

Positive but Non-Specific Response

- Partner with anybody who can offer something positive.
- I don't really know which partnerships the City has entered into or is considering, but I would be in favor of organizations that would contribute to maintaining the cemeteries. A Friends group and various private organizations can help to support that.
- That's a great idea and such a great way to engage the community. I think any neighborhood group or any group that is interested would be appropriate.
- I guess I would have to know the particulars before I could make a judgment, but it sounds like a good idea.
- It would be great if we had local people who knew what was in the plan and could do the loving follow-up to keep that going.
- Partnerships, like something with Master Gardeners, would be okay if there was no recognition or advertising or sponsorship sign. They shouldn't get any advertising out of it or make any money.
- I have family buried at Oakwood; I can't say about what happens at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. We had wanted to have music (the Zombie Band) at one of our [SAC] tours, to perform under a tent, and the cemetery division said no just because of the name of the band alone. I thought it would be great! Not offensive! The City doesn't get the idea that even with our Halloween tour how accepting the public is – they would have enjoyed it. In Oakwood, that would not have been offensive. I'm pretty liberal. I'm not easily offended. Austin Memorial Park Cemetery could be used as a venue for SXSW! They could put up a stage at one end! When people bring this up, I think, "you don't even come to the cemetery! And now you don't want anybody else to

do it!” You can enjoy your time at the cemetery! You don’t have to be somber! Come on! I know that’s somewhat a matter of cultural differences, but our [Latino] way of dealing with and celebrating death and memory can be and should be a focus at Oakwood, for different cultures to come and celebrate that. Put it in print that cemeteries have other uses and resources; be creative! Be imaginative! Be open! People don’t want anybody there! Why worry about landscaping then? Make it a destination. Oakwood has gone through different stages, and it might have been one dominant culture but we [Latinos] slipped in anyway!

- If there was a way to do things respectfully, I think everything would be all right.
- Things would have to just not interfere with funerals. Even people just walking and having a conversation. But I don’t think that rules out any kind of activity. There would just have to be some way of segregating the activity from burials.
- Now that all the offices are at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and not Oakwood, when you have vandalism and theft, it might be 10–14 days before the next mowing cycle and you realize that something happened. When someone was at Oakwood Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., that was a deterrent to theft. Oakwood’s problem is that you can stand in the middle and you can’t see the fences. It’s the terrain and the tree cover. We need to have someone on site and get people from the public in there because that deters crime. Even low-impact walking and biking will keep thieves from coming in, or at least deter them.
- The east side is going through gentrification. We used to see a lot of condoms and underwear in Oakwood Cemetery and the Annex, but now we don’t see as much prostitution in the cemeteries. Hopefully the gentrification will help with the drug use. We need to have people in the cemeteries on a daily basis.
- We need to allow groups like SAC to do some things, but not for-profit groups. The administrator or the parks board or whoever needs to approve the tourism stuff.
- From an historian’s standpoint, you’re worried about overuse or vandalism, but the only way that people who aren’t part of this organization or history or cemeteries in general, the only way they get to know about cemeteries and appreciate them are to really use them. So if you have a dedicated bike area or running area through them, you form some sort of connection to the cemeteries. I could really argue for or against recreation. In New Orleans, they are definitely a recreation and tourism destination. I’m sure that encourages people to steal things, but it also encourages people to understand the city’s heritage.

Negative Responses about Specific Groups

- Bicycle riders have taken over the whole city, and they don’t need to be running over people who are there paying their respects.
- No bicycling! There has been so much bicyclist policy pushed on us – bike lanes and all this other stuff. Bicyclists don’t obey the rules; they feel like they can do anything and whatever they want, and they don’t pay taxes to use the road, but they can slow us down on the road and there’s nothing that I can do. The cemeteries are only for people who are buried there or are going to visit their loved ones.
- I am opposed to the bicyclists! People should bike on the trails. I would be careful about doing any kind of collaboration with the bike people. I wouldn’t want to have to

accommodate them. People could ride their bike to the cemetery to pay their respects, or they want to just be there, but cemeteries are not a bike path.

- I know that the neighborhood associations sometimes are very much on target and sometimes they're way off target, so some decisions may become a popularity contest instead of the best idea.
- I think with some landscaping things and so on, some landscape architects and nursery men are so oriented toward the present and the future that their advice or donation of plant materials might not be best for preserving the historic character of the older cemeteries.
- The City has a rule that you can't run a business in a City park or cemetery. So we have to deal with that in the master plan. I don't want to see a bunch of bus tours and things like that coming through the cemeteries with loudspeakers and people getting on and off a bus. Our roads are narrow.
- If they want to make agreements with private clubs, that's okay, but I don't want to see it become the "Master Gardeners Club Cemetery".
- One organization's view of what is an enhancement would be someone else's negative. For example, I wouldn't want the City to collaborate with a flower club and come in one day and find out that they put a whole bunch of flowers in Section 14 of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, because flowers are inappropriate in a Jewish cemetery. Same with putting up more benches or seating areas. I wouldn't trust any collaboration to be sensitive to another group.
- The preservation society (Preservation Austin) that preserves homes would be a good partner. More people need to be included and not just one organization per cemetery. There needs to be partnerships with more people, like the five neighborhood associations around Oakwood.
- I would be very careful about antique dealers, because we've had thefts of historic fencing and monuments. I'm not saying that they went out there, but they bought things from the thief.
- I would not like to be associated with the KKK! Or really political groups, left wing or right wing.
- I can't imagine someone would suggest an organization that would be detrimental, like Wiccans or witches. Not to be judgmental!

Other Negative Responses (General)

- I'll say no to that question. [Does not want any partnerships]
- My general feeling on these things is that they turn into turf battles.
- Some people are out there taking photos without permission, and we can't keep them from doing that.
- The fewer people involved in managing, the better. It's important to me to know who is responsible for what, with clear roles and responsibilities. I would think that, by collaborating, that would cloud who's responsible for what.

Negative Responses about the City

- The city's Historic Preservation office hasn't done a good job.
- I don't know what those [partnerships] would look like or how that would be structured. The City has a public trust to take care of the cemeteries; I don't care if the families still survive or not. I think the City is trying to push it off on someone else.
- Right now, the City is not adequately managing what they have, and it would only be worse if they were collaborating. If the management of the cemetery was competent and on top of things, then I would probably welcome or at least not object to collaborations.
- A lot of times when the City says "partnership," that means they want to take over what the other group has or they want to delegate a lot of the work to that group.
- Considering the fees that the City charges [for interments], they should be responsible for maintaining the cemeteries. They might have some smaller non-profits that they work with, like when people go out and put up flags for fallen soldiers. But as far as upkeep goes, that needs to be mostly on the City's shoulders because that's where the dollars go.
- I've been trying to find volunteers to water trees (we don't have a permit yet) and people want to help, but they think that whatever they offer will not be accepted and so it will be a waste of time. The City will not work with them. They will have to do what the City wants or nothing.
- There needs to be a lot more PR to build goodwill before the City does any partnerships.
- The City has turned down other groups that have volunteered to help. Austin Heritage Tree Foundation offered to water the trees at Oakwood, but the City said no – they could have saved 100 trees but the City said no. They were turned down flat. The City picks and chooses who they want to deal with, and that's inexcusable.
- When the new PARD director came on board, there was a change to the participation of boards and organizations in terms of working with PARD. Some of us weren't happy with these changes. The expectation of Oakwood had to be taken into context with PARD and how they generate sponsors and what extent of activity they could bring to different areas.
- I would like to see more outside solicitation by PARD of what you can do in the cemeteries, instead of waiting for people to knock on the door – and not just at cemeteries but other parks as well. We [community organizations] are made to feel unwelcome. A lot of these turn into legal issues.
- I would like to see PARD be more generous and attract and solicit participation. I'm in favor of (partnerships), but it's all in how you do it – contacting people and groups and creating those relationships. I would like to see PARD actively solicit and develop relationships with the community.
- This is a difficult issue. The City prefers people who agree with them and excludes those who don't. Many people won't partner with the City because if they say anything that's contrary to what the City wants, they won't be able to work with the City ever again. So the only people who work with the City are the people who say, "Yes, yes, yes!" Partners need to be able to disagree and work to find a solution. Also the City will only work with people who they already work with. They won't work with anybody else.

- I can see pluses and minuses on both sides, but my reaction is that I don't like it. I don't think the management of the cemeteries is adequate as it is, and it would be even more difficult to collaborate. It would be an excuse for the City to say, "Well, we aren't responsible."
- One of my concerns about the Austin parks, which I don't want to see happen with the cemeteries, is that the City has been moving toward getting private groups to do the maintenance of the parks. Austin already doesn't put much priority on the City parks, even though they have a big budget. In my neighborhood, we have to raise money to help with the pool there. I'm paying \$11,000 in property taxes and now I have to pay more? I don't want the City to start privatizing our public facilities.
- It seems like there's some territorialism with the cemeteries. It's important for the City to take ownership and lead everything and only rely on these groups for support, not the other way around. As a neighborhood association, a year ago, we found it very difficult to find out who to contact and how to contribute and it wasn't clear how we could get involved. It was important for the City to be ultimately responsible and not hand off or delegate any of the maintenance responsibilities to other groups.
- I have no idea who else [other organizations] works with the City. I'm not a fan of the City, so I don't pay much attention to them.

Question 6: To keep everyone up to date on what's happening for the next year, while we work on the master plan, we're taking a three-pronged approach. We'll have a project website that's updated every week and includes a way to share their input and feedback; we'll have a newsletter that's emailed every month and also can be printed out for those people who don't have computers or email; and about every two months, we'll have a public meeting to both share the status of the project and gather feedback on specific topics. Do you think that will be sufficient? [If not, what else should we do?]

People who thought that the community engagement plan was sufficient commented:

- Nothing else comes to mind.
- Sounds sufficient to me.
- I think that will reach anyone in Austin who wants to be aware. There may be family members who aren't in Austin, but I don't know how they would be involved anyway.
- I've been very impressed by how extensive the communication is. I want to make sure I'm on the mailing list.
- Some people will protest that none of that fits their personal criteria and also won't make any suggestions. There will always be someone who feels left out or will say, "If I had known!" I hear that all the time, even when there's outreach. It's very difficult because of the dynamics of Austin. People wait until they hear about stuff on Council or in the news, and then they show up just to protest.
- I think your coverage is practical. There can be issues, like translation, but I don't think that's the case here. Outreach needs to be to the African American and Mexican American community.
- I think you're pretty much covering the bases. First, the current active group of stakeholders, who became involved a few years ago and kind of branched out into

the various issues, are already on your email list. It sounds like you're covering the bases.

- A website would be great.
- I think you're on the right track. It's sufficient in the sense that we have a manager and he's asking for input.
- I think you've got it covered.
- I think you're definitely reaching people who are interested.
- I think that you're doing all that you feasibly can do. Mail-outs just are too expensive.
- I'm an older guy, so I would rather get information pushed to me than pulled. The chances are minimal that I would go to the website. If you send me a newsletter, I would read it and redistribute it to the people I feel responsible for who would be interested. The newsletter would be appealing, provided that it contains the same information as on the website. Newsletters tend to be less detailed.

Many people made additional suggestions for public outreach, including:

Email, Snail Mail, and Mailing Lists

- I would like to give you the email names of people that I know who would want to receive the newsletter.
- SAC has a mailing list of about 300 people who are family members. We could pass along your information to our mailing list too.
- The City needs to mail things out via snail mail.
- The newsletters and website also need to be available in Spanish.
- Stakeholders like to help, but they never get contacted. They think the PARD doesn't want to work with them, but that's not the case. PARD needs to contact plot owners. You should send at least one newsletter to every plot owner you have on file that says, "If you want to continue receiving this newsletter, sign up here." At Oakwood and Annex, they may not have those records, but they have *something*. But for Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Evergreen, they do have those records. They never reach directly to the stakeholders/plot owners. Organizations and communities of interest are fine, but you really need to work with the people who own the plots. You're going to get PARD's position that "addresses aren't valid," but you have to try. This isn't the first time we've proposed this.

Locations for Signs

- I think a lot of this stuff reaches a lot of the same people. I would consider signs in the cemeteries. People who walk or drive through the cemeteries are the ones who care about this. People might not be interested in going to the meetings, but signs posted in front of the cemeteries would be an effective method. For me, that has been the most effective way to find out about City of Austin recreational activities. They do a pretty poor job of advertising their rec activities.
- Put up enough signs, and not just in the cemeteries. Post something at the art center or museums or other non-library buildings that people visit, especially during summertime because of camps going on.
- Put information and signs up in the parks in the neighborhoods that are within walking distance to the cemeteries.

- Put signs in other cemeteries in Austin, if you're allowed to. The master plan result would be helpful for smaller [non-City-owned] cemeteries, and some of those solutions might trickle down, so people who are interested in those cemeteries might be interested in the master plan.
- There needs to be signage out in front of the cemeteries.

Locations for Flyers and Newsletters

- The bulletin board at Oakwood would be a good place to post information.
- Churches and synagogues and funeral homes are the most logical places to make sure they have this information.
- I don't watch the news, but I suppose if there's a community activity or notice on the news, it would bear mentioning. I think that has been happening.
- The Austin Science and Nature Center gets a lot of traffic flowing through where you could put a sign on a bulletin board there that people would probably see.
- Rec centers, but be sure you're not just putting up your flyer in a stack. It has to be pinned on a board where they list where you can get food, clothing, job resources, etc.
- You need hard copies of flyers or laminated newsletters that can be posted in the cemeteries.
- Post things at the office at the cemeteries.
- Post signs telling people where to get newsletters.
- I think it's sufficient, especially if the newsletter copies are placed at the libraries or other places where it's convenient for people to go. Maybe put them at transit areas, where people congregate – and I mean plaster them on the wall, otherwise they become a litter problem – with instructions about how to get your own copy.
- Put meeting announcements in the city's other historic museums. People who visit those places might be interested in the cemeteries as well.

Social Media

- Have you engaged in social media at all?
- What about Facebook? [mentioned by several people]
- Post on neighborhood groups' Facebook pages.
- A Facebook page could be good or bad. It's so easy to upload a picture and post a comment. However on the bad side, you have a tendency to get a lot of negative feedback. People who are on Facebook are always getting the updates.

Traditional Media

- Post to community calendars.
- Advertise meetings and everything on the news media calendars, community event calendars, etc. They can come out and do a story. YNN will run things several times a week.
- KAVI is the #1 African American radio station.
- Radio Co-Op does community service announcements. College kids and working class people and a wide gamut of people listen to that.
- At the DeWitty Center – Channels 10, 16, 17, and 20 – they do public access TV shows, and you can probably get some of those people to do announcements about

it. The different shows reach different segments of the community, different age levels, different genres.

- You need to get stories on the TV, radio, and in the newspaper before the meeting so people can find out. Try to get it the weekend before. They need more advance notice.
- Put notices in La Voz, COA, The Villager, the Daily Texan, etc.

In-Person Events

- Go out to events and have tables at festivals and in person. People who are interested will engage and people who aren't, won't.
- Get out to neighborhood association meetings.
- My second preference would be public meetings, but you have issues with those because the City schedules them at 6:00 p.m. during the week, which is understandable, but people from all over the city can't get there. That's a problem.
- The public meetings are the most interactive. That's the best way to do things. I would encourage the meetings to be held in different locations.
- I'm happy with the timing. I was concerned that there would only be two meetings. This is controversial so you need to say what you're doing and then get feedback.
- Go to the *Día de los Muertos* festival in October; people will be willing to talk to you there. It's a huge festival at the MACC and big parade downtown.
- Austin Neighborhoods Council is a non-profit umbrella organization that provides a forum to bring people together and educate these organizations; they have a monthly meeting the fourth Wednesday of every month. You could have a table in the atrium with a meet and greet or just provide information, from 6:30–7:00 p.m. at the Austin Energy building on Barton Springs Road. You need to call ahead of time. There has been more interest lately because of all the candidates running for city council.

Work Through Other Organizations

- How would you make that information available to other people who might be interested but aren't in those neighborhoods or checking websites regularly?
- Work with UT to make this information available to students. As a student, I would like to be included or have the opportunity to learn more about this. I want to know how you go through the process of making these things happen. It's really good training for students generally to understand why you would handle things and make decisions about stuff where it's messy and people all have different opinions and needs. Students would benefit from being more engaged with that. I never was very good at getting involved when I was an undergraduate, but now it's like a light bulb went off in my head! Getting involved makes people care, makes them stay, helps them understand the dynamics of what's going on in the city.
- There are so many people who care about the cemeteries and won't get the message in these ways. You need to reach out to the funeral homes and monuments people.
- Funeral homes and monuments companies can help spread the word to their customers. Engage them in the process. They are interested. You can put up flyers and give out newsletters.
- St. James Church near Evergreen Cemetery could be a meeting place. They have a huge congregation who I'm sure would be interested.
- Talk to the Austin Neighborhood Council.

- Use the Neighborhood Associations online list. They will post this ahead of time. You need to post it well in advance.
- Work with the Montopolis neighborhood organization to reach more Hispanics.
- I don't think that plan is sufficient. The problem with these public processes is that they have not put it out on the city's community registry that goes to everybody. They don't put out signs for all of the outreach efforts at the cemeteries. There was one for the master plan but that is it. Use Austin Neighborhoods Council "ANC Talk." Flyers need to be distributed at the senior citizens center, and let the churches know. There needs to be community-wide outreach and so far it's just who they have on their mailing list, not property owners in the cemeteries.

Question 7: Is there anyone else who you think I should talk to?

Several people made specific recommendations, which Ms. McDougal added to the list of potential stakeholders to be interviewed. Other suggestions included funeral homes and residents, churches, and community groups located near the cemeteries.

Question 8: Finally, would you be willing to share your zip code and race or ethnicity? This is entirely optional and will be used to help the City ensure that this project's community outreach and engagement efforts are inclusive and representative of the City's diversity.

The results of this question are presented in the Methodology section of this report (Page 2).

Other Comments

Interviewees provided many other comments in addition to their answers to the questions above. Two interviewees, especially, offered quite extensive comments, as shown immediately below; the rest of the comments follow.

These comments included complaints about:

- Fees charged for interment
- Dumping ground (spoils) from the construction of MOPAC
- Walking trails through Austin Memorial Park
- People walking/running through the cemeteries during funeral services, sometimes with dogs, sometimes inappropriately dressed (running shorts, no shirt)
- Workers at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery who are insensitive to mourners: standing or sitting on grave markers waiting for funerals to conclude so that they can complete the burial, placing a large diesel truck or front end loader nearby while a funeral is ongoing, generally being visible during services, walking/driving over fresh graves
- How complaints to PARD and the Cemeteries department are handled
- City might need to have something they can give to families, when they buy a plot, that tells them things about how the cemetery works and what to expect. Is it in the City of Austin's responsibility to make sure people know how long it takes to get a headstone, and that there needs to be arrangements made to pour the foundation, and there's a significant charge to the City to pour the foundation and erect the

headstone? It's the City of Austin PARD who digs the whole and pours the concrete etc. to prepare for the installation of the headstone. How would people know that? Those materials need to be sent to ... who's your audience? I think right now it's all of those people who have bought grave sites and haven't used them yet. Or those families who have been buried in the last year, to perhaps play catch up. And people who buy sites in the future. I'm sure there's a process when people buy grave sites, as individuals. Right now you just get a receipt for your check. You could put it on a website but most people don't go to websites.

- The overall historic preservation of Austin Memorial Park, and by that I mean, the integrity of the buildings at the entrance, the stones righted and leveled, the roads resurfaced and in better shape, the historic rock fencing reestablished along Hancock, the roof on the main building repaired and restored to the original Spanish tile roof, the buildings (like the carriage house) not used as maintenance sheds, and the equipment not stored in view behind a privacy fence, which I think destroyed the ambiance of the cemeteries as you drive in.
- I would like the boundaries identified correctly.
- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery needs a reclaimed water system and the irrigation system repaired, particularly in Sections 5, 5B, and 5A.
- Regarding public restrooms, the round building should be kept and not destroyed just by making it ADA compliant. That's historically significant to the cemetery.
- Trees need to be in better shape, watered and cared for regularly.
- The City should do an archaeological survey of the entire historical boundaries, because I have a feeling that some of the bodies were not moved when they built MOPAC.
- A visitor kiosk could help people locate burials.
- Historical records should be moved off-site as we were promised a couple of years ago and that hasn't happened yet.
- No organizations should have fundraising activities like parties or events that demean the character and are disrespectful to deceased and their families.
- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery needs to be on the National Register of Historic Places.
- I don't like the stakeholder process and who the stakeholders are. The City has thrown a huge wide net over the whole United States. They need to step back and say that our stakeholders are only the people who own property in the cemeteries – not just historians or people who think that it's fun to do stuff in the cemeteries. They (property owners) should have a greater weight.
- The City of Austin needs to honor and respect the dead and their families.
- We need a Cemeteries Committee or board established by the City like the Parks Board, and better communication between PARD and public, without shutting out public like in the case of the privacy fence around the work area – the work area shouldn't be that large in the first place.
- My main thing is historic preservation and restoration, the original boundaries, the original buildings and roads taken care of, and the cemeteries taken care of into the future.

Other comments are shown below.

Cemetery Administration

- Kim is fantastic! I've really gotten hostile to the City and I don't do anything anymore, but Kim is the only reason that I'm involved in this process.
- I want there to be an overall cemetery person in charge of this at the City.
- Are you getting into the administration of the cemeteries?
- They need to treat the families with respect and not pick and choose who they do work for. My son has called in work orders and I have called in work orders, and the assistant city manager specifically told me they would not do work on my husband's grave. They cannot pick and choose who they want to work with. They can't discriminate on who they service. All the funeral homes have complained about them to city council for threatening to cancel funerals. You have to accommodate them. It's just a moneymaking machine and that's all they care about. They should care about the people.
- We need to get out of the mindset like a typical park employee who just shows up and cuts grass. Train people to use the riding mower without damaging stuff. Teach them how to care for the monuments, notice vandalism, etc., a whole set of orientation classes plus continuing education classes. Trees are a very big aspect. We need to send a couple of guys over to work with Forestry for a couple of weeks in the winter so they can learn to manage cemetery trees. There's an Urban Forestry class that's like 8-10 hours and they could get certified as an Urban Forester. Encourage those people to take more training. Hire licensed arborists. Work with crews and trim out dead trees to minimize the target zone under trees from big branches landing on them, especially marble and limestone/sandstone monuments. Working in the cemetery should be an upward career move for someone coming in to work for the City. Increase longevity and decrease turnover for these positions, make it more exclusive and prestigious to work there.
- I would like to see the hierarchy or the structure of the cemetery city department set up so that there is a committee or board to approve request to come through, so it's not just all for one person to make that decisions yes or no. There needs to be a Cemetery Board so the public has a voice.
- As long as I would like to see all monuments upright and straight, but if it's that or using money for a breakfast program for a hungry kid, then obviously I say give the kid a hot breakfast. Parks and Libraries are the first ones to lose funding. Public Safety gets a ton of the money. That doesn't mean that Parks doesn't spend a lot of money on stuff that I don't think we should spend money on.
- As someone in a minority community, when the City comes and says, "See what we've done for you," we think, "See what you've done to me," and not in a very favorable way. That carries over to the cemeteries too. So don't tell me that you've allocated money for the cemeteries when it's really for administration and staffing!
- I've seen things that get included in master plans that are not practical. I would like to see in some of these master plans some alternatives for recommendations. Specifically like landscaping. There is an intent, and even Council accepts that things need to be done, but then there is no follow-up, particularly for long-term plans. There needs to be more sustainability in these plans – more options for what the City could

do, not just the visionary expensive best-case stuff. Give us some practical options; especially keep in mind the budgeting and staffing that's available. We were disappointed when the contractor left because the City used that as a buffer. "If you have questions, go to the contractor." Then he would say, "That's not in my contract." Then the city would say, "Let's send it to Legal." Whenever you hear "Let's get Legal involved," you know you're never going to hear anything. I would like to see the master plan written so that there can be shortfalls, budget cuts, and water restrictions. When we lost a lot of trees, even if the City Arborist said they were taking care of it, they weren't. The loss of trees was city-wide and they had to take out trees around the city, but they had no places to dispose of them and it took months for them to get the trees cut at the cemeteries, and then they left the big trunks on the road for months! They need to count up the tree stumps. You need to keep in mind what people want and what is doable.

- The city controls dozens of cemeteries. Our watershed department manages these cemeteries but it leaves them alone. The true scope is more than just those five cemeteries.
- [We need cemetery staff to get more] professional development. Gilbert just leased his equipment for the first year so he doesn't know how much his costs are going to be. He needs to have someone who can maintain, can do small engine repair. Depending on the size of your crews, you need a small engine mechanic and the guys who are using this equipment need to know how it works and how to keep it working well. But someone in PARD is always buying equipment. Maybe in the winter some of those guys who have aptitude learn how to do engine repair. You'd need to have space for regular maintenance. Not every equipment has a HOBBS meter (hours), you have to know what the wear and tear is on different pieces of equipment and what ongoing maintenance they all need, and how to track each piece of equipment and its repair/maintenance records. What about MSDS and that sort of training. Texas is not an OSHA state, but that's really important. Keeping things in fireproof cabinets. Keeping a safe shop. Make everything really top notch. It's not that hard to train people. These videos are already available in English and Spanish!
- What about a disaster plan? You've got to be prepared for how to deal with damage and alert families when stuff happens.
- [Regarding replacing damaged markers with new ones] We need to educate people that just because you're related to someone doesn't mean you can throw away any markers. If families want to replace a marker, the monument needs to be fixed.
- We need someone who knows about cemeteries in that office.
- If there are changes or repairs made in the cemeteries, I want to make sure that the headstones were put back in the right place and facing the right way. Are there any processes or procedures or whatever?
- There needs to be an appeals process.
- One of the things that's going to be required is political leadership. You don't abdicate responsibility for something this important for 20 years without something being really wrong. Quite frankly, if there were proper accountability here for both the City and their contractor, people would be paying a lot of money or even rotting in jail.
- *Imagine Austin* is the new master plan. Anything that the City does needs to fit in and be benchmarked within the framework of *Imagine Austin*. Here's the problem: the

City, in my opinion on purpose, did not properly scope historic preservation and cultural preservation. Preservation only gets talked about in context of the natural environment. Almost half of the new comprehensive plan is an extensive discussion of the natural environment, to a high level of detail. The discussion of our cultural environment is three pages. That's a real problem, especially when looked at through the lens of race. East Austin is basically being targeted for these types of things. Whatever we do in this cemetery plan should fit into *Imagine Austin*.

- This cemetery master plan needs to be discussed in terms of Austin's cultural environment. You cannot have a conversation about this without it becoming political. What the City has traditionally done is what's led to this process – farm it out until things get run into the ground. Dealing with this issue is going to require money. The City Manager is going to have to allocate proper rotational funding with the appropriate FTEs. Like we need to have a City Sexton, it's a very important function.
- I'm in favor of a Cemeteries Board because cemeteries are such a specialty item. They're not parks, but they're kind of treated like parks. It's such a special field that it should have input from people who have knowledge in that area. But I don't know if you can get people to participate who don't have a conflict of interest.
- Our local government abdicated their responsibility for this for 20 years. Now they need to make this right. They need to do it themselves. They can't just hire someone to do it for them and turn away. The PARD chief let this happen. Budget requests were submitted to the City Manager for this issue and City Managers shot this down. It was a different story when it was in Public Works. PARD doesn't think this in their core responsibilities. The PARD Director bears leadership and primary responsibility for making this a priority in her department. I like her on many fronts. I want to see how she institutionalizes cemetery management when she doesn't have any experience in this area. [She should be] sending PARD police to get the National Park Service training that is specific to cemeteries. Why hasn't this happened? People are still looking at this and saying, "She doesn't want to get this done."
- There has been talk of bringing in gray water to the cemeteries, but you get a lot of salts and stuff in there that will damage the soil and headstones over time.
- From the standpoint of administration, the political mandate is focused on those five cemeteries. We need very basic implementation instructions for City staff. Cemeteries are cultural landscapes first. You don't have engineers in charge of cemeteries. You need someone with the property credentials in cemetery administration. Someone who has multi-disciplinary training and experience. Cemeteries are also real estate. As we start moving into this new City-controlled approach to cemetery management, those are the nuts and bolts things that I'm watching.
- In northern areas, you only need a few full-time people and then you can fill in with seasonal workers.
- (I know a cemetery manager who) provides great customer service. He says, "I work for the families, not the parks dept." He has a set of rules and regulations, and someone always wants to bend it, but the City Administrator needs to enforce those no matter what, with no exceptions. Everybody wants to do memorializations, and that is going to be impossible to manage. Understand that the grieving process is going to last for a long time, and that people who never got the rules are going to put stuff on the gravestones. You need to put a time limit on it, like 18 months after the

burial, and then you clean everything off. There's reasons for those things like maintenance costs.

- What I would really like to see is a sexton who really enforces the rules.
- [Regarding the bench situation] Unless it's a memorial bench used as a headstone, nothing should be allowed. I'd like to see any future benches to be made out of stone only. People use benches and pots and things to define what they think is their space, but then they get upset if there are tire tracks over that space. They need to understand that they aren't buying that land, they're only getting the interment space. Not the top where we mow! Instead of having all these benches, we need stackable chairs that people could sign out and take to the site, have their visitation, and then take it back to the office and get your drivers license back. If you have an elderly person, arrange to have a chair put out on that day. What a great customer service model that would be! If someone brings their own chair, that's fine, take it with you when you go. We should get rid of the benches, especially in Section 6 of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, which is one of the newer sections. In the other sections, people stopped coming and they took their stuff home. The cheap benches from Home Depot should be thrown out. The cheap concrete benches need to go. There are some very nice cast iron benches that are just beautiful. We need a camera at the gate to capture the plate of every car and truck coming in so you don't have theft and dumping. So you have all these old benches and you get your volunteers and staff. This is a good winter project. Lots of people have a digital camera on their phone, photograph all the benches, and tell people to come get their benches. If anyone takes a bench off the property, you need to have a copy of their drivers license. A lot of people come in at Christmas or Easter or Mothers Day or Fathers Day. Remove all the benches and lock them up so if people come, you can show them where the inventory is and they can claim it.
- If anything is going to be trashed, separate the metal and the wood and recycle it, but people can't just take stuff even if "they're just going to throw it away". Compost the organic matter, recycle the plastic, scrap the metal.
- In order to do this right, we have to be able to levy a tax. In this environment that's a huge ask. Even a quarter cent — maybe that's 9 cents out of a thousand. But if we have a good document and a good case and proper public education, we can make the case. We can turn these cemeteries into the tourist attractions they can be. The Texas state cemetery has nice landscaping. There are nicer cemeteries. I have a problem with the fact that everybody buried there fought for the Confederacy, though.
- When a hearse comes by, workers should stop their mowers, get off the mowers, and stand there with hats off to show their respect. Ring the bell at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery to alert everyone that a new resident is coming in and they need to be respectful. You want families to say they had a great experience. Our feedback model needs to be that every employee needs to have their name on their shirts. A nice polo shirt or whatever. Also it's a problem if workers don't speak any English.
- I don't know what they're going to do at Oakwood. The City outsourced the maintenance of the cemeteries and nothing got done for over 20 years. No records came to the citizens. The financial records need to be made public about what the contractor is getting paid and what it is getting paid for. That needs to be transparent. It all comes down to money and property values. The City has been very reluctant to let citizens know how much they are paying the contractor. I don't think that ties into

the stakeholder process. Just because someone wants to become interested, they don't get to be a stakeholder.

- We need to deal with legal issues. In Oakwood, we're six or seven generations removed from those people, so the City has to figure out how to deal with what is basically abandoned property. The presumption is that there's a descendant somewhere, but it's unlikely that we're going to find someone to spend thousands of dollars to get a monument upright again. The legal department is going to have to see what's enforceable. Other cities have taken steps through their state legislature to make cemetery property abandonable.
- If people throw something away at the cemetery, you need to have a policy that employees can't take anything home, even if it's in the trash.
- A lot of other cities that have cemeteries have a parks advisory board and we need a cemetery subcommittee who actually knows something about cemeteries. The cemetery administrator can make decisions, but there has to be a logical way that someone can challenge that decision. The preservation office and other people need to come in.
- None of the hose bibs have a flow meter or preventer on them. People should not be able to put on fertilizer and chemicals and have their own hoses out there all the time. They can check out a hose and have some kind of meter on it. People leave water on and that's a huge waste of money. You can't turn on all the sprinklers at one time and have any pressure. Even if all the sprinklers were working, you can't water all on the same day.

Master Plan Process

- I have more faith in this process than in any other City planning stuff I've been involved in. Expectations are really low that our input is going to make any difference. We feel like the City is just going to do whatever they want anyway. We feel like the people who are new to the City are valued more than those of us who have been here for a long time.
- I think there should be equity in including everybody, not just all the loud people but also the people who care or the cemeteries and have people there. You need to include them and create a product at the end that is inclusive. It doesn't have to be regimented but it should be not a circus, it must be respectful.
- The scope sounds very doable. I am really proud that the city is going forward with this. I think that a lot of good will come out of it.
- I know it's been strange through the years with all the people who want to be involved and I tell people that we're having meetings and then nobody shows up. But recently I've had feedback that the cemetery looks better. The City has done a great job of bringing it up.
- I think you're losing that [connection to the community] really quickly. It might make sense because you are the only people who are looking at that in a very comprehensive manner, you could talk to people who have been here for a long time and have them tell you what the cemeteries were like back in the day. I have some neighbors who could talk to you. Just send me an email.
- The concerns that I brought up at the Neighborhood Association meeting are that this process takes a long time and the recommendations won't be implemented for a

year, and [we need to be] getting people involved now to get some stuff done now, and taking advantage of the interest that people have right now. At the end we want people to do things, but we need to give them some small projects to do along the way. There was good turnout and community engagement.

- I think you're doing a very thorough job of outreach, and I wish that all departments and city processes were like this. This is so much in contrast with the public works master plan for trails. Every time it's presented, it changes and changes and changes. It's like it's not ready for prime time. With the appropriate planning and outreach, you can have a better product.
- It sounds incredibly comprehensive for a cemetery master plan. The things that you've thought of are thoughtful, transparent, ways of finding out information easily, especially using technology – that doesn't work for everybody. My only fear is that right now we're being pummeled by so much with the new processes, the rewrite of the land development code, project connect, the 10-1 thing, and it can seem overwhelming. I know that Kim is very committed to project engagement in the right way, but people have to pick and choose what issues I want to be involved in.
- Will there be any visibility relative to your final conclusions/recommendations? Will there be anything after that to determine what actions the city will take to implement your recommendations?
- I think it sounds strange, but get as much information from the public as you can and have the strength to say "no" if some of the ideas are bad, no matter how heartfelt.
- I went through planning sessions where people were very vocal and emotional. The facilitator was at the point where she said she wasn't going to return. The people were bringing up issues that had nothing to do with our project! They were bringing old resentments against the City about property values and things, and grievances from generations back, and the City can listen to that and giving them places where those things could be addressed. People wanted their personal items to be addressed in this process even if those issues aren't relevant.
- I want to feel that the master plan will balance the past and the history with the present – what we look at today – and the future – what we hope the cemeteries will be like 25–50 years from now.

Neighbors and Neighborhood Associations

- I have two young children so safety is important and also the history and aesthetics. I use the cemeteries as a asset and as a neighborhood association president, we need to maintain it and encourage people to use it in a responsible way.
- We need to make the City more welcoming for neighbors to use the cemeteries.
- Homeowners associations tend to be in the suburbs. Neighborhood associations are usually nonprofits that can be recognized by the city on the Community Registry. Some neighborhood associations are overlapping because there were feuds, so you have to talk to someone in the know.
- I think you've covered these topics incredibly thoroughly. I think the community wants the cemeteries to be well kept and be shown respect. We have neighbors who don't respect their homes and crime happens. There's a huge consequence and benefit of making things tidy and respectful. And then crime will be reduced too. Clean and groomed and landscaped.

Safety

- The alleys next to the cemeteries need to have brush cleared. We've had drugs dealt in the alleys and there have been pornography shot in the cemeteries recently! Active maintenance will keep people from loitering in the cemetery and will help people to feel safe in the cemeteries. Maybe if we had one of those blue light emergency call boxes where someone can call for help quickly. The cemeteries are big and so you're vulnerable when you're inside.

Trees and Plantings

- I really love the cemetery, I just wish the trees weren't dying. Especially those big huge oak trees. In the park, we hand water and bring sprinklers over to keep the trees going. The first priority needs to be water. I'm disappointed that the city can't make an exception on the water restrictions, even temporarily, to restore the existing vegetation.
- The City wanted to plant more trees in our small park, and we watered them for a while and now the City is hand watering them. The City could water some of those trees [in the cemeteries] to save them within the short term. I guess that's the main concern because if all those trees die, you'd lose all that shade.
- Will your recommendations include planting more plants?

No Dogs Allowed

- One of the issues that I haven't seen covered is whether dogs will be let loose in cemeteries. That needs to be enforced! Having workers in the cemetery all the time would deter people from doing that.
- Some people want dogs in cemeteries and that's been a mess because people don't clean up after their dogs.
- There is a no-dogs rule and I understand that because lot of pet owners don't clean up after their pets.

Texas State Cemetery

- A lot of people think that Oakwood is the state cemetery. That one is a real showplace.
- The benchmark in the city of Austin for how to manage a cemetery is the Texas State Cemetery. They have the money, staff and resources; it's a living space that's still does internments. The Legislature still holds events there for recognition and commemorative purposes. The goal should be that it's not just a place that you go to bury your dead. A memorial park should be a place of repose where people can reflect. We should look to cemeteries that do it well, such as Federal cemeteries and other cities that do a good job of preservation, such as in the greater Boston area, for example. We should try to do the Texas version of that.
- I think people are looking at the Texas State Cemetery and comparing Austin cemeteries to that.
- Texas State Cemetery is exempt from the watering rules so they always look great, those bastards.

Oakwood Cemetery

- Oakwood was protected from being developed over, but that's not the case for all of the cemeteries in the county.
- Oakwood was never designed to be a lawn cemetery, and Annex has that whole thing with the winding roads and Victorian design.
- I probably go to Oakwood about twice a month now. If I was a runner, I would run through there, and anybody who exercises in our neighborhood runs through it.
- One of the problems we have with Oakwood is the Doubletree Hotel next door, where people would back into the fence and knock it over. Finally they installed parking curbs. There was someone over there driving golf balls at one point.
- If you look at the map for Oakwood and where the lots are numbered, there's no lot 1, 20, 21, in Section 1. And you realize that the road wasn't always that wide. The main west gate, when they widened the road, they just took the numbers off the map and didn't necessarily move the bodies. The sidewalk was put in in 1917 and 1919, so we have a clue when the road was put in or paved. We need to have that information in the master plan. So when we make decisions about running a gas line or electrical line to the Chapel house, we need to know where those graves likely were and where we could put in a sewer line and all that stuff next to it. The old sewer line has collapsed. We need to be able to tie into the sewer system with an ADA bathroom.

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

- I would like to see some kind of curbing on all the roads or redo the curbing. Section 4 [in AMP], where my parents and in-laws are buried, has no curb. I would like all of the driveways to have curbs for a uniform appearance.
- Do you know anything about the study the city did about how fast Austin Memorial Park Cemetery will be filled up?

Evergreen Cemetery

- Particularly at Evergreen Cemetery, we need to acknowledge the struggle of African Americans to protect their dead, particularly when development is involved.
- I think there are historic qualities in each of the cemeteries that are special. The African American cemeteries have not been preserved like they need to be and it's important that they get the attention they need.

General Statements

- With cremation taking over the funeral industry, now funeral directors are being replaced by “celebrants” which are basically party planners. So the municipal model is uniquely challenging as far as that goes.
- Save Austin's Cemeteries is the only non-profit organization right here in Austin and those folks really know what they're doing and are able to work on issues without stridency – does that make sense? They're really taking the lead in advocating for conditions at the cemetery and public participation. That heritage day was really a hoot!

- This has more to do with wherever these cemeteries are, but the THC advocates for 50 feet between any kind of use and the nearest grave and I would trust them to know what they're talking about.
- We want to see a good honest history published as part of the master plan. At some point the City will be out of the cemetery business.
- Yes, we can square away our five official cemeteries, but there are a lot of other cemeteries that need help. It's not our job to help people do things that they should be doing themselves! We don't need to recreate anything that THC is doing. I want a good work product that focuses on our five municipal cemeteries first.
- I share the anxiety that I hear from other people. I will be pushing very hard for Historic Preservation in our cemeteries. I've told Kim that I will support her.
- Cemeteries do not have to be all things to all people.
- First and foremost, cemeteries are a place of dignity and respect for our loved ones.
- Bird poop and animal poop are a big problem at Oakwood, Evergreen, and maybe Plummers.
- I have a different perspective, coming from the northern U.S. The history of race is different down here. I was reading the city planning document from the 1920s where they redistricted African Americans into the east side, and I was shocked by that, especially the language they used! I didn't realize that had played out in that particular way in Austin. I'm surprised that I had to go squirreling around in a 1920s planning document to find out that that had happened. I want to know where those fault lines are, because it would help new people make good choices about how they develop their properties, understanding who their neighbors are and what the history of the neighborhood is. It would help us create a respect and thoughtfulness about people whose families have lived there for decades. You can be a professional and be very good at the physical material and documentation part, but you have to listen to people who have lived here. They know the backlog of historical issues that persist for various communities. That doesn't get told unless people coming in are told about these things. Knowing where those divisions were can make a community stronger. (A place can) hold the memory for the community and help the community have a conversation about it.
- As an outsider who has recently moved to Austin, the cemetery experience needs to be mediated for me. I need to have some help to feel like I'm more a part of the community. Even if I wasn't born here, the idea that I could become an Austinite would be helped by learning more about the city and its history.
- The preservation of the integrity of the cemeteries is an important consideration, as well as whether the resources have been evaluated to recognize, for example, the funerary sculpture and the landscaping.
- Regarding the SCA monument situation, my opinion on that subject is that that monument is not offensive, but the City doesn't want to put a target on their back. We have CSA monuments at Congress and First Street, and already at Oakwood, but they [the Parks Department] are afraid to make a decision. People should not have to sue the City. I've shared lots of examples where there are a lot of inappropriate monuments that people put out there, like if you have a monument made of SpongeBob. If you continue to allow big upright monuments, how do you continue to interpret that policy?

- I've never spent time in cemeteries. I do like to see trees or green things growing. But I try not to hang out in cemeteries. In fact, I'm kind of categorically opposed to cemeteries. I think that it's irresponsible of a culture when land is so valuable and living people are homeless, it's kind of criminal to have valuable land to be used in such a way. I don't really think cemeteries are a good use of land, although I do know that they make good neighbors! They're quiet.
- Plummers actually extends into Givens Park. Not the active burial area, but it goes down that slope toward the ballfield and we need to define the boundaries – not necessarily with a fence, but at least a series of poles with signs indicating where the boundary is. Also the City allowed a bus stop to be installed where we're pretty sure there were some graves. They're going to want to put in a sidewalk there and there are unmarked graves.
- Build a relationship with funeral homes to teach etiquette and so that the funeral homes will recommend the city cemeteries.
- As far as groups go, there isn't a lot of meeting space. [The buildings at the cemeteries could be used for community meeting space.]
- Restrooms would be great unless they would attract people to camp out there.
- At the end of Westfield Drive there's a cemetery! I have a good bit of family in there not to mention people I've known in Austin for a very long time. I have a close connection with the cemetery. We've raised our kids walking around in the cemetery. I've walked around in the cemetery.

**City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
Public Input Received on Existing Rules Regulations (As of 7/2/14)**

Rule #	Rule ID#	De-Identified Comment
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
1	1	<i>The term "Cemeteries" as used in these rules and regulations shall mean cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
1	1	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
2	2	<i>The term "Superintendent" shall mean the person duly appointed by the City of Austin for the purpose of supervising and administering cemetery functions.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
2	2	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
3	3	<i>The term "Owner" shall mean the owner as indicated by the deed.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
3	3	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
4	4	<i>The term "Interment" shall mean entombment or burial of the remains of a deceased person.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
4	4	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
5	5	<i>The term "Memorial" shall mean any marker, monument, headstone, tablet, or other structure, upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or partially therein for identification or in memory of the interred.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
5	5	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
6	6	<i>The term "Space" shall mean the area normally designated for a single Interment.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
6	6	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
10	7	<i>No person shall be permitted to enter or leave the cemeteries except by the public access gates. The cemeteries will be open to the public during reasonable hours as established by the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
10	7	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
11	8	<i>The admission of motorcycles to the cemeteries may be refused on the basis of noise or disruption of services.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
11	8	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
12	9	<i>Any unauthorized person found on the cemetery grounds after dark will be considered a trespasser.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
12	9	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
13	10	<i>The use of any cemetery equipment or facilities may be refused at any time to any person or persons as the rules, judgment and custom may indicate.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
13	10	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
14	11	<i>Written authorization from the owner of record of a burial space, or his designated representative or successor in interest, or other proper legal authority, will be required for interment.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
14	11	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
15	12	<i>The Superintendent shall have the right to schedule the time when interments or disinterment may be conducted.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
15	12	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
16	13	<i>A minimum of twelve (12) working hours before the announced times of the funeral will be required for the preparation of the grave.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
16	13	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
17	14	<i>In making a request for interment, the casket or vault, if of unusual size, must be particularly indicated.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
17	14	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
18	15	<i>The Superintendent shall not be responsible when an error occurs from an order placed by telephone regarding a grave location or container size to be used. The Superintendent reserves the right to make an equitable additional charge whenever additional labor costs result from such mistakes. The Superintendent shall not be liable for any delay in the interment of a body when a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
18	15	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
19	16	<i>Proper authorization as required by local government or public authority having jurisdiction in the matter must be presented to the Cemetery office at the time of interment or disinterment is affected. The Superintendent shall not be liable for the accuracy of the data contained in said authorization or for the identity of the person to be interred or disinterred.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
19	16	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule

**City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
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20	17	All interments, disinterments and re-interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws. The Cemetery staff will only be responsible for the opening and closing of the grave.
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
20	17	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
21	18	Burial vaults, either partially or entirely above ground, are prohibited.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
21	18	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
22	19	A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for all adult interments. Sections 9, 9A and 10 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Sections D and E at Evergreen Cemetery are exempt from this provision.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
22	19	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
23	20	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
23	20	I heartily disagree. I would limit the restrictions to unapproved fencing and paper and glass items.
23	20	I feel that this is probably a good rule within reason. It also could be stated that any installations will need to have approval of the manager of the cemetery or a citizen committee that would approve or disapprove. On a personal note, my family has 8 plots in Section 8. My grandparents, my uncle and aunt, my parents and my husband are buried there and it is where I will reside when the time comes. After my husband was buried, my grandson went to King Ranch Grass Co and purchased enough grass to totally sod all of the plots. As a gift to my deceased husband, our oldest son has taken on the responsibility of keeping our plots weedeated, trimmed, and cleaned up at all times. With permission, we placed wrought iron pieces around the circumference of our plots to keep the crew's mowers from hitting our tombstones as I know they do. I also know that rarely will anyone take responsibility when a tombstone is damaged. The cemetery crew does not have to have any maintenance on our 8 plots in Section 8.
23	20	Leave rule as is
23	20	No change
23	20	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind is not permitted on or around any specific gravesite. [This is an absolute statement, but he believes that there are exceptions to many of these. Consider saying without the written permission of the Cemetery Area. Ex: in his area, they have planted hedges and trees with the permission of the City, payed the City employees to plant them. He feels that he is legal because he paid the City and the City did it. He feels that someplace in here, there should be some flexibility relative to planting trees, shrubs, and improving the area. May want to consider allowing some of these things – but we recognize there there are exceptions when the Cemetery Manager considers it an enhancement to the Cemetery as a whole. Permitted with his approval or discretion. He feels that according to this rule he was in violation even though he had permission from the City. A lot of these rules address the individual gravesite. May want to think about what could be allowed with the permission of the superintendent] Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. [What happens if he comes and asks if he can put up a Cross at my family member's headstone. This rule says you can't put those there, he thinks this is worded poorly because there are exceptions. Objects of a religious nature may be allowed with the discretion of the Cemetery Director.] The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule. [what about the crosses, or other items, if they are in good taste.]
23	20	There should be something in here that states that if you are going to do something with your gravesite, it has to be ONLY in your gravesite. If someone plants a tree, where would you propose that someone would plant a tree. Consider the root issue with trees – roots can be obtrusive. He has a space next to his wife that is already buried there. Temple Beth Shalom has it's own rules and regulations. All of them are fully compliant with PARD rules – they are more strict. Their rules say no landscaping or flowers w/o approval of the Beth Shalom committee. They also approve every headstone. They allow certain sizes – they are smaller than typically found in the cemetery.
23	20	I agree with this rule. I think the simplicity, which is currently outlined in the current R&R is appropriate. It starts to look junky with all kinds of knick-knacks sitting around and blowing about. I do respect each families different way of honoring their loved ones, but I feel that the current guidelines are appropriate.
23	20	Agree. Keeps it neat and tidy, provides symmetry
23	20	Disagree. The objects are not tacky if they are placed there with love and maintained. They give personality and sometimes humor to an impersonal space. It is a shame that modern cemeteries are such forgotten places.
23	20	develop a written policy on what concrete items are acceptable, with specifics in writing. If you don't put it down in writing, then assumptions will be made that deviate from what was intended
23	20	Disagree. Burials are very personal to the family and the wishes of the deceased. If the ornamentation is of a durable nature, it should be allowed. If it is plastic or short-term, you could say that displays could be limited to the period of one month and may be removed afterwards by park staff.
23	20	small religious statues give people solace. No enclosures, glass, plastic etc should be allowed except plastic flowers. The rule should be broken up into sensible items regarding compassion and a rule regarding trashing the site.
23	20	Agree for the most part. I understand people wanting to have a place to sit, such as a memorial bench.
23	20	what is meant by slabs. this should not preclude tombstones or grave markers.

**City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
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23	20	I agree with this rule. Cemeteries should not be turned into amusement gardens! Totally inappropriate.
23	20	If it is limited, as opposed to excessive, I believe space ornamentation to be the choice of the family members. Everyone grieves differently. If one individual finds comfort in the fact that a small statue of a favorite saint is sitting next to their headstone of their late mother, they should be granted that comfort. Only when their decoration begins to interfere with others should be an issue.
23	20	Disagree.
23	20	With so many trees dying, Oakwood Cemetery is too sunny and hot. I would love to have a tree and bend near my grandparents and parents graves in the annex.
23	20	Agree.
23	20	no, I want to be able to put flowers for my late husband, I will pick them up and put fresh ones from time to time. In plastic or not.
23	20	DISAGREE.
23	20	Disagree. If a "family" owns two or more adjacent places, they should be able to have a bench, and outline of brick or rock. A child's teddy bear is fine. Personal mementos of the deceased, photographs, etc should be permitted and add to the character of the place.
23	20	I disagree with this rule, especially as it has not been enforced for many years. Enforcing it ex post facto would result in the destruction and desecration of many gravesites. Further, the past failure of PARD to enforce this rule may be deemed a type of waiver and legally the rule may already be unenforceable. Also, this enforcing this rule would violate the religious traditions of certain groups (for example, the Jewish tradition of leaving a stone when visiting a gravesite). I agree there should be reasonable limits on the type, size, weight, number, and materials of items to be placed within a space or on a grave, such as barring non-weather resistant items or offensive or political messages. I have submitted previously a very rough draft proposing certain such restrictions. Current gravesite memorials that are maintained and do not represent an imminent danger to PARD employees or the public should be grandfathered.
23	20	Disagree. If you've paid for the plot, you get to pay tribute to your deceased relatives how you please.
23	20	I agree in general. Austin has 5 very distinctive cemeteries. These rules can apply more to Memorial Park, but should be amended as to historic Oakwood and others.
23	20	Fine if it's with in reason. Sometime people my want to place a temporary item on a headstone. That should be permitted.
23	20	I agree
23	20	"Construction or installation of slabs" slabs should be permitted. Slabs would reduce ground heaving.
23	20	I would allow family members to put it temporary objects, plant flowers, I do not think they should be allowed to put fences, hedges , etc around plots
23	20	Agree, crews and visitors need to be able to walk the rows without obstructions
23	20	Agree
23	20	Agree. This rule is imperative for the safety of visitors and employees as well as for efficient groundskeeping.
23	20	There are times, because of expense, that one might not purchase a vase/vases for flowers, but in the future would desire to do so. In this sense, I would seek to allow for this type of item to be added. Many markers have space for the vase/s and could easily be added without damaging or adding to the existing marker.
23	20	Agree
23	20	We agree with this rule if its the same as current rules.
23	20	I disagree with this rule. Expression of grief is important in the healing process. If the items do not present a safety hazard and families keep the grave site clean and remove worn items.
23	20	Yes but the condition of the headstones is inconsistent with this approach. You have an uncluttered cemetery but headstones that are topsy turvy. I am told the cemetery was originally perpetual care but changed when the City assumed it.
23	20	I disagree with this rule. Some graves are already encased with concrete, many have concrete, wooden, or iron benches. Many statues are included with the monument. As long as these items aren't deteriorating and not an eyesore, I think they should be permitted.
23	20	I disagree. Vehemently. We paid for the plots. We should be able to put what we want to pay homage to our loved ones.
23	20	I DISAGREE! Who are you to come along at this date and destroy the wonderful ambience at my last resting place-to-be. If I wanted to be buried at Ft. Hood, or some cold mechanical looking place, I would go there. Instead, I chose to be buried 40 miles from my home because I fell in love with the grounds. Wind chimes hanging from a tree? Love it! I did see some things that could be "tidied up"...but you are recommending wholesale wiping out of the charm of this beautiful cemetery. I might mention that it is a historical place. I'm proud that it is going to be my last home.
23	20	Disagree. Currently the City is not allowing plantings of any type. The City is allowing for potted plants, which are more difficult to maintain and keep alive, especially in our harsh weather conditions. It is a ridiculous rule and unbearable to not allow friends and family to plant rose bushes or other appropriate blooming plants which have a greater chance of survival, as other cemeteries do.
23	20	I agree.
23	20	I think slabs, fencing, hedging or enclosures can be controlled. I think a permanent statue could be permitted if it is in place of a tomb stone.
23	20	Rule generally sounds adequate, however it prohibits almost anything. He understands banning mausoleums and such, but wants a vase with flowers. Feels the rule is overreaching. Possibly implement a board or committee that would approve or disapprove with consent.
23	20	OK with all except for steps. Some may be needed for ADA. Access to all graves should be ADA compliant. No hedging is particularly important since some people like to enclose the graves (mostly when they own several plots) for privacy, but this creates a separation within the cemetery.

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23	20	Decorations (statues or objects made off any type of material and objects of a temporary nature) should be allowed for a certain period of time because that is part of the grieving process. It's therapeutic. It helps some people grieve by putting decorations, wind chimes, mementos and flowers (plastic or real) for a certain time after the death of a relative, and on holidays such as birthdays, death anniversaries, wedding anniversaries, Christmas, Mother and Father's day, Veteran and Memorial day and July 4th, ethnic holidays, etc.. Decorations should be allowed at these dates in controlled manner, such as with a permit issued automatically for 30 days after burial, automatic for 3 days prior and the day after the holidays listed above, and for the day of the personal celebrations if asked via web site in an easy form. Small wind chimes should be allowed all year long. They are not intrusive and provide soothing sounds in cemeteries that often are either too silent or have too much road noise. Artificial flowers should be allowed. It is elitist and very inconvenient to require only fresh flowers because some people can't afford fresh flowers or some live out of town and can't replace fresh flowers.
23	20	Nothing should be removed without a weeks prior notice to a confirmed valid address. Objects should be kept in storage for 6 months in case the owner didn't receive notice. We know that many of the plot owners don't have current addresses and have not been getting notices. A public cemetery should not be a place of abuse and tyranny. Instead it should have a Cemetery manager that knows how to flexibly manage a place of activity and diversity (age, race, beliefs, attitudes towards death).
23	20	Maintenance is important...I know some additions are hard to mow and edge around. However, expressions of grief are as storied as those who inhabit the grounds. Does the enforcement of this rule mean the remove of things previously allowed? Do some of the families have to grieve again as they find memorials changed, plants removed? That seems harsh.
23	20	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
23	20	XXX constructed a slab at his wife's gravesite. He did this with the permission from Trey Walden and the slab provided a clean and respectful appearance. Previously, the gravesite was muddy, had no grass and was not dignified. XXX would like the slab to remain.
23	20	The sites that typically have these adornments are recent losses. Everyone needs to have a way to grieve. Some folks due this by visiting often and leaving items that are special to that person. To take this grieving avenue away would be tragic. Especially for young children. Perhaps as items become dilapidated they could be removed. Maybe a set bi-annual clearing of old-faded items. I would suggest perhaps a 30 day staging area for items to be stored in case family members want to reclaim them. This rule needs to be carefully examined. I would guess at least 30 to 50% of the current sites are in violation of this rule. The artciles however is what makes Austin Memorial Park so special. The grave sites tell stories and share memories. It makes each site special & not sterile. It is part of the "small town" atmosphere that Austin wants so much to hang on too.
23	20	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
23	20	Do not agree
23	20	Families often take extra care of a loved one's grave. This is markedly true of Hispanic families and to a somewhat lesser extent black families. This can include homemade markers and borders, flowers, even cactus. Evergreen has quite a few of these and they add considerably to the positive ambiance of the cemetery. These hands on alterations are the result of both caring and a lack of funds. I would strongly encourage a bow in the direction of cultural diversity (and keeping Austin weird) by continuing to allow these personal expressions of love, grief, and care. A desire to mow grass more efficiently should not outweigh the passionate reasons we have cemeteries in the first place. (And this from someone who was paid to mow rural cemeteries as a young man). Evergreen is a treasure for historic Black Austin. Please don't sterilize it. And water it more - we miss the trees.
23	20	Yes
23	20	Yes
23	20	Disagree - Items placed by families should be left in place as long as they are not dilapidated, rotting, of that nature. The cemetery staff should remove items that are decaying. If they pose a safety concern, remove them. If they aren't harming anything and are just inconvenient for maintenance, they should be left alone. Use reasonable judgment on this.
23	20	Disagree, let people do things different from what I would do. There is not one grave in Austin Cemeteries that is a problem. The city should correct slabs, curbing, steps and headstones that are a hazard.
23	20	I say, get rid of extraneous stuff. Allow folks to put flowers, etc. in pots or other containers that rest upon the monument, only.
23	20	I most certainly disagree with this rule as most grave plots have some type of these items. They represent the memorial desires of the living, friends, and relatives.
23	20	Agree
23	20	I agree with this rule.
23	20	Disagree. These families purchased these plots and should be able to decorate them as they wish as long as they don't present a hazard.
23	20	I think this is only reasonable insofar as the added items directly effect the lot of another. Otherwise, these activities allow connection with the deceased, and should be respected. Thus, I do not agree with the rule as stated. I would add some criteria by which to judge harmful constructions (such as physical encroachment on another space). (All this being said, objects of a temporary nature become trashed (with time), and thus contribute to unsightliness, so I can understand that part of the rule. Maybe it could be changed to be similar to the rule described in question no. 9-- that it will be removed once deteriorated).
23	20	Agree

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23	20	I agree, these temporary additions eventually decay and become trash.
23	20	Agree, in general
23	20	I agree that spaces should be kept open and not closed in.
23	20	what do you want by keeping this rule? sounds like you want something very sterile and a homogenous look. the veterans unknown soldier section of any cemetery is necessary, but we don't need the cemetery to look this way throughout. human beings with individuality are laid to rest there. the families and individuals have wishes an requests.
23	20	Definitely agree with the first sentence. I think it would be okay if people want to but something small on their loved ones grave.
23	20	Disagree. Families should be permitted to place any object on an individual grave (within the grave's space and not beyond it).. The cemetery should reflect the individuality of the families honoring a sacred space.
23	20	I disagree. That only leaves available to us who long to respect our loved ones the option of laying live flowers on the grave that die and wilt within an hour or so in the hot heat of Texas. Could we not place a semi permanent silk or plastic flower holder near the gravestone?
23	20	agree as the decorations clutter the gravesites and become unsightly. also increases maintenance
23	20	I agree except for small flower arrangements or small pot/urn/planter that may hold a flower arrangement.
23	20	Agree
23	20	I think that is ridiculous. If it gets in the way of your mowing, then don't mow around that particular grave. Why would it bother anyone if somebody decides to put a statue of an angel? Why would anyone be bothered when the parents of a child put toys on his/her grave? There's one like that near my father and it touches my heart. If there is something that is rotting, decaying, a health hazard or a safety hazard (broken glass for example), sure, remove it. Otherwise, why?
23	20	Yes, I agree with this rule
23	20	agree People have very differing ideas of what looks good in a front yard. Austin Memorial looks like one of my tacky neighbors' front yard.
23	20	This rule, like others below, needs to be re-written in simple, concise form. It combines some specifics with some vague generalities and would be difficult to enforce if challenged. And while it prohibits curbing, # 12 suggests curbing may nevertheless exist by excluding the repair or replacement of curbing from the definition of "care" to be rendered by city employees.
23	20	Disagree. Unless they pose a safety hazard, there should not be a restriction on these.
23	20	I totally disagree. Only if it is a "safety violation" should it be removed. Otherwise, please leave as is as it may be an expression of someone's love for their dead.
23	20	Disagree. Allow objects that are not hazardous. Remove if broken only.
23	20	I think putting plants and in some cases of deceased children toys are fine.
23	20	Absolutely not. I challenge any person with the City of Austin to go through the cemetery and show a location where these additions are in bad taste and do not pay respect to the deceased.
23	20	Strongly disagree. While I see a need to have some regulations, plants, benches etc. is very important to me as I visit the burial place of my family and loved ones. especially object to the city already taking action without warning or notice by pulling a plant I had placed for a loved one.
23	20	Disagree. Expressions of individuality should be encouraged.
23	20	Disagree.
23	20	Disagree. If people would like to place a bench near or on lots they own so they can sit down while visiting their loved ones they should be allowed to do so. If some erects an object that is not obviously/openly offensive, and is on their lot(s) it should be allowed to remain.
23	20	I disagree. The plots are privately owned. Within broad limits (truly dangerous items), the owner of the plot should be allowed to place items as they wish.
23	20	Disagree - statues or more permanent objects should be allowed.
23	20	See answer to Question #1
23	20	I agree. People who visit to remember loved ones should not be distracted by others graveside embellishments.
23	20	I agree. However, I would allow stone or iron benches which give family members a place to rest
23	20	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
23	20	although I see why you may not allow permanent construction, not sure why statues and objects are not ok. they can be very meaningful.
23	20	Agree. By keeping the rule, the cemetery will be well maintained, and serenity and peacefulness will be the result.
23	20	I agree, but you should include a penalty if the city has to remove prohibited items with the penalty increasing substantially for repeat offenders
23	20	I agree. Often these 'extras' are added without respect to the graves of those nearby and to the access needed to reach these graves.
23	20	I disagree. I think these personal items are what give a cemetery character, and more important, they give the bereaved some comfort in personalizing their loved one's grave.
23	20	Yes, I agree
23	20	Perhaps there is some sound reason to limit the types of enclosures permitted at each gravesite, but an outright ban on enclosures of any kind is probably taking it too far. I see no reason why statues or small objects should be prohibited. I can understand if the cemetery wants to ensure that headstones are visible, but surely some compromise is possible to achieve the desired cemetery aesthetic while allowing the bereaved to include tokens of affection to their loved ones, including statuary, small objects and plants, as long as the gravesite owner agrees to assume responsibility for maintenance.
23	20	I disagree. I would change the rule to state that any objects that present a public safety hazard or a hazard to park maintenance workers or an impediment to foot traffic will be removed.

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23	20	Disagree, as the diverse expressions of grief and mourning in our society may call for temporary (seasonal) decorations or statuary that reflects the loved one. One cultural preference for agrif to be reflected in a certain way (ie grass only, or subtle floral tributes) should not be imposed on everyone.
23	20	Disagree. Goodness gracious. Loved ones should be able to remember with personal items. Plants (particularly native plants) are a tribute to our heritage.
23	20	I disagree with this rule. As long as these items are not creating a danger, they should be allowed to be there, within the plot loved ones have paid for. Benches should absolutely be allowed.
23	20	disagree with this rule
23	20	Completely disagree! Certain restrictions such as cement I understand...but plants? Statues? Mementoes of the loved one? Why is that a problem?
23	20	I understand there have to be some limits perhaps to size to an object, but again I think loved ones should be able to customize the plot.
23	20	I disagree with this rule. I would change the rule to allow people to remember their loved ones in any way they see fit that does not endanger visitors. For example, broken glass on walkways should probably be prohibited. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
23	20	Disagree.
23	20	Disagree. Should be with approval of city prior and city NOT to be allowe to remove anything without notification.
23	20	disagree - it is all a matter of taste
23	20	Disagree. Unless it disturbs the maintenance of the park, it should be allowed.
23	20	Construction of slabs, fences, or other enclosures--that's ok with me. Statues or objects made of cement, iron, wood, or other hard substances seem ok. Perhaps some parameters about size would be ok.
23	20	I do not think it is right to ignore this rule for years and then suddenly start enforcing it. I think as long as people do not violate anyone else's space, they should be able to do what they please.
23	20	I disagree. Since the grave sites are privately owned, the owners should be able to construct or install any type of decoration or memorials they desire, as long as it is not obscene or pornographic, and is constructed safely.
23	20	I strongly disagree with this heartless plan. I have a loved one buried in Memorial Park and I chose it because it reflected the creativity of the city of Austin. That creativity is shown in the lively and personal decorations used to mark the place where a loved one is buried. It also gives one a sense of the personality of the loved one, which allows their memory to live on beyond death.
23	20	Completely DISagree. Too sterile and, basically, ridiculous.
23	20	Disagree
23	20	I disagree. Especially the statement about not allowing temporary objects. Small stones are placed on grave stone as a sign that a friend or relative has visited. Figurines and vases are sentimental to those that visit.
23	20	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [Survey in spanish?]
23	20	Disagree. What is the purpose of this rule? If the area "inside" of the enclosure is maintained, there should not be any restrictions of this nature. If the grave becomes overgrown and not tended, then their removal would be in order.
23	20	Disagree; I would remove the rule.
23	20	Ok, with the rule except as it applies to existing modifications already in place assuming they create no hazard.
23	20	Disagree. I think it is ok to have height or access restrictions placed but think it completely unnecessary to limit family participation in grave upkeep. I find this especially grievous to those who have not signed on for this when purchasing their plots.
23	20	I disagree with the rule. I would change the rule by consulting with the owners of the grave plots to come up with something that everyone can live with.
23	20	Disagree. Why is this not permitted? I don't understand.
23	20	I would disagree with this rule. As long as the statuary does not malign or disrespect groups of people based on race, creed, sexual orientation it should be allowed. A size limit may be in order but to ban it altogether seems insensitive.
23	20	I think anybody should have the right to personalize the grave site of their loved one, not only should they have the right but it should be encouraged. The only thing that might be suggested is to not use light things that could easily fly away (e.g. paper/plastic) - or to make sure that they are properly attached or fastened.
23	20	Does that include cement, iron, or wooden benches? (see#7) What about chimes? Offenders should be given enough notice to take care of the problem
23	20	What's the purpose of this rule. To make it easier for the City to mow? Or to prevent trash from accumulating. If the latter, I think you should narrow this rule. Perhaps you should make clear that objects that are paper and dilapidated and broken need to be removed. Then you need to define what is considered broken.
23	20	Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case
23	20	Disagree. I would allow planting of drought resistant plants and flowers, the erection of bird houses, the additions of flags on special days, the placing of rocks (Jewish tradition) and the temporary placing of other materials, such as for Day of the Dead.
23	20	I disagree. This is far to broad and appears to permit know modifications. A small rubber duck or a beautiful planting of Zinnias would not be allowed under this rule. Surely you can craft wording that disallows buidling something like a pergola while allowing a grieving person to remember their loved one with planted flowers or toys.
23	20	My family encourages planting(s) of hedging, shrubs, flowers or trees at the gravesite, IF, they are maintained by the family members and bring an astetic nature to the gravesite. It should not have to be maintained by the city. As long as a family member maintains the location in a positive and environmental nature, it should be encouraged.
23	20	Outdoor pots should be allowed, as well as outdoor edging to keep the grass and weeds at bay.
23	20	Strongly disagree! I would delete this rule! Not even temporary objects? Even the national cemetery regulations are not that strict! http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsamhouston.asp
23	20	Please! Allow mementos-make the gravesite comforting and a blessing for the community and the bereaved.

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23	20	I disagree. I think the families should be allowed to erect edging around the grave site of their loved ones, as long as it's not a material like plastic edging which would deteriorate over time. I think stone or rock is proper and attractive.
23	20	Completely disagree because the statement is far too vague and gives the The City of Austin far too much leverage to interpret as they see fit. If something is falling apart or creates a safety hazard I agree, but if you see fit to remove a small wooden bear I left for my mother I would have to say what is wrong with you. I know that something small like that probably would not be removed, but the fact you give yourself the right to do that if you wish, I can agree with. Reword it and I'll see what I think.
23	20	Disagree- not everyone is as uptight as the city of Austin.
23	20	Yes, I agree with this rule.
23	20	Although I agree that fencing and curbing would make maintenance more difficult, slabs or wide-based statues or mementos should be ok. Low hedges and plants with clear mowing paths are nice. Trees are essential.
23	20	Totally disagree with this rule. Are you saying a vase of flowers would not be permitted ?
23	20	Disagree. Without anything beyond the tombstone, the graveyard becomes a lifeless and sterile place. By being allowed to items, particularly plantings and statues in a space you have bought to memorialize the person buried there is a long honored tradition in memorializing those you love.
23	20	I disagree - I suggest it should read Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statue or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted to extend beyond the bounds of the individual lot
23	20	I understand the rule, but I also believe that it's almost a freedom of speech that people are using when they leave things there to soothe their own souls when they visit. It might not be "pretty" the way you think it should be, but these people bought and paid for the land where their loved one is buried and they should be able to put mementoes there.
23	20	Disagree. Discard this rule completely and concentrate on health and safety issues. Pickup the dilapidated articles on a regular basis.
23	20	I disagree with this rule because it impedes individual expression at the private grave sites of loved ones. Anything obstructive, dangerous, or unsightly is understandable and should be prohibited. Something temporary should be allowed on a grave site at least on the memorial day of a relative. Specific items should be decided on by all stakeholders involved in a fair manner, respecting cultural diversity.
23	20	I agree. I am on the cemetery committee for the Agudas Achim Cemetery which is in the Austin Memorial Park and this rule will help us enforce many requests we have made to families of departed loved ones regarding just such enclosures.
23	20	I disagree strongly with this proposal.
23	20	I agree. I sympathize with grieving families who wish to mark the passing of their loved one with mementos, but these displays are disrespectful to all the other very special people who share the cemetery and to their families.
23	20	Agree to some extent. There are some specific rituals that require a temporary indication that someone has visited a grave site - for example a flag or decoration for certain holidays, and also a stone on top of a tombstone for those of the Jewish faith - - these traditions should be respected and permitted.
23	20	I disagree, strenuously. This has nothing to do with "respect" and everything to do with making it easier for the cemetery maintenance guys to mow.
23	20	We disagree! Small items should be allowed on grave sites as well as planted flowers. In the past the City has failed to maintain our grave site properly.
23	20	Disagree. My parents' grave site plan was run by the person on site and was deemed appropriate. It is tasteful, respectful of others nearby and peaceful.
23	20	I disagree. I think people should be allowed to fence in their private plots or define them in some way, as long as it's not a safety hazard.
23	20	Too vague. Also, removal without notice and opportunity to dispute? Whatever happened to due process?
23	20	Agree.
23	20	I strongly disagree with the rule. Individual small statues or momentos could help the people left behind to feel better. They do no harm.
23	20	I disagree.
23	20	I would delete "objects of a temporary nature" because this would exclude flowers or flags or stones.
23	20	Sections which already contain slabs, curbing, steps, etc. should be allowed to maintain and/or construct new to create continuity.
23	20	Agree: Safety is of upmost importance. Items need to be limited to preserve a neat, orderly, and attractive, safe area that can be maintained by the employees.
23	20	there are religious injunctions or at least suggestions for example for jews to have a fence around a burial place. and jews must ritually wash our hands when we leave a cemetery. im not sure how to rule on those kinds of issues.
23	20	disagree - too many 'details'
23	20	agree with wording...the key word here is enclosure
23	20	allowances for permanent structures and if private family plots some curbing or other statuary with tombstones should be allowed. markers such as stones to show visitation should be allowed as these do not deteriorate nor blow away or become unsightly. no plastic nor vegetation that can become unsightly such as pin wheels, pictures, candles.
23	20	I disagree. I believe this rule is too stringent. It does not affect me directly, but I would suggest that accommodations be made in two ways: a) some temporary placements should be allowed, provided that they are limited in time and do not interfere with a specified schedule of mowing and other gravesite care; and, b) the Department should consider whether certain permanent placements--with reasonable restrictions--should be allowed, provided that the affected family agrees that certain types of maintenance (e.g., lawn mowing inside a concrete edging) can no longer be performed (and, if applicable, that the family will be responsible for maintaining the enclosed area).

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23	20	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries - Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
23	20	Disagree. I see lots where families have planted native shrubs to remember their loved ones and I think that is a respectful way to remember. It seems as if this rule/regulation would not allow for this to happen
23	20	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle.
23	20	I would like personal items, statues, and objects to be allowed to remain on an individual's grave since these represent their spirit.
23	20	I disagree. A plot should reflect the person buried therein. If benches, statues, or hedges show how the family remembers the dead, they should be allowed. Stones or coins that show someone visited should not be disturbed.
23	20	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
23	20	Agree however some plantings would be nice though they would require special care which places an unmanaged burden on the maintainers.
23	20	With the cemetery being so old, some people have put things that are sentimental to them, and that should be considered when looking at what has already been there for years and may cause a problem with the families that have put in a planter or angel or something like that. He knows some of that stuff is worn out and rotten and should be addressed.
23	20	Honestly, I believe that what people do with the gravesites of their loved ones is their business, not the city's. I would strike the rule.
23	20	Support enclosures or fencing, but could allow concrete curbs to show where City maintains up to, and the family would care for their own plot. Absolutely don't agree with the rest of the rule, scratch entirely. Selected section 6 for it's eclectic nature with temporary/seasonal memorials. Owns 8-10 burial spaces. Iron cross put up for her grandson. Doesn't think people should be required to get the standard granite memorials. City should remove dilapidated, rain soggy items.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
24	21	<i>Only one casket will be permitted in each grave. In the event cremation is utilized, a maximum of four (4) interments will be permitted in one (1) space.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
24	21	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
25	22	<i>The use of a space is for the owner or such other person as the owner may designate.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
25	22	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
26	23	<i>In the event of the death of an owner, any and all privileges of the owner shall pass according to the laws of the State of Texas.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
26	23	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
27	24	<i>The City of Austin shall have the right to establish a charge and time of payment for each interment and disinterment.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
27	24	City is charging people extra \$350 if they don't give the City 12 working hours notice of burial. I think this wrong.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
28	25	<i>The City of Austin reserves the right to specify the amounts and terms of purchase of all spaces to the original purchaser.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
28	25	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
29	26	<i>In the event an owner sells or conveys a space or spaces, a record of such sale or conveyance must be provided to the City of Austin.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
29	26	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
30	27	<i>When a disinterment is accomplished for the purpose of re-interment within the same cemetery, the current price of the vacated space, less 25%, shall be allowed as payment toward the new purchase. The established charge for opening and closing each space will be in addition to the price of the new space.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
30	27	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
31	28	<i>All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
31	28	State law says that city is responsible for straightening memorial stones (Tx Hlth and Safety Code 713.011 – municipalities responsibilities for cemeteries). Main concern, aside from aesthetics, is leveling and straightening of the stones (not the owner's responsibility, it is the city's responsibility). Poor condition of stone (leaning, unsupported) is a bigger issue than the ornamentation with dilapidated materials.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
32	29	<i>Only one memorial will be permitted on one grave space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more grave spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the grave space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
32	29	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
33	30	<i>Space or lot corner markers will be set flush with the turf.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
33	30	

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Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
34	31	<p><i>Flush type Memorials—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The marking of each space or grave in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish and construction as indicated in this section. -Flush type memorials shall be made of granite marble or cast bronze installed on granite, marble or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4"). -Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6") and shall be smooth on all sides. -All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2") of sand for cushioning and leveling. -The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the grave space width.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
34	31	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
35	32	<p><i>Above Ground Materials</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used. -All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite or similar permanent type stone. -Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18") in width --The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42"). --The length shall be at least ten inches less than the grave space width.
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
35	32	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
36	33	<p><i>Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.</i></p>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
36	33	The rule is OK in principle but too vague and broad. I would remove "unsightly" as totally subjective. I would like to see some notice to the families, but understand that is impractical. I would include a provision that the rule should be enforced conservatively.
36	33	I agree with this without suggestion.
36	33	Leave rule as is
36	33	This is against State law. It is the City's obligation to pay for this. (Change the last sentence as such).
36	33	No change
36	33	This is tricky. Right now this guideline is handled leniently. However, any Superintendent in the future could enforce this with a heavy hand. When the correction is due to a safety issue, this would be reasonable. In the case of the memorial becoming "unsightly or dilapidated" might cause problems. I have seen beautiful, ancient memorials (Europe, St. Paul's Churchyard in New York, etc.) which could be considered 'dilapidated', but are part of our collective history, and most importantly, honors the deceased for which it marks. This decision is too subjective for one person (the Superintendent) to decide. I would rather see a panel of people determine if a memorial is considered 'dilapidated or unsightly'. If we adhere to the current R&R of monuments being made of granite, marble, etc., then "dilapidation and unsightliness" should not be an issue. In this case, the appearance could be considered "antiquated charm!"
36	33	Agree. It is a public place and safety should be everyone's concern who visits.
36	33	Disagree. The owner should be contacted to make amends/repair before cost is incurred to make the change.
36	33	I would notify the heirs to correct first, as a courtesy, then if there is no timely response (also consider safety issues) or they defer back to the superintendent, then proceed.
36	33	Agree, if the space owner could even be determined. If not, what happens? I favor repair over removal - unmarked memorials are problematic. Is there additional language that specifies a replacement?
36	33	The City should first notify the next of kin with a 60 day moratorium. After 60 days the city has a right to correct the issue.
36	33	Agree
36	33	the rule is fine so long as family can be found. if not, the grave should be cleaned and made neat without payment.
36	33	Lot owners should be responsible for removing all items that are old and dilapidated. It's costs us to remove other peoples junk!
36	33	I agree that the Superintendent should have the right to correct or remove any unsightly memorial, but only when the family is also notified.
36	33	Agree but plot owner should be contacted first to see if they'll take care of it on their own.
36	33	Many mausoleums develop a "patina" over time. What is wrong with this?
36	33	There should be a short window for a warranty provided by the contractor who installs the stones. After that I believe it should be up to the family to pay for removal or repair of stones.
36	33	no, you should not charge us if you disagree with the unsightly site. shame on you.
36	33	Only after contacting the family.
36	33	Disagree, the City should not be allowed to retroactively change rules that would cost an owner.
36	33	There should be a set procedure requiring PARD, if any space is not in compliance, to give the space owner written notice specifically setting out the nature of the violation and how the violation may be brought into compliance and the space owner should have 30 days from receipt of such notice to remove or correct the said violation. Only if the space holder fails to remove or correct the violation, should PARD employees be authorized to do so in a manner that, within the reasonable discretion of the Superintendent, is the least invasive and disruptive to the space. PARD should also have the right (and already does) to remove or correct any violation without notice if the violation presents an immediate and serious danger to the safety and welfare of PARD employees or the public, as well as to remove any broken or deteriorated items and dead plants or flowers.

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36	33	Disagree. You can't charge dead people money.
36	33	A agree in part. But what about cemeteries like Oakwood where the space owner's family line has died out, or after several generations is unknown? This also comes with restrictions as to changes to nationally recognized designations. Rules should reflect the other city cemeteries and not just Memorial Park.
36	33	True. Unless it was damaged by humans, machines or was poorly constructed.
36	33	I wouldn't change it..
36	33	I agree however, how would you deal with the owner if the owner is interred or no family can be found,
36	33	I agree that if the items become unsightly, dilapidated or a hazard, that they should be removed.
36	33	Disagree - All of our cemeteries are historic in nature (50 years or Older). while I agree in principle that All monuments are the property of the families, getting descendants to pay for a repair or removal is not backed up by any law that could be enforced. the city has no idea who the descendants are in the first generation little own 6 or 7 generations removed as with the older burials at Oakwood.. the fact that monuments are historic by state law when they reach 50 years or older , they are protected by state law so you can not just remove them. the key here is to determine when or How a monument can be classified as abandoned property then allow preservation groups work with COA staff to stabilize / restore historic monuments
36	33	Agree
36	33	Agree. Unsightly and dilapidated memorials demonstrate neglect, and hazardous conditions invite injury and lawsuits.
36	33	In the case of my mother and father and aunt, they purchased "perpetual care" spaces; therefore, if repairs are to be made or any other unforeseen expense is required, the Cemetery should incur the expense, not the space owner.
36	33	I feel that the headstones should be maintained by the city. I'm sure there will be many times that the space owner or family cannot be contacted for collection.
36	33	Agree
36	33	I agree with a notification to the family first. If the family doesn't remove the item in a timely fashion then a charge would be applicable.
36	33	Repair the headstone. Never remove it.
36	33	I think the Superintendent should notify the space owner and give them 30 days to address the situation. I am sure, most owners would be happy to repair, replace or have items removed...Give them the option first.
36	33	I believe the superintendent should get in touch with the owner first. Rose bushes that were over 50 years old were removed without our permission. And a tree.
36	33	agree
36	33	I DISAGREE! Who is making the judgment that a site is "unsightly, dilapidated or a hazard"? What if the Super. is having a bad day? This is judgemental, arbitrary and could be used cruelly.
36	33	Agree.
36	33	I agree.
36	33	I think this is fair but I would make sure the owner had been notified and given 30 days to make adjustments before he is charged an expense. A shifting of the land should be handled at the cost of the cemetery.
36	33	Appropriate rule. Appears the soil where the cemetery was originally plotted has a lot of Del Rio clay causing headstones to tilt. Somebody needs to do something with soil stabilization...a shared expense.
36	33	Nothing should be removed without at least 2 weeks prior notice to a confirmed valid address. We know that many of the plot owners don't have current addresses and have not been getting notices. Stones are a big issue of controversy. Almost all stones are leaning due to lack of irrigation of the grounds. The clay soils shifts significantly when dry. This has been going on for decades. The public has asked for the stones to be reset, but the city doesn't want to pay for this. It's not OK to ask for the public to pay for resetting of the stones if the City continue to not maintain the ground at a proper moisture level so that they don't lean so fast. The other issue is that the contractor resets the stones with a different process, not as good as that of others. The public can hire their own contractor to reset the stones, but the Cemetery management office always recommends the same contractor with the lowest quality. They should at least provide a list of various contractors or none at all. Unsightly is on the eye of the beholder. Define unsightly in the rules, or expect a lawsuit when a memorial or mausoleum is removed (even if the City pays for the removal) and the owner doesn't agree with the removal. This situation will be aggravated if no removal notification is sent, or if it is sent to an invalid address, which we know occurs often. Safety hazard caused by the stones leaning can be defined with an angle (Stones should not lean more than a specified angle). Use standard specifications.
36	33	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
36	33	Circled YES
36	33	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
36	33	Yes
36	33	No
36	33	If the family is actively alive and still participating, that's one thing, but if you have families that are long inactive...not sure. It's a tough call.
36	33	Disagree, tag the grave informing the people who care what the hazard is. It will cost more money to find the person to bill. The worst cemetery is Oakwood, to old to bill the grandchild. The city needs to correct hazards as regular maintenance.

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36	33	Just do it!
36	33	I disagree. Any repair work on cemetery monuments or mausoleums should be done sensitively and respectfully.
36	33	Disagree. Existing memorials should not be removed, without family approval first. If there is family still living they should be consulted about the expense before being billed. If there is no one the cost of repair must be born by the city.
36	33	I agree.
36	33	Give the family the opportunity to correct the condition, first.
36	33	Seems reasonable.
36	33	All efforts should be made to contact the space owners first, and rather than remove a memorial it should be restored.
36	33	Have reservations on this. A memorial stone should not be removed if the person does not have surviving family members to rectify the issue.
36	33	I disagree. Dilapidated mausoleums add character to cemeteries. And some families go extinct, but their memories should not be removed. What if all the Zilkers moved away and did not pay for the upkeep of the family plot? Should they be removed? I think not.
36	33	Owner shall be notified of property condition non-compliance and be given a time period for correction, before Superintendent incurs expenses to repair.
36	33	I think the owner should be told and given time to correct the problem first. I do agree that if it becomes unsightly then it should be removed.
36	33	responsibilities of the superintendent and plot owners should be outlined and shared. the grounds do not need to be as meticulous as the state cemetery but maintained and neat. supervisor or committee should not have more say than locals and plot owners. some owners no longer live in Austin and cannot be expected to maintain as well as local families seniors cannot do this work either. services could be provided at low cost.
36	33	I agree except with the additional language being that the Superintendent shall have the right after the space owner had been notified and not corrected the problem.
36	33	Vital to let families have a say in this via a townhall type meeting to determine exactly what is permitted, and what is considered a question of safety. Listen to the voices of the families involved.
36	33	there would need to be criteria of what constitutes dilapidated. And the cemetery should attempt to contact the sites responsible person prior to incurring repair cost.
36	33	agree
36	33	I agree only so much as you contact the family first, giving them a reasonable time to correct the problem themselves and THEN proceed to the above mentioned. I only make it into the cemetery about 2x a year and would be very upset if I was not aware of a problem and it was fixed without my input.
36	33	If it is due to safety hazard the situation should be corrected. If it is due to dilapidation or unsightliness, the space owner should be contacted and an attempt made to work with them to correct the situation.
36	33	Define unsightly for me? That could mean anything depending on who judges it. Dilapidated and a safety hazard are understandable and I agree.
36	33	The family should be notified first and not be surprised by some bill..
36	33	Agree, however, what happens if there is no next of kin to correct a dilapidated headstone?
36	33	Removal or alteration of memorials and mausoleums, if done by the Superintendent without notice and accompanied by a demand for payment of costs, could result in litigation.
36	33	yes for dilapidated, hazardous. unsightly is a judgement call and that would not be a good thing to put down as a "rule"
36	33	Again, if safety issue, yes. But who is defining unsightly. What may be unsightly for someone may be OK for someone else.
36	33	Agree.
36	33	i agree.
36	33	Apparently, the people writing these rules have not been to a cemetery lately. The vandalism is rampant disrespecting the citizens of Austin who have chosen to remain here after life. The City has a less than stellar record in maintaining these sites and the rules are wrong for saying the deceased will be charged for any work done to their plot. This is the most ludicrous rule of all, and disrespectful to families.
36	33	How interesting that it is to the discretion of the city on what is unsightly and then to charge the plot holder for the removal. I would make every effort to contact the owner of the plot (family etc.) to correct the problem.
36	33	Yes.
36	33	Agree. keeps it looking good.
36	33	Disagree. Numerous notices should be sent requesting a party correct an issue that may arise and only after several attempts should PARD take action to change a memorial or mausoleum.
36	33	The only time the "superintendent" should remove questionable items is after efforts made to contact the owner. This should be in writing and filed so that others (media, legal representatives of "stakeholders"), can review attempts to contact.
36	33	Agree
36	33	See answer to Question #1
36	33	I agree, within certain boundaries. Time changes perceptions and cultural expressions. A winged cherubim might appear unsightly now, but 50 years ago differently.
36	33	I agree
36	33	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
36	33	I disagree with this (except for a safety hazard). Cemeteries do have some dilapidated parts and within reason this is to be expected.
36	33	Agree. Cemeteries are not meant to be used as altars to the memories of loved ones. Altars can be constructed in homes and on private property, but not on city owned property.
36	33	agree

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36	33	This rule is more difficult because much of the change in condition is the effects of time, weather, and subsidence of soil. Much of that would fall into the category of maintenance which is what was paid for when the plot was purchased.
36	33	That seems reasonable so long as we're talking dilapidated or hazardous. Unsightly is a matter of opinion, however, and is a slippery slope.
36	33	Yes, I agree
36	33	The space owner should be notified well in advance of removal or repair of any of their property, along with the rationale for doing so, and offered the opportunity to remedy the situation themselves first.
36	33	I disagree. "Unsightly" is a subjective term. Safety hazards must be addressed but the issue of upkeep must involve a notification process and allow space owners time to respond before the Superintendent or staff become involved.
36	33	There should be a mediating process. Not fair for super to make decisions that could prove more costly than surviving family can afford.
36	33	Disagree. Personal mementos are not dilapidated or hazardous items. Who decides what is dilapidated or hazardous? Does a small American flag with a pointy end on the grave of a veteran qualify? Does a bench mean that someone could potentially trip on it? Or interfere with mowing water thirsty grass?.
36	33	REmoval of a mausoleum or memorial? That is horrible! A hazard should be fixed, but do we really call old cemeteries, unsightly? Memorials should weather just the way they are.
36	33	disagree with this rule
36	33	Agree...especially for safety issues.
36	33	I agree that dilapidated or hazardous conditions need to be dealt with and yes it should be at the expense of the space owner. Unsightly is a little harder to judge. It's objective and what is unsightly to you may not be to others.
36	33	I disagree with this rule. "Unsightly or dilapidated" is vague and should be clarified. The Superintendent should have the right to contact the family and require true hazards to others to be corrected. Perhaps a list of what the Superintendent would consider a safety hazard would help. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
36	33	If something becomes dangerous to others, of course. Beloved plants and mementos should be retained.
36	33	Disagree. Who gets to decide "dilapidated" or "unsightly"? Again family should be notified and given chance to correct or respond. What if unable to pay?
36	33	yes
36	33	I agree with this but it is quite subjective.
36	33	... the Superintendent shall contact the owner and request repair or removal. If owner is unable or refuses to repair or remove, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition after a minimum of 3 attempts to contact the owner.
36	33	If it's a hazard or is unsightly, then the condition should be corrected. If there is a disagreement as to whether it's unsightly or just not to the taste of others, there should be a fair way for people to argue their case for keeping the memorial.
36	33	A board of at least 3 people should oversee the safety and appropriateness of memorials and mausoleums. If 2 of the 3 board members feel a construction is unsafe, the owner should be notified and given a reasonable length of time to correct the problem. If the owner does not correct the problem then the board should direct the Superintendent to take care of the problem.
36	33	If a memorial becomes a hazard to safety, then yes, the owner should mitigate the situation. Otherwise, leave the memorial as is, even if it dilapidated.
36	33	Only after contacting the family there should be a board of owners' families to evaluate, not one person who might have bad taste or a personal agenda.
36	33	Disagree
36	33	Safety has got to be a priority. I do have to question the phrase "unsightly". Hopefully this is not a judgement call on different peoples customs or style.
36	33	parada ! Encuesta en español ? [survey in spanish]
36	33	Should NOT be up to one person. Individuals can have personal agendas, vendettas, or just plain bad taste. A board should be formed of families with loved ones buried in the cemetery to decide such matters, as they have the most at stake as owners and, generally, most frequent visitors.
36	33	Disagree; I would remove the rule.
36	33	You're going to remove a headstone? There's no opportunity for the family to fix it? Families should be able to register contact information with the Superintendent and even to put monies in trust for the necessary repair and maintenance of their headstone... a fund from which the Superintendent could draw. The rule should be changed to prioritize repair before removal. This draft you have is written in such a way that it could be very offensive to families of those buried at a city cemetery. Where did you get this draft? Originally written for City of Austin or is it language that's taken out of some other cemetery policy? Bet it's the latter as this does not sound respectful and I'm sure City staff did not intend this.
36	33	Disagree. I think this may very well become a place for abuse of power. If there is a safety concern, the Superintendent should address that with the space owner.
36	33	I would change it to say the Superintendent shall first consult with the space owner.
36	33	Agree with all but unsightly. Who is to determine what is unsightly. Safety yes, but unsightly, no.
36	33	Safety hazards should be dealt with in any public place and I would support that. I wouldn't change this rule.
36	33	This sounds reasonable, however it depends on the definition of "unsightly". I think it should be changed to "the Superintendent will NOT have the right to correct the condition but will CONTACT the space owner who then will correct the condition.
36	33	agree - but, again, the offenders should be given enough notice to take care of the problem
36	33	What is considered to be unsightly to some is beautiful to another. For instance, a nice expanse of green lawn is beautiful for some and and garden full of native plants is beautiful to others. This is very hard to legislate and should not be.

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36	33	Yes, after attempting to contact owner reasonably
36	33	This rule is problematic because who defines "unsightly or dilapidated"? However I generally agree that dead flowers or dead plants, torn or soiled flags, things that are visibly falling apart should be removed.
36	33	I tend to agree with this but the word "unsightly" is a problem. I don't have a better phrasing but more thought needs to go into this.
36	33	"Unsightly to whom?" Obviously if the grave sight is not maintained, it should be addressed. 1st in writing to the owners, then with a face to face meeting to resolve (3rd party if needed).
36	33	Disagree. The owner should be contacted and given appropriate time to correct it. But who decides what is unsightly? I don't like agaves, but I respect your right to plant them.
36	33	Agree, Add that the owner should be notified in advance.
36	33	Agree, all personal mementoes and plantings need to be kept in a presentable (and in the case of plantings) weed-free.
36	33	Yes, in theory, but I think some of the words are subjective and could be argued, i.e. "unsightly" can be interpreted differently by different people / cultures. Certainly, if something was a hazard, it should be removed (but the family should be notified first, out of courtesy). If something hasn't been maintained, it should be removed.
36	33	dilapidated and hazard to the safety of persons I agree with. Unsightly however is an opinion that again is far to open to interpretation. Expand on what you mean by unsightly.
36	33	If it presents a hazard it should be corrected.
36	33	Yes, I agree with this rule.
36	33	Only with advance notice to the owner. And what if the owner is not the originator of the problem? I don't think I've ever seen anything in a cemetery that was a "hazard to the safety of persons within the cemetery"
36	33	A safety hazard should be dealt with.
36	33	Disagree. The problem is the definition of unsightly and dilapidated. Some traditions expect memorials to fade and weather as part of the fading and weathering of the pain of loss. I agree that any structure which becomes a hazard to the safety of visitors or workers can and should be removed.
36	33	I agree with the rule except that warning notice of at least 90 days should be sent to the owner of the danger to the general public
36	33	If a mausoleum were to begin crumbling and it's very nature become a danger to those around it, then yes, I believe it should be fixed. But I don't believe that teddy bears or wind chimes are a hazard.
36	33	Disagree. This rule is in contradiction to the current Texas Health and Safety Code Â§713.011 which states "A municipality that operates or has jurisdiction over a public cemetery shall maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare. (b) A municipality's responsibility to maintain a cemetery under this section includes: (1) repairing and maintaining any fences, walls, buildings, roads, or other improvements; (2) leveling or straightening markers or memorials; (3) properly maintaining lawns, shrubbery, and other plants; (4) removing debris, including dead flowers and deteriorated plastic ornaments; and (5) promptly restoring gravesites following an interment." I wrote this section of the law and maintain does not mean just ignoring the fallen stones or laying them on the ground. The City is responsible for maintaining the cemeteries and its not the owners responsibility to pay for such maintenance.
36	33	I would change the rule by contacting the space owner and explaining the perceived problem to explain the complaint and allow a time limit for removal before the city removes it and charges this to the space owner.
36	33	I agree. As Congregation Agudas Achim owns our two cemeteries, we will see to it that all memorials are in acceptable condition.
36	33	This sounds reasonable, but I imagine collection from the space owners might present practical challenges.
36	33	I agree with this rule. But I can imagine that problems might arise from different interpretations of "unsightly" and "dilapidated."
36	33	Agree
36	33	I have grave doubts about this one, since "unsightly" is an extremely subjective term. This needs to be rewritten to cover memorials that truly may become hazardous, but as it is, this is just verbal cover.
36	33	We disagree. The owner of the grave site should be contacted first and be given a chance to remedy the situation.
36	33	Generally agree. However, the city installs headstones but does not maintain them. It's not up to me to pay for neglect in maintenance.
36	33	Sounds fine to me.
36	33	Notice to owner and opportunity to dispute/refute/cure
36	33	Agree. So long as the space owner has an option beyond paying an exorbitant figure handed to him or her by the Superintendent with no prior discussion.
36	33	I agree with this rule. The expense of maintenance should be planned for ahead of time. If not, then they should be responsible, not the taxpayers.
36	33	agree
36	33	I disagree. What if the dilapidated grave belongs to someone from the 1800's?
36	33	Identifying the "space owner" seems unworkable. The cemetery should budget for such costs and include them in the initial cost of a plot.
36	33	Space owner must be notified and allowed to self-correct before the city takes over.
36	33	Agree: Safety is very important. Should anything become a hazard or unsightly it needs to be repaired or removed.
36	33	unsightly and dilapidated are slippery concepts to enforce. and if one thinks of the old cemeteries in europe for example, the old memorials are among the most beautiful or interesting aspects.

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36	33	disagree need to find other revenue stream
36	33	disagree to the "remove" bc that is not up to the Superintendent to decide this unilaterally...especially if there is still family alive.but rather the family should be given a timeframe to make the repairs before any decision to remove is made.
36	33	the space owner is dead.. should not go after relatives . is responsibility of the city/community
36	33	I would modify this rule so that the Superintendent alone does not have the final say in issuing such a judgment. The basis of this rule is reasonable, but a decision should be subject to appeal (perhaps to a special committee or to the City Council, if such issues are relatively infrequent).
36	33	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
36	33	It depends on what is deemed unsightly and I think that families should have an opportunity to respond first.
36	33	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
36	33	OK with rule as long as the space owner is notified in advance.
36	33	I agree, but the "space owner" may be dead, and their estate disbursed.
36	33	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
36	33	Agree. Need to ensure warnings and notifications precede any action.
36	33	If the person is dead, how can a charge be given to them. May not be possible. Like I was saying at the meeting, some people have done the best they can to make a marker for the family and some of them have died. It's hard to go back and find a family member. Might be a problem if someone were to come into town and be unable to find their loved one's marker. That would be a big problem. Evergreen is a very old cemetery and out in the country when it was put in there, there was not too much interest put on what the rules were more than burying 6 feet deep. According to the video at the meeting, some people have a long history of going to their loved ones sites and putting in stuff that looks like no one has taken care of. This man in Houston, he doesn't want to sell his house – it's a big problem between two people. Like cemetery spaces. It's a lot of family involvement. The more stuff around the grave, the more people are going to be hurt. Need to inform people about what should be taken out. Be hard to bring in rules that haven't been in place at the old cemetery. Hasn't been kept up since the man lived on the property, he has been gone for years and the cemetery has gone down. Has been neglected for a number of years. So has the one off 35. It's kind of embarrassing. People have paid their dues and should be respected. Recommends that new rules will go against what people have been doing, if we get new rules, will be a problem. Might be able to enforce rules in new sections. People will find out that the rules that are brought up are from an existing rule book. Has been neglected since the 70's. Grass was always so green and soft when the guy lived on site.
36	33	"Unsightly" is in the eyes of the beholder. Dilapidated and hazardous are another matter. I would retain that language and delete "unsightly."
36	33	Agree. Wonder about the freedom the cemetery has to decree something a safety hazard. Add a qualifier because she does not trust their judgment.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
37	34	<i>The size of concrete foundations for all above ground memorials shall be 1" larger in length and width than the size of the base.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
37	34	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
38	35	<i>The top of concrete foundations shall be from 1" to 2" below the top of the ground to allow for adding cement grout to level the memorial base.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
38	35	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
39	36	<i>Concrete foundations shall be a minimum of 8" thick and have perpendicular sides and flat bottom.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
39	36	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
40	37	<i>Excavations for foundations for above ground memorials shall be a minimum of 10" deep from the top of the ground. If the memorial base is two feet (2') or more in length, there shall be one 6" diameter round hole dug 18" deep (or to rock) below the bottom of the excavation at each end of the excavation.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
40	37	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
41	38	<i>Concrete for all memorial foundations shall be 1 part cement, 2 parts sand and 4 parts gravel.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
41	38	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
42	39	<i>Memorial dealers shall abide by all the rules and regulations of the Cemeteries.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
42	39	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
43	40	<i>The Superintendent reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
43	40	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
44	41	<i>Memorial dealers engaged in placing or erecting memorials or other structures are prohibited from scattering their material over adjoining spaces, or from blocking roads or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is necessary. Damage done to spaces, walks, drives, trees, shrubs or other property shall be repaired at the expense of the memorial dealer, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
44	41	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule

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45	42	<i>Work of any nature may be stopped if proper preparations have not been made; or when work is being done in such a manner as to endanger life or property; or when there is evidence of misrepresentation; or when work is not being executed according to specifications; or when any reasonable request on the part of the Superintendent is disregarded; or when any person employed in the monument work violates any rule of the cemeteries.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
45	42	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
55	43	<i>Visitors or workers shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, unless it becomes necessary to walk across other spaces or graves to gain access to a space or grave.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
55	43	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
56	44	<i>Automobiles, trucks and other vehicles shall not be driven through the cemetery grounds at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour. Unauthorized vehicles may not be driven or parked off the designated roadways or parking areas.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
56	44	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
57	45	<i>Pets shall not be allowed in the cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
57	45	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
81	46	<i>The use of intoxicating beverages within the cemeteries is strictly forbidden.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
81	46	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
58	47	<i>No person will be permitted to use profane or boisterous language or in any way disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
58	47	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
86	48	<i>No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
86	48	I am totally confused what this even means or is intended to do. Boxes??? What kind? "Similar items" to what? Shells and toys and other mementos should be encouraged and tolerated on the grave site itself. Limits for safety issues only. I agree that tools and hoses should not be left.
86	48	I think this will be an emotional issue. I understand that items distributed over a grave make it a maintenance problem and can be unsightly. But explaining that to a grieving parent or to anyone in the grief mode will be very difficult to do.
86	48	Space owner or holder may decorate or memorialize the space only as provided herein. <input type="checkbox"/> All any items must be placed wholly within the confines of the space owned or held. <input type="checkbox"/> All items must be weather- and water-resistant and suitable for outdoor display. Non-weather and non-water resistant items, such as paper materials, plush or stuffed animals or toys, clothing or fabric, or wood or plaster ornaments, may be placed within a space only on a temporary basis and must be removed by the space owner or holder within seven days from placement or when the item begins to deteriorate, fade, or decay, whichever is earlier. <input type="checkbox"/> All items must be firmly anchored within the space in a manner to secure and prevent the item or any parts of that item from leaning, falling over, breaking, or blowing outside of the confines of the space. <input type="checkbox"/> Items on any grave within the space may not exceed 36 inches in height and may not weigh more than 25 pounds. Items within the space, but not on any grave, may not exceed 60 inches in height and may not weigh more than 50 pounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Items containing political messages or offensive language are not permitted. Items, including flags or banners, representing the United States of America, any state within the United States, any nation, or any branch of the federal or state armed forces or services may be placed within the space or on the grave, provided that such item is made of weather-resistant materials. Flags or banners must be promptly removed when the item begins to fade, deteriorate, or fray. Space owners or holders and family members or visitors to a specific space may place items related to a religious practice or tradition on the grave or memorial within that space.
86	48	Hanging items such as wind chimes, spinners, and other ornaments (ornaments) may not exceed 12 inches in length, exclusive of the hanging cord or chain, and may not weight more than 16 ounces. Only one wind chime per space is permitted. An ornament may be suspended or hung on a pole within the space, provided that the pole is firmly and securely anchored and does not exceed 60 inches in height. Items may not be hung on trees within or adjoining the space using nails or spikes, but must be suspended from a weather-proof chain or cord. Such items must be: <input type="checkbox"/> be at least 72 inches from the ground; <input type="checkbox"/> cannot be hung over streets, sidewalks, paths, or roadways; <input type="checkbox"/> suspended in a way that will not scar or inhibit growth of the tree or its branches; and <input type="checkbox"/> secured in a manner to prevent the ornament from falling from the tree or tangling within the tree.
86	48	To prevent the breeding of mosquitos or other noxious insects, no items that hold or retain water, such as bird baths or decorative fountains, are permitted. <input type="checkbox"/> To prevent the attraction of rats or other animal pests, birdfeeders and similar feeding stations are not permitted.
86	48	Space owner or holder is responsible for complying with these regulations and maintaining any and all items placed in space. The owner or holder must promptly replace, repair, or remove any item that is deteriorated or damaged. Failure by the owner or holder to do so will result in the item being subject to removal by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) employees pursuant to these regulations. Owner or holder may be liable for any damages or injuries caused by items placed in the space that do not comply with these regulations.

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86	48	Leave rule as is
86	48	It is appropriate to have water hoses. City won't do it and sprinklers don't always reach. Hoses can be left hooked up to the water spigots.
86	48	No boxes [define this], shells[define it], toys, glassware [all glassware is dangerous], sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street. Where should they be? If you don't allow any of those things – where can they be? Specifically water hoses? The Cemetery does a very poor job doing watering, understanding the water restrictions. They have water hoses out there connected to spigots, that's where they leave them. He would think that's okay – but not according to this. Does this mean they are not permitted at all? Some of them belong to the city, and they leave them there.
86	48	I agree with the intent to keep things cleaned up. The exception to this could be to retain the occasional trash receptacle and hose for use. I would think the staff of the park would maintain these and keep them in the appropriate spot.
86	48	Agree. Too much stuff to remain tidy looking plus it's difficult to mow and weedeat properly. I've seen flower vases left behind that are broken and scattered glass.
86	48	Disagree. It is understandable that those things would be disallowed in a street or walkway but not on a grave.
86	48	It causes a problem when mowing is scheduled. I suggest making the mow days/schedule available to the public ahead of time and if items are not removed, then the superintendent has the right to remove.
86	48	I agree but would update to say "for more than 30 days, and families are encouraged to remove the items for safe keeping after the 30 days"
86	48	People often use shells to symbolize life and nature. All the rest should not be permitted. Do you guys know anything about death and grief at all???
86	48	Agree with all but the shells. The reason being is it is Jewish custom to leave a rock or a stone in honor of the deceased. Sometimes the shell can represent the same meaning.
86	48	agree
86	48	Toys should only be allowed on the graves of infants and removed within 30 days or until old and faded.
86	48	I agree with this rule. If everyone was allowed to leave non-memorial type things, the cemeteries would look awfully cluttered.
86	48	Agree assuming the rule is describing trash left behind.
86	48	Some parents may want to leave a toy on a child's grave. It could be discarded when it becomes unsightly.
86	48	I would keep it. It can make for a very unsightly cemetery when small items are left on cemetery spaces, and never cared for after that.
86	48	agree
86	48	No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware Only. Hoses have always been allowed.
86	48	Disagree. The City should keep public rights of way clear, but a cemetery lot owner should be able to adorn as they wish.
86	48	See my response to #3.
86	48	Disagree. *ALL* boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.
86	48	I agree. But again, these rules apply more to Memorial Park Cemetery. I would like to see rules from the city as to the standard of care the city will hold itself to as regards to cemetery up keep. Its only fair that city let grave owners now what they can be held responsible to. It makes it appear that the burden of compliance is placed wholly on the citizen, while city in not accountable.
86	48	Disagree. People should be allowed to place a couple small items on a stone. This should not be excessive.
86	48	I agree and would not think it needs changing.
86	48	I would add that the cemeteries should provide hose outlets at a reasonable distance apart. Hoses can be used but must be removed from the cemetery. Any hoses left over 12 hours will be collected and disposed of.
86	48	If the item is a toy or glassware that has a sentimental reason, I think it should be permitted at graveside. but certainly not thrown about
86	48	Agree, these small items get lost in the grass and when mowed over become missiles / flying objects that can injure staff and visitors. A 72 hr post inturnment service rule will allow items placed at the time of inturnment. then all items will be tossed.
86	48	If the item is a toy or glassware that has a sentimental reason, I think it should be permitted at graveside. but certainly not thrown about
86	48	Agree
86	48	Agree. Cemeteries are shared, public spaces. It is the superintendent's obligation to provide and enforce regulations that forbid the placement of undignified, unsightly, and objectionable cemetery ornamentation. These are detrimental to other plot owners and visitors and they interfere with efficient grounds maintenance. Individuals whose expressions of grief require ornamentation beyond that which is allowed in publicly regulated cemeteries are free to assemble such memorials within the safety and privacy of their own homes.
86	48	This is clear and reasonable. I would not change this at all.
86	48	Agree
86	48	Agree
86	48	I disagree . Removal only if it's a safety hazard or in poor shape.
86	48	A Jewish tradition requires the placement of a stone on a headstone when visited.
86	48	Thank God, I have not experience the loss of a child. I can see where placing items on a grave can give comfort and peace to the person. Of course, if they appear to be deteriorating, notify the owner first and they will deal with the issue.
86	48	Disagree. If there is something placed on the grave, let it stay. If in the street or walkway it should be placed on the grave again.
86	48	one small item does not bother me.

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86	48	NOTE: I can see that sprinkler cans, water hoses could be unsightly. Are you aware that in the Jewish tradition, it is encouraged for visitors aka mourners, to leave pebbles, rocks and/or shells on the headstones at a burial site? This rule could be very tricky and I know (because I am Jewish), that there would be an uproar. Do you really want to go there?
86	48	I agree, however, I wonder why the wind chimes are allowed in this cemetery. Not everyone "enjoys" the sound of wind chimes. On the day I held the service, two wind chimes nearby nearly ruined the graveside service because the wind was blowing hard and the wind chimes were EXTREMELY DISTURBING AND NOISY. In fact, they disturb me EVERY time I visit this cemetery.
86	48	I agree.
86	48	I think water hoses should be allowed if they are attached to a water faucet system. Individual watering can be beneficial and save money if it is used in select areas.
86	48	Appropriate rule
86	48	No boxes or shells (from the ocean?), OK. Toys left on a grave are left there because the person is hurting a lot and needs to provide some care to the departed child. It's a gesture of love and trying to cope. Stuffed toys may deteriorate faster than other objects, so the same rules that I propose in (A) above should apply with shorter terms. It really should be a flexible rule, of good management walking the site and seeing what objects are deteriorating, send a notification and remove them 2 weeks after. All objects should be kept in storage for 6 months in case the owner wants them back. A stuffed toy may be left on a grave at first because it was the child's favorite toy, but after a few weeks, the parent may want that precious stuffed toy back as a memory of their child. What looks like discarded glassware may have some significance to the owner in some cases. See (A) above for process.
86	48	Sprinkler cans, sprinklers and water hoses are a whole different issue. These should be allowed to water private plots and trees, provided that the hoses are neatly stored, so that there is no danger of tripping. In fact, these are badly needed so that the public can water the grass and trees since PARD (inheriting the extremely deficient grounds care from the previous grounds contractor InterCare) doesn't water the grounds sufficiently. The supplemental watering helps the trees survive the drought and the soil stay less dry so that the stones lean less. In many cases, the owner waters the tree that the owner planted in memory of the deceased and the grass in his/her plot. Most of the plot owners who frequent the cemeteries are elderly and/or disabled and they can't carry water hoses and sprinklers back and forth on each trip. It would be a complete lack of compassion and disrespect, and a very unwise rule to not allow water hoses and sprinklers to be left on site. Watering also helps the elderly with the grieving process and it gives them something to do, a reason to go out of the house, walk, exercise and go visit their deceased relative. The City is committed to provide exercising opportunities to all for health reasons, and watering should be seen as part of that effort. The rule to accommodate this should be that hoses are to be round up neatly and left on the ground around the water spigot or hung from the spigot if the person is able to do it. It's not OK to require that all hang the hoses from the spigot because some elderly persons can't lift the heavy hoses.
86	48	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
86	48	The property is owned by a private citizen. Honor family/cultural traditions.
86	48	Agree with removing broken glass or safety hazards or boxes. Toys, watering cans should be left alone.
86	48	Circled NO
86	48	This is not a problem if it's a hazard, move it! No rule needed!
86	48	I really like access to hoses so that I can water grass and plants.
86	48	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
86	48	Yes
86	48	I do not agree. Please remove the rule
86	48	No
86	48	Disagree – Items should be allowed if they are reusable, but realizes this is difficult to define. If they are dilapidated or pose a safety risk, remove them.
86	48	Disagree, this is not a problem, if it is a street move it. You do not need a rule for this.
86	48	No change needed. Assuming that the City maintains the grounds, that enumerated stuff is unnecessary.
86	48	I disagree.
86	48	Agree.
86	48	I agree.
86	48	They should be permitted as long as they don't interfere with others.
86	48	Seems reasonable.
86	48	Agree
86	48	I agree, these things can break, or blow away and become trash.
86	48	Agree
86	48	I agree. While I can see why people would want to leave a favorite item in memory of the person who died. The items get blown away and clutter the grounds.
86	48	I can see if someone wants to put something small on the grave that is meaningful to them but that does not include water hoses, sprinkler cans, glassware or boxes.

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86	48	Disagree - this should be left to the families to decide
86	48	If the shells or stones are left on the foot of the gravesite, how does this cause danger or a safety issue to one. Some people respect their loved on in this manner.
86	48	if the articles can be place ON the monument, I don't have a problem with it. However, when the articles are placed on the grave itself or around the gravesite, this becomes an issues.
86	48	I do very much agree! It begins to look junky because everyone has their own idea of what is acceptable. Create an "alter" at your own home for the person. Not everyone shares the same beliefs and it is best to keep it "uniform" with the majority. If we were in Greece, we'd have totally different rules that as Americans, we may not understand but would have to live by.
86	48	Disagree, momentums are meaningful to the loved ones and help them heal for losing a loved one. As for watering devises, they are necessary to keep the grass alive on our loved ones grave.
86	48	No boxes or discarded glassware. Agreed. But small toys, shells, sprinkler cans or water hoses are reasonable if they are not a danger to others. I keep a vase by my father's grave so I always have one when I take roses to him. It's not in the way and not a danger to anyone.
86	48	Keep the Rule
86	48	Sometimes water hoses are necessary for watering new plantings (trees).
86	48	As in #2, here's a recitation of some specific items paired with a prohibition of "similar articles." There's little similarity between "shells," "discarded glassware," and "water hoses," for example. It would be more understandable simply to specify what is permitted to be placed, and for how long, instead of trying to name everything that's not permitted.
86	48	Disagree unless they're broken or a safety hazard.
86	48	If you are a parent of a small child that passed away, having a toy on their tomb may be your way of grieving. Do not put these stern laws in place. Put yourself in grieving parent place. Don't see the harm of having water hoses near the grave.
86	48	Disagree. Unless the objects cited are broken or set so that someone could trip over them.
86	48	I agree, except toys.
86	48	This rule is ambiguous in that the city does not maintain the plots other than to satisfy themselves on certain issues. Families, in my observation, have come together to assist each other in maintenance of other graves in order to be respectful of the cemetery.
86	48	If you do not permit water hoses or sprinkler cans how do you suggest we water the plants (which you seem to want to remove). I have no suggestion or comments regarding boxes, shells etc.
86	48	No, unless they are broken/unsafe for others to trip on and get hurt. These are necessary. Toys definitely should be allowed for grieving parents.
86	48	Disagree.
86	48	Disagree, some of the prohibited items ma have special significance to the departed and their loved ones. If there is an issue with regard to unsightliness then maybe there should be a time limitation or a rule that if it creates a hazard the party wil be notified and if not corrected within 14 days of notification then PARD can take steps to remove the hazard.
86	48	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
86	48	Agree
86	48	See answer to Question #1
86	48	I agree.
86	48	I agree
86	48	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
86	48	well if people are leaving these things around in a big mess, sounds ok to remove, but if it's while they are watering or there are some shells places on a gravestone, see no problem.
86	48	Agree. Cemeteries are not to be used as places to store items of any kind. Such items should be stored at homes or on private property, but not on city owned property.
86	48	I agree and again suggest fines be instituted especially for repeat offenders
86	48	Agree. The above listed items can prove to be hazards to the rest of us. The rule could be that if they are not removed by Fridays, they will be disposed of.
86	48	I disagree. I think people should be allowed to leave items like hoses and sprinkler cans that allow them to maintain plants. Personal items like toys, vases for flowers, and the like should be left alone.
86	48	Yes, I agree
86	48	I can understand banning "discarded glassware", or anything that might pose a threat to health and safety. I don't understand the need to ban boxes, shells, toys, or sprinkler cans. Would you really take a treasured teddy bear off of a child's grave and throw it away? What is the justification for this policy?
86	48	I would suggest the CofA provide a storage facility where owners may leave water hoses, cans, etc. for the upkeep of their spaces. "Boxes" is too nebulous a term - paper trash ought not be allowed.
86	48	You can do better in writing a policy.
86	48	Disagree. In the Jewish tradition, a stone or (sometimes) shell is place on a grave to indicate a visit. Are we now limited to a stone? Water hoses, sprinkler hoses, save the city money. Maybe not on the street -- is this an issue looking for a problem?.
86	48	No glassware allowed. This makes sense. Ik can break and get in the grass causing a hazard. Nothing left on a walkway or street is good, as that is for general use. What is left on the grave is up to the grave owner.
86	48	disagree with this rule
86	48	Agree
86	48	I disagree with the rules. Items to maintain the site should be removed, but items that represent the deceased should be allowed to remain.
86	48	I disagree with this rule. I would change this rule to prohibit items on walkways or streets but not prohibit them on graves. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
86	48	I disagree, except for water hoses that aren't in use. They should be put away. Discarded glassware, too.
86	48	I somewhat agree; however people grieve differently and if a favorite trinket left on the grave helps with the process what is the harm? As long as not piles on piles of these. Agree with hoses and glass.

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86	48	Waht is on the grave is the owners right to ahve there. there should be nothing left on paths and other public parts of the cemetary
86	48	Disagree
86	48	this one is ok with me to keep things from becoming cluttered, although organic items are ok--rocks, shells, stones.
86	48	I basically think that people should be able to decorate the graves the way they have for years. Why is it suddenly an issue? That's my answer to this and all the other questions.
86	48	The rule should be amended to limit such items to the actual grave site, while banning such items from walkways and streets.
86	48	It depends on the situation for each grave.
86	48	Walkway and street are fine. Don't undrstand why grave applies.
86	48	Disagree except to the extent that said articles could be wind blown and hazardous to others.
86	48	Again Safety has got to play a part in this ruling. Glassware can be dangerous especially if broken, but how short a period is "remains" for those that visit regularly and bring at times a vase of flowers to put by their loved one's stone. By definition the stone and slab that the stone(marker) rests is on the grave. I think a little boy should be able to put a matchbox car on his mother's grave marker and expect it to be there the next time he visits.
86	48	parada !
86	48	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
86	48	Who would come up with such a ridiculous rule regarding a grave? I can see restricting from walkways or streets, as they could be a hazard. But regarding the grave, if it's not creating a hazard - leave it alone. And if someone hurts themselves walking on the grave, that's good as they shouldn't be walking on a grave anyway.
86	48	Disagree, I would remove the bit about shells, toys.
86	48	I really don't disagree with this. It's unfortunate that a person can't leave a hose out there, but I can see how a hose could be a tripping hazard.
86	48	Disagree. While I can see the water hose as a potential hazard, I cannot understand why it is considered wrong to keep plants and flowers watered or why shells or toys should not be allowed to remember a loved one.
86	48	Toys? You wouldn't allow parents and friends of children to place a toy? Shells? What harm do they do? They're a simple, natural thing in a memorial. Similar articles seems too broad and open to a wide interpretation that could be extended to just about anything.
86	48	Disagree. Again, why is this rule necessary?
86	48	I don't wholly agree or disagree with this rule. It is a slippery slope to eliminating self expression. Walkways and streets should be clear but the grave itself should be adorned as the family sees fit.
86	48	I disagree. Again, I think the personalization of a grave site should be encouraged. After all, the entire purpose of a grave site is to remember a loved one. Like I have said above, the only rule might be to make sure than anything placed by the grave site is securely attached or weight down so it won't be blown away.
86	48	agree
86	48	This rule is too broad. What purpose does it serve? If the items are personally meaningful why are they not permitted? If they are not broken why can't they stay?
86	48	Agree
86	48	I don't see a problem with shells if you mean seashells. Otherwise, this seems reasonable.
86	48	This ok when referring discarded items, sprinker cans, and hoses. Its also ok when referring to the non-grave site area. But people should be allowed to leave objects on the gravesite.
86	48	Items of remembrance should be allowed if placed on the gravestone (not on the ground). What about placing rocks (Jewish tradition of respect). Does that not apply in this rule?
86	48	Agree
86	48	Strongly disagree. "Discarded glassware" might mean someone has celebrated an anniversary and left the glass as a memory.
86	48	Really? Let's be human here--individuals have purchased these graves as a final resting place--please allow mementoes it gives the family comfort.
86	48	Yes, and no. If the items are mementos for the memory of the departed, they should be allowed. Sprinkler cans (unless metal or ornamental), hoses are other maintenance items should be removed and stowed away. If families are watering living wildflowers on the graves, I think it would be nice to have a place for them to store watering hoses, etc.
86	48	Disagree. Sure keep the out of the street and walkway, but next to the grave or on it. Austin Memorial is a community where people are allowed to express their love for those that have past and you are censoring that. Walkway or street I'm fine with but the graves are non of your business unless it poses a safety hazard, but honestly, workers should not be stepping over my mother's grave in the first place.
86	48	Disagree Too open ended. Who defines 'similar articles'.
86	48	I agree with this rule.
86	48	agree
86	48	Surely a teddy bear or toy left at the gravesite of a child would be acceptable.
86	48	Disagree. In the Jewish tradition leaving stones on the grave at each visit is practiced. Some military units have the practice of leaving coins on the grave as a remembrance. We have to respect that many people, either through tradition or personal feeling, often leave personal items as a connection to their lost loved one. Particularly shells and Toys are often items left by loved ones to unite them with their losses. Many people (totally unconnected to my family) have left toys, shells and other trinkets on the grave of my daughter. One person (I know not whom) left a serenity coin, a very personal trinket, probably as a show of having overcome the pain of his/her loss.
86	48	I agree with the rule except that warning notice of at least 90 days should be sent to the owner
86	48	Some of these items seem a bit odd to be left on a grave, but maybe they have been for some reason. I can understand "toys" but not the other items. I think I would leave this rule as is, but leave toys to be allowed. Parents want to give their child toys, so let them, even in death, since they were not able to do so in life.

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86	48	Disagree. Water hoses are allowed. Dilapidated articles must be picked up regularly to maintain the cemeteries.
86	48	I would include this rule with Question 3, and mention the criteria that I suggested, with a reasonable case study approach.
86	48	I agree. All that 'stuff' takes away from the dignity of this sacred place.
86	48	I disagree with this proposal. Perhaps a reasonable middle ground would be to allow such items for a limited time. As for hoses, over the past decade, I have purchased and left attached to the spigot, several good hoses that have made it easier for me and for others to water flowers and gardens planted on graves. It might be reasonable to require everyone to coil the hoses at the spigot when they are not in use.
86	48	I strongly agree. Before my family and my friends' families purchased lots at Austin Memorial Park, we read the rules. We bought lots with the expectation that trinkets and trash would be removed.
86	48	Disagree - not sure the harm with allowing some small token to be left on a grave, so long as it does not hinder lawn mowing or landscaping.
86	48	Disagree, strenuously. So, if you're going to forbid shells, why not rocks, which are the traditional Jewish form of paying respect to the dead? This is a terrible rule.
86	48	We disagree. Small mementos should be allowed. Water hoses are necessary at faucet sites because the City does not always water properly.
86	48	Agree
86	48	I disagree if that means you're removing mementos. And many religious and cultural traditions involve leaving stones at gravesights, so I think removing them is offensive on the City's part. Plus, plots are technically private property. If it's not hurting anyone or a safety hazard, leave it be. It's therapeutic for families and loved ones.
86	48	Yes
86	48	Agree.
86	48	agree
86	48	I disagree. Let the toys stay.
86	48	This also seems too broad. Jewish mourners leave a small rock or stone on the grave stone. It sounds like these would be prohibited. I would say any temporary items will be discarded after a certain period.
86	48	Agree.
86	48	Agree: Cooking containers, pots, pans should not be used as floral containers. Rocks should be added to the list of items that should not be in walkways or on graves. Toys, balloons, rocks, and others items need to be removed.
86	48	not clear what 'similar articles' includes. and does discarded mean unintentionally left as opposed to left as a sign of reverence?
86	48	disagree
86	48	need to work with the stakeholders
86	48	agree
86	48	agreed
86	48	This rule includes too many disparate items and should be modified. For example, water hoses may be needed on occasion but should not be left at the site. However, small toys may be an appropriate memento to leave at the grave of a young child (within the confines of other rules governing such items).
86	48	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries - Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit "B" Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
86	48	It seems harsh that a family member could not leave a moment to remember a lost child or loved one.
86	48	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
86	48	I would like personal items to be allowed to remain on an individual's grave since these represent their spirit. I agree with no discarded glassware and sprinkler cans. The hoses are OK on the spigots.
86	48	I agree.
86	48	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
86	48	If someone has a small toy on their baby's headstone, that maybe should be allowed. Big stuff that takes up more space than the gravesite itself would be encroaching on someone else's space. Has not seen talk on the news about this, but thinks the community needs to know before they are enforced. Word is not getting out in the right way. Suggested paying for spots on Gospel 1060. Don't want to get the neighborhood mad at the city about things that they hold dear.
86	48	For the reasons expressed in Question #1, I would do away with this rule.
86	48	Disagree. Family should be able to leave items to memorialize their loved ones. Sprinkled a broken glass bowl among their family's flowers. Would want to take a beer bottle if they loved beer.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
82	49	<i>The Superintendent has the authority to enter upon any space and to remove any objectionable thing that may have been placed there contrary to the regulations, and may remove any dead or damaged flowers, trees, shrubs or vines.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
82	49	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
59	50	<i>All persons are strictly forbidden to break or injure any tree or shrub, or mar any landmark, marker or memorial, or in any way deface the grounds of the cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
59	50	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
60	51	<i>No person or persons (except peace officers or a military guard of honor) shall be permitted to bring or carry firearms within the Cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
60	51	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
61	52	<i>No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment

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61	52	Totally disagree. Signs and placards of a permanent nature should be encouraged. OK to limit to permanent or semipermanent materials (no paper or cardboard) and to allow for removal of offensive stuff.
61	52	I totally agree.
61	52	Leave rule as is
61	52	No change
61	52	No change
61	52	I agree. I particularly enjoy the historical marker that is present at the front of Austin Memorial Park. It lists some of the "notable residents" of the park! I would love to see this updated from time to time. Other necessary signage should be installed only by City personnel. There should be no additional need for any signage.
61	52	Agree, with the exception of temporary marker signs provided by funeral homes. No "personal" signs.
61	52	Disagree. The rule is too broad. What other signs could there be? A child's drawing taped to a grave that says "We love you Grandpa!" should certainly be allowed.
61	52	Recommend defining "sign" in the policy. Does a sign mean a small plaque, a poster board on a stick, a greeting card? When we write policies at work, we include definitions at the beginning, to clarify our intentions.
61	52	Agree. Although it is unclear what is a sign? Better language needed.
61	52	Directional signs and placement should be allowed e.g. "Agudas Achim - plus arrow"
61	52	Agree
61	52	signs from individual churches or synagogues or temples should be allowed with the approval of the city to denote sections.
61	52	I agree, no one should install any type signage.
61	52	Agreed.
61	52	Agree
61	52	No signs except for headstones and other gravestones.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	I am not sure what you mean by signs.
61	52	NO. There are signs with historical reference and significance at Oakwood that should be permitted. As well as at other libraries.
61	52	Agree
61	52	See my response to #3.
61	52	Disagree. How else do we get to protest the burial of dead pedophiles?
61	52	Again, as applied to Memorial Park, yes. Temporary signs, markers and other education/informative signage installation at historic Oakwood should be allowed. with approval of city. Installation not limited to city personnel, but allows those groups given consent to put up signs and take them down.
61	52	Agree. Unless they are temporary markers.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	I agree. This rule needs no change.
61	52	what is considered a sign?
61	52	Yes, this is city property. the Cemetery manager needs to approve all signage. there will be times when Non Profits who are working with the city will want / need to post temp notices or edu. material, all of which should have approval of the cemetery manager, but may be installed.
61	52	Agree
61	52	Agree. Only aesthetically pleasing informational and directional signs provided by management are necessary.
61	52	No change recommended.
61	52	Agree
61	52	Agree
61	52	It depends on what kind of sign it is.
61	52	Agree
61	52	Of course, no political signs or advertisement should be permitted but I think it needs to be on a case by case basis. Has this been a problem in the past?
61	52	Depends on what kind so signs.
61	52	agree
61	52	You don't go into detail about what signs you're referring to? If you're referring to directions, etc. I don't see a problem.
61	52	I agree, however, signs placed by the City regarding upcoming meetings regarding City cemeteries are frequently very difficult to read, sometimes difficult to see, and may even be inaccurate or incomplete.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	Agree
61	52	Temporary signs such as directional signs for temporary purposes should be allowed. Signs should be placed and removed by the people having the service.
61	52	OK, except for rare occasions that get a permit from the cemetery manager for temporary signs. Have flexible rules. Manage, not dictate.
61	52	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.

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61	52	I understand it could eliminate unsightly signs, but not clear as to signs, plaques, etc. that designate that gravesite as historic - example - State Historic Marker (in Oakwood) from THC, Lamen's or Texas Rangers marker in AMP. Also - somewhat related - memorial markers erected for the wishes of the plot's owner. Will those be allowed? Example - there is a memorial that passed through ALL levels and was approved, but then the Cemetery Superintendent denied them erecting it AFTER it had been approved by all the proper channels, including the City Landmark KComm. No offensive marketings, flags or sayings are on this memorial. It is the Sons of the Confederate Veterans Memorial commemorating the final resting place of over 100 citizens of Texas interred there. It shouldn't be up to just 1 person to decide what HE thinks should be in the cemetery. Its Gettysberg considered offensive?
61	52	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
61	52	No
61	52	Agree - Ok with this rule, but should get approval from Superintendent to install signs. Approval shouldn't be withheld for arbitrary reasons – should have some guidelines.
61	52	Disagree, there are so few signs as it is, that this is not a problem. This signs that are there are interesting
61	52	I would allow signage on headstones!
61	52	I disagree.
61	52	Agree.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	This infringes on free speech, doesn't it?
61	52	I think it seems reasonable, but I'd like to see examples of signs people have placed in cemeteries.
61	52	Agree
61	52	I agree.
61	52	Agree
61	52	I agree that signs not be erected that would unsightly. I do think that small well made plaques that have information about the life of the person should be permitted.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	Only appropriate signs should be allowed...and placed (for direction purposes) at appropriate corners by the city.
61	52	Agree
61	52	agree, unless for temporary installation such as notification of an event by a group.
61	52	I agree with no signs if it is what I'm dreaming up in my head (banners, pieces of paper flapping about)...but signs as in tombstone markers and large family name markers...I don't agree at all.
61	52	Agree
61	52	That's ok.
61	52	Keep the Rule
61	52	Agree, no signs.
61	52	Does this prohibit only the installation of signs? As written, it's broad enough to be interpreted to ban someone from carrying a sign onto the premises for purposes of a service or ceremony.
61	52	Disagree. People can use those to show hobbies or other passions of their loved ones. It's individualized and beautiful.
61	52	Sometimes, signs of people's passion are on their tomb, such as if they were a sports fan etc... A way for some people to help heal. Please put yourself in the grieving person's shoes.
61	52	Disagree.
61	52	i agree.
61	52	No signs period except traffic control should be anywhere.
61	52	What signs are you referring to? Temporary signs like the ones we placed to direct loved ones to the burial we had or some other obscure rule. What about a sign that is on a grave with special religious significance or cultural importance? This is wrong.
61	52	No, disagree. If the signs are not inappropriate (for example political signs), there's no harm being done. They further serve to individualize gravesites.
61	52	Disagree. There's not that many signs so it's not a problem. We like to read about other people when we are going there.
61	52	There needs to be more clarification as to what specifically the city is attempting to prohibit that has created an issue that necessitated creating this rule.
61	52	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders". There should be no personal signs in the walking areas or along the roads.
61	52	Agree
61	52	See answer to Question #1
61	52	I agree
61	52	I agree
61	52	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
61	52	well no I don't think people should stick signs in the ground, but if they have some writing on a vase or something or lettering on a memorial box, don't see a problem shouldn't be something so people are having to read large letters though
61	52	Agree. Cemeteries are not billboards. If private individuals want to convey messages they can post them online and in the newspaper.
61	52	agree and institute fines for repeat offenders
61	52	Agree. Any cemetery can be difficult to navigate. Signs placed by the city are helpful, other signs are only helpful to a small group of individuals.
61	52	I think this is reasonable.
61	52	Yes, I agree
61	52	As long as signs aren't so large or otherwise obtrusive as to interfere with the visibility of City signs, or block grave markers or headstones, I don't see any reason to ban them.

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61	52	Disagree. The size of signage can be regulated but small signs on individual sites ought not be disallowed.
61	52	Again, define sign. This leaves the policy open to hugely arbitrary interpretation..
61	52	Disagree. What signs are a problem? I haven't seen any that are at issue. Is the City creating a problem?
61	52	Signs on a grave should be permitted.
61	52	disagree with this rule
61	52	Disagree....personal crosses and such should be allowed
61	52	It should depend on the sign. A sign that shows the deceased was a cheerleader as those that you see outside of homes should be fine. An advertisement should not.
61	52	I would allow signs at gravesites but not elsewhere. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
61	52	Why not?
61	52	Agree.
61	52	yes
61	52	Disagree.
61	52	No signs is ok.
61	52	The owners should be allowed to place signs on the grave sites, but not on walkways or streets.
61	52	I disagree with this rule. Again, enforcing this rule, would strip the mourners from installing a physical eulogy for the loved one that expresses the personality of the deceased.
61	52	What purpose does this serve?
61	52	Disagree- signs should have size constraints, but not entirely be restricted.
61	52	Yes, to the extent that if a group as in a church or synagogue might be able to work with the city to have a sign put up to identify or direct loved ones to their area.
		parada !
61	52	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish]
61	52	Why would one make this rule? I can see no billboards or something silly, but what exactly are you trying to prevent? What is the purpose? Seems like another silly sterilization proposal.
61	52	Would be nice if the City could explain the rationale for each of these rules so we could better envision the problem you're trying to fix and then be better able to address our concerns while also attempting to correct the problem you've identified. Cemeteries need rules that help keep the place looking nice and minimize the cost of the property owner in maintaining it. However, while these rules surely must make sense to the drafter, the ordinary citizen doesn't know the problems you face.
61	52	Agree. This seems a reasonable rule.
61	52	I think this sounds good, but couldn't a flag or a medal be considered a sign? Those are appropriate. Depends on the sign. This one might be the only one I could agree with.
61	52	Disagree.
61	52	I wouldn't change the rule. There should be some standard signage for visitors.
61	52	I disagree. Without any further explanation I don't understand what this reason for this rule is or what it is trying to accomplish.
61	52	agree
61	52	I disagree. You should more narrowly define this rule to state for each sign what size, material, and lettering is permissible to install.
61	52	Yes
61	52	This is too general. A family or loved one can't temporarily place a card or a poem at the loved one's grave?
61	52	The family of the departed should have control over what signage exists ont he gravesite.
61	52	Signs if they reflect the idea or memory of the person lost should be allowed.
61	52	Agree
61	52	Disagree. There should be additional language with more detail regarding what should be allowed.
61	52	Aren't gravemarkers considered "signs"?
61	52	I disagree, if that means a family can't place nice, permanent markers, signs etc. in memory of their loved one. If you mean paper or poster board signs, I do agree. Anything that would decay and / or blow away, shouldn't be allowed.
61	52	Disagree. If people complain that something is disrespectful, talk to the owners of the signs and put it to a vote, look for a middle ground.
61	52	Yes, I agree with this rule. I have witnessed, from one grave I visit frequently, offensive items placed at the XXX grave, specifically yard art designed as a gravestone with a ghost peeking from behind it with the word Boo. I cannot fathom someone placing such a thing at their son's grave, and I and other family members visiting nearby graves are offended by this fall display. Likewise, the Christmas ornamentation placed at theXXX gravesite it excess, gaudy and left far too long.
61	52	agree
61	52	Agree.
61	52	Disagree. Again, depending on the definition of sign. Many graves have faith plaques laying on them placed by loved ones. Even a tombstone might be a sign. If you mean sighs for sports or politics, there are several tombstones with these on them too. A slippery slope.
61	52	I agree if this applies to permanent signs. Temporary sign to celebrate an occasion could be placed for a predetermined period subject to a permit issuance by the Superintendent
61	52	depends on what you mean by "signs". If they are smaller than a loaf of bread then I believe they should be allowed, as they are freedom of speech by those who were left behind when their loved one died.
61	52	Disagree. Personal signs should be allowed on a personal grave site as long it is not offensive and is maintained appropriately.
61	52	I agree and have no issue with this rule.
61	52	On its face, this rule would seem to preclude tombstones and grave markers. I have seen many notes, written or hand painted on small rocks, or small signs expressing love for the departed that I believe should not be prohibited.
61	52	Keep this rule. Why would someone erect a sign? To call attention to a particular grave?

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61	52	Agree.
61	52	Disagree. I don't think signs are a huge problem.
61	52	This rule should be changed to allow small flags or insignias installed. For example my son is a Marine buried at the cemetery and we have a small Marine Corps and US flags at the site.
61	52	Agree
61	52	Disagree. If it's on the private plot and not offensive, I don't see why it's a problem.
61	52	No, although other signs that people want to put up should be subject to an expedited review
61	52	Agree.
61	52	Signs designating certain areas of the cemetery could help people to locate certain graves.
61	52	agree
61	52	I agree with this rule, except during a funeral or other service, when temporary signs should be allowed.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	Agree.
61	52	Agree: All items should be approved before being added to the cemetery.
61	52	what about religious injunctions etc?
61	52	disagree
61	52	need to work with the stakeholders
61	52	agree
61	52	agree
61	52	I can't think of any exceptions at this time, but it would be more reasonable to stipulate: "Exceptions must be approved by [cemetery officials.]"
61	52	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries - Longview Code of Ordinances - Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
61	52	DISAGREE! Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
61	52	I would amend this rule so that inspirational signs or sports signs with athletes name and number may be included.
61	52	I agree.
61	52	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
61	52	Agree
61	52	Does not know what type of sign people would want to put into a cemetery. If people put one out, it should be taken out after a set amount of time. Any sports sign should just be for a limited time. It would help if everyone used the space that has been paid for by the person that owns the spot and not extend out beyond that. Would be hard to put the rules in place this late in the game – but if there was a new section, this would be ideal. You will have more leeway on something that never existed before. If you are going to put in rules, you need to have a starting place where the rules are going to be implemented. If someone sues the city about something, that would be a problem – would have to back it up with documentation.
61	52	Totally disagree. Family near them that has their son's high school banner on display, very tastefully done.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
62	53	<i>The City of Austin is not responsible for vandalism or theft of any memorial or other personal property.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
62	53	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
63	54	<i>The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
63	54	I would completely abandon this rule. These items, especially benches, make the cemeteries real places to visit and reflect.
63	54	We paid \$2,000 to have a granite bench placed on our plots. I don't see granite listed above so assume it would not be affected. I can understand banning wooden benches as they deteriorate rapidly but concrete and cast iron would withstand the elements. I imagine that this rule is for easier maintenance by the cemetery crews.
63	54	Benches add to visits by family if they are placed properly.
63	54	The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall be permitted only within any space. Any such item must be weather-resistant and firmly anchored within the space.
63	54	The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall be permitted only within any space. Any such item must meet standards set out by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD). Such standards shall be provided to each space owner or holder and must be readily available at each cemetery and easily accessible through the PARD web site.
63	54	The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall be permitted only within any space. The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) shall develop a list of recommended models or types of benches, chairs, or tables, and the space holder or owner may only install an item that complies with that list. Such list shall be provided to each space owner or holder and must be readily available at each cemetery and easily accessible through the PARD web site.
63	54	The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on cemetery grounds. The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) shall, as part of its Adopt-A-Bench program, install a bench on or near any space at the request of the space holder or owner. PARD shall publicize the Adopt-A-Bench program at each cemetery and on the PARD web site and shall make applications readily available to space owners or holders. For the comfort of visitors to the cemeteries, many of which many be elderly or disabled, PARD shall develop and implement a plan to place benches in public and common areas at each cemetery.
63	54	Allow for cemetery to approve one bench per plot. Benches must be approved by cemetery staff to ensure quality, but not all benches must be the same.

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63	54	There are people concerned about cement benches being removed – if they're in good shape, no reason to remove them. If a plot is well maintained, people have the right to do anything they want. Problem is if they become dilapidated or encroach on someone else's plot. I don't want to see dilapidated benches. Wooden will deteriorate over time – don't allow. Cast iron, concrete if done professionally, Section 6 – a non-dilapidated bench that is in a public place – should be placed on his property.
63	54	Why in the world would you want to describe materials. Take out materials to make it more general. Every time you add more words, you are digging yourself a hole.
63	54	I do agree with this. While many families install these things in order to improve the resting grounds of their family member, it begins to look sloppy and messy with so many styles and items. Many of the trellises and benches are in disrepair because family is no longer caring for them.
63	54	Agree mostly. I think concrete benches are okay since they are durable, but no wood or metal, no painted benches, nothing like that.
63	54	Disagree. A cemetery should be a place to visit and sit. If visitors to a grave want to place a bench they should be allowed to do so.
63	54	I think some items can be a nice addition to the property if done correctly. It should be done with the consent of the city.
63	54	Agree with the trellis part - that is difficult to maintain. But benches have always been a part of cemeteries, especially to mark plots with children or with cremation ashes.
63	54	Solace benches modestly and quietly designed should be allowed so mourners can visit their loved ones and sit and meditate. Modest tables for bibles tastefully placed should be allowed within a group not for every gravesite.
63	54	Disagree for reasons mentioned above. A memorial bench that is approved is a nice option to sit while you are visiting your loved ones gravesite.
63	54	benches should be strategically placed throughout the cemetery for people visiting.
63	54	I agree. Only permanent approved benches should be allowed. All metal and wood slat, read Home Depot should be removed. Look like hell!
63	54	I agree. Any bench or chair erected should be made of a permanent-type stone, such as granite.
63	54	Disagree. People need a place to sit and read/reflect. Elderly people can't stand for long periods.
63	54	What is wrong with a bench for seating by loved ones graves?
63	54	I agree. they become insightly quickly as a result of weather.
63	54	a bench of concert should be permitted so if a person wants to visit they will have a place to sit .
63	54	There are some items that can be done with good taste.
63	54	DISAGREE. Look at the character and peacefulness of a cemetery with wooden, concrete or cast iron benches, chairs or tables, add.
63	54	See my response to #1 and #3. This is a city park and benches are an important amenity, especially for elderly visitors. On the other had, PARD has an interest in ensuring that any benches are sturdy, maintained, and do not trespass on other gravesites. I have submitted proposed rules that suggest several methods of providing and regulating benches, from PARD issuing guidelines regarding the type of permitted benches to a program similar to the city's current Adopt-A-Bench Program.
63	54	disagree. We're just trying to class up the joint.
63	54	I agree as to Memorial Park. I would change it as applicable to the individual four other city cemeteries.
63	54	Disagree. The superintendant needs to use his own discretion on this matter.
63	54	I agree
63	54	Trellis and tables should not be permitted. Any items that extend into the park easements or other plots shall be removed and disposed of after 45 of notification to the last known address of the owner or family
63	54	I believe owners should be able to put a bench that is durable on their grave, or on easement near grave. not on someone else's
63	54	Agree, the 50 year (historic) rule applies to some items at Oakwood cemetery. staff will need to have flexibility, but be firm if the benches become unstable. perhaps in the future if someone places an approved memorial bench an endowment fee could be charged and placed in an account.
63	54	Agree
63	54	Agree. Individuals should be prohibited from installing such items because they pose a physical hazard and are often visually unappealing. Instead, individuals should contribute to a fund that enables management to provide a uniform and tasteful style of bench seating carefully and strategically placed throughout our public cemeteries.
63	54	No change recommended.
63	54	Agree
63	54	Agree
63	54	Disagree. bench is a place to sit and contemplate. Removal only if its a safety hazard.
63	54	Pick a cast iron and a stone bench to allow in the cemetery. Some people need to sit when visiting a grave. Control uniformity thru planned selection.
63	54	Disagree. I have a concrete bench that has been at my parent's grave since 1971. I also placed a concrete bench at my husband's grave in 2012. It is a blessing and comfort for me to sit and visit with them.
63	54	Again, disagree. This is our property. If we want to put a trellis, bench or whatever, that is our right. This cemetery is chosen because do its ambience.
63	54	a few of these items, a bench for instance ,is not offensive.
63	54	I DISAGREE! Like it or not, you live in the South. Placing of benches is part of the charm. I am not crazy about trellis', but I see no harm in small cozy settings.
63	54	Agree.
63	54	I agree.
63	54	If these items are permitted, there needs to be standards and rules in place. Benches can be helpful for older visitors but other items need to be controlled.
63	54	Reasonable requirement, but City should have some nice metal benches placed throughout the cemetery; i.e. park benches and trash containers. No proper place for trash right now.

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63	54	Benches should be allowed because the elderly, disabled or people in poor health need to sit down and this is legally necessary to comply with federal ADA accommodations. Benches of a cheaper price (wooden, iron) other than concrete or stone should be allowed because not everyone can afford those. All benches should be maintained by the owner and removed by PARD if needed, provided that a 2 week notice is sent to the owner. Tables are not needed but should be allowed only for the day (temporary use). For instance during It's My Park Day or other events, it is very helpful to have a table for volunteers to sign in and to put water and snacks. No wooden or wire trellises. They divide the space.
63	54	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
63	54	We have a teak bench which we maintain. We use it to sit and meditate, reflect, etc. We are a family of 7, ranging from age 11-70 - <u>Strong objection</u>
63	54	Disagree
63	54	Wooden/metal/mixed materials are what add beauty to the cemetery. It's beautiful to see the different expressions of love, grief, etc. In additiona, concrete benches are the first to tip over and are cold and unsightly.
63	54	Circled NO
63	54	Granite permanent benches - ok
63	54	There are benches at Austin Memorial Cemetery. This is one of the best features. It seems to say - stop, sit, remember. Surely that is a good dynamic for a cemetery. ** circled NO**
63	54	I know when my dad passed we put a bench for mom. She was physically incapable of standing for very long. I'm sure this is the case for a lot of visitors. On a recent loss someone might need to sit to regain themselves. **Circled NO**
63	54	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
63	54	Agree
63	54	Really disagree
63	54	No
63	54	Disagree - Benches and chairs should be allowed within reason and be made of sound constructed material. Other items should be at the Superintendent's discretion.
63	54	Disagree, are you kidding me, benches are good. If they are a hazard fix it or remove it after tagging it
63	54	Just do it!
63	54	I agree. I understand the maintenance issues. If someone wants to commune with a deceased loved one they should bring a folding lawn chair.
63	54	Agree
63	54	I agree.
63	54	Again the City is overreaching. Families should be able to sit on a bench at the grave site if they desire,
63	54	Disagree. See response to question # 3.
63	54	A bench which provides a place to rest, contemplate, perhaps as a memorial should be allowed providing it is well made and fits with the artistic design of the cemetery. If in a historic cemetery, it should be appropriate to the period (eg Victorian, etc)
63	54	I feel small benches should be allowed.
63	54	I would change this rule, because it is nice to have a place to sit, especially a shady place, if you are old and tired. And trellises can support flowers, which have a place in any cemetery.
63	54	Temporary seating should be allowed, but removed after use.
63	54	I don't have a problem with the small concrete bench with the person name or special message on it being there if it does not cause a problem with the upkeep of the grounds and there is room for it and it looks nice. All other things would over time cause problems.
63	54	I don't agree. Perhaps there can be a site committee of staff and site owners who could approve or disapprove.
63	54	Agree...unless those objects are donated as memorial sites through the city. No rndom chairs or seats should be permitted between the graves - except in those instances where an entire plot belongs to an individual family and there is a space for a meditation bench between existing graves.
63	54	Agree
63	54	depends. If the bench is of good quality and is in good condition, not on someone else's grave or public right of way, then I think it's fine. If the bench should become dilapidated, then it should be removed.
63	54	I believe standards and guidelines might be agreed upon to allow this. Benches for sure should be allowed but only in stone, heavy metal, or other material that does not break down easily. Same goes for "SMALL" table near a bench to be used for contemplation, writing in journals, etc. I would not agree to just anything goes or trellis...there is no need to have vines growing everywhere.
63	54	Disagree. As long as it is not a safety hazard, I think these items make visits to the grave nicer.
63	54	That's ridiculous. One of the beauties of the cemetery is the variety of benches that are there. If they are falling apart, rotting, a safety hazard, ok, remove them. Otherwise, who does it cause a problem for? Most of the people who go visit their loved ones need a place to sit and having benches that are of varied shapes, materials, colors, etc.. adds beauty to the cemetery.
63	54	Keep the Rule. Granite or marble benches only.

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63	54	Agree! No benches or chairs unless they're marble and in keeping with their surroundings.
63	54	The attempt to be all-encompassing by specifying prohibited materials leaves it open to install or place otherwise prohibited articles if they're made, for example, of rock, tile, aluminum or plastic.
63	54	Disagree. Benches add beauty to the cemetery and are practical for people who want to visit their loved ones, especially elderly people. Unless they are dilapidated, broken, rotten, do not remove them. There's beauty in the different wood, metal and stone styles. It makes it more like a park and it's not depressing and cold. If the only allowed benches were stone, it would look cold and depressing. In addition with the movement of the soil at the cemetery, those are the first structures to start tipping over and looking unsightly.
63	54	Totally disagree. What if you have an elderly going to visit their spouse's grave. Where are they supposed to sit?
63	54	Partially disagree. Please no trellis or table but chair, bench allowable.
63	54	I disagree. I think wooden benches or cast iron bench or concrete benches adds to the personality of the grave side also makes the mourner comfortable.
63	54	Bad idea. Peaceful reflection sometimes requires loved ones to sit. Until the cemetery is ADA compliant, this rule should be removed. As far as the trellis', anything to beautify an otherwise solemn place should be looked upon as "welcome".
63	54	Ridiculous rule. The cemetery is NOT overrun with such structures and does not threaten to be that way. It seems quite draconian to pursue these measures on something we have come to welcome and use for years. Do not pass this rule.
63	54	Absolutely not in agreement. These are nice additions and there are currently many of them. Are you proposing removing existing ones? That would not be right.
63	54	Disagree. Nice details in the cemetery to have.
63	54	DISAGREE. benches and other things should be allowed. If PARD has a particular issue with the types of items installed then set guidelines for what types of benches, chairs or tables can be installed. These should absolutely be allowed!!!
63	54	I disagree. As long as the "stakeholders" own the property, they should be allowed to place a bench.
63	54	Agree
63	54	Disagree. So the idea is, let's not give people anywhere to sit at our cemeteries so that they are empty, sad, lifeless places 90% of the time? Invite people in to the cemeteries with benches and other amenities.
63	54	I agree with constraints. I think a stone bench is ok, but only if another plot site is purchased to put it on. Any item allowed must be made in such a way to last a long, long time - like maybe 100 years.
63	54	I disagree. Cemeteries are big places. They are also places for peaceful contemplation. It would be nice to have a place to sit down. Benches are OK. Tables are not OK.
63	54	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
63	54	well, normally I would expect people to bring folding chairs or something but I hope you do have some benches situated through the cemetery. don't see a problem with a trellis.
63	54	Agree. However, it would be nice if the city would place approved benches throughout city owned cemeteries.
63	54	agree
63	54	If benches cannot be placed by individuals, then there should be multiple benches placed for the public. I find myself sitting on the ground over my late husband's grave. I'm not sure how many more years I will be able to do this and still get up. Benches already placed may have to stay.
63	54	I strongly disagree. Benches are necessary for those who want to come visit their loved one's graves. Trellises are for plants, and I believe that's OK too.
63	54	Would be nice if the cemetery placed by design some concrete benches.
63	54	I don't see a problem with allowing seating areas or trellises, provided they don't cross gravesite boundaries, are maintained by the gravesite owners, and don't otherwise pose a reasonable threat to health and safety of workers or visitors.
63	54	Disagree. So long as walkways and streets are not blocked these should be allowed. There should be size and height restrictions to prevent line of sight issues but that is all.
63	54	I agree with this rule but ONLY if it is enforced fairly and not arbitrarily.
63	54	Disagree. Benches, chairs, tables -- all important. A very large majority of the visitors are of an age where these items are crucial.
63	54	I absolutely disagree. there must be places for loved ones to sit and be with there departed. An older person should not be required to stand or sit on the grass.
63	54	disagree with this rule
63	54	Disagree...why? If it's on the plot they bought and not encroaching on others.
63	54	Disagree. I think a bench is charming.
63	54	I would allow these structures on gravesites but not elsewhere. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
63	54	Disagree.
63	54	Disagree. As long as bench is maintained and not an eye sore. When that happens, contact family and ask to remove.
63	54	yes, families only own the graves, not the public space
63	54	Definitely SHOULD be permitted to allow the mourners to sit.
63	54	Disagree. Places to sit and remember/contemplate enhance the cemetery. I would allow concrete or cast iron bench/chair. No tables, trellis, or wood because of the difficulty keeping it from rotting.
63	54	These items should be allowed on the grave sites.
63	54	I disagree with removing any chair, table, etc. on a wooden grave. The grave serves as a place where the grieving can come find solace and the mourners should place items that affirm life, not a dull, monotonous theme.
63	54	Only if not maintained. If it is, leave it alone. Again, a board should decide.
63	54	Disagree, again it should be based on the object's dimensions.

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63	54	I have to disagree because of the non forgiving nature of the statement. As the city does not place or maintain benches near graves, private benches provide a place where relatives especially those that are physically in need can sit and visit. The ground is not really level and stable for one to bring a light chair and not have it tip over. If such an area were to exist, then the need for more permanent structures, like benches would not be needed.
63	54	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
63	54	This is starting to be ridiculous. People want to sit down to spend time remembering or grieving or just resting. Why in the world would one want to prevent this? And a trellis to train a vine on to remember someone - I can't imagine what that hurts.
63	54	If it's already there, can't it stay unless it's creating a hazard. And, if it is creating a hazard, can't citizens be allowed to register a contact name as someone whom the Superintendent could contact to get it repaired quickly or perhaps that someone would be willing to pay to correct any hazardous condition presented by chair, table, bench, etc.?
63	54	Disagree. I especially disagree regarding a chair or bench for grieving family members to sit and remember for a spell.
63	54	No benches, chairs or tables is ok as long as the cemetery provides enough in each area. Wooden or wire trellis' could be restricted in height.
63	54	Disagree.
63	54	It seems like constructing benches or tables would impede on a walkway. It would be better to have several small sitting areas or benches throughout the cemetery rather than having them erected by individuals. It all goes back to maintaining a safe environment.
63	54	I completely disagree. A cemetery should be a place that invites people to sit and contemplate and spend time remembering their loved ones, to pray and to mourn. This is hard to do standing or squatting. Benches are so crucial. How could those be forbidden?
63	54	disagree - I am both elderly and handicapped, so a place to sit is important to me. A bench is not unattractive, as long as it is in good condition.
63	54	I really disagree with this rule. These types of structures are historically appropriate and enable people to enjoy the grave site of their loved one. This rule seems to be for the mow and blow crew of the city.
63	54	Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case
63	54	I disagree. I think this should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
63	54	There should be a permitting process that approves or denies these projects. I don't think there would be very many requests.
63	54	We strongly disagree with this rule! When we visit our son, we like to sit and reflect. The concrete bench, is an integral part of the time we spend at the gravesite. It also serves as a resting place for older family members that cannot stand for long periods.
63	54	If this item is located within the gravesite bounds, there is no reason to prevent them. They are lovely in outdoor scenes.
63	54	Disagree, delete this or allow benches at gravesites.
63	54	Loosen up---a graveyard planted with trees, shrubs and flowers is comforting and gives added "green space" to the community.
63	54	I disagree. I think it's wonderful when families bring in benches or chairs to provide a place to sit and contemplate, especially if the cemetery doesn't provide these things. Again, I think plastic chairs shouldn't be allowed because of their temporary and usually unsightly nature.
63	54	If you guys would provide better benches and chairs this wouldn't be a problem. I think as long as the benches are safe and are not blocking someone from their own graves its fine.
63	54	Disagree If a person places the bench on their own plot. Some people like to sit and pay their respect. Elderly people often need to sit down.
63	54	I would allow placement of benches and chairs for the use of family and friends when visiting the cemetery to meditate, pray and/or pay their respects.
63	54	disagree. Sturdy benches are a positive feature. An attractive trellis with flowering vines would be restful and calming.
63	54	Agree.
63	54	Disagree. There are no benches provided by cemetery in a location you would expect people to come, sit, contemplate and remember, Benches are an asset. I agree a standard on where benches can be placed (your plots or the common strip) and reasonable quality requirements are fine.
63	54	I agree because it is the responsibility of the City to provide suitable seating
63	54	I have seen lovely benches beside graves, and I agree that they should be left for those visiting. It's not always easy to stay there if you cannot sit down. Some people want to spend more time and if they cannot stand that long, then they should be able to sit on something. Other items get a little iffy.
63	54	Disagree. As long as the benches are not in the public right-of-way and in good condition they should not be removed.
63	54	I agree with reservation. I think this rule needs to be dealt with in an individual and personal manner regarding benches. If the bench is placed by a child's grave so a parent can visit, I feel an exception can be made.
63	54	I disagree with this rule. I own the plot next to my deceased wife, and have considered placing a bench there to make it easier for elder visitors. I think it would be reasonable to require such structures to be limited to the plots owned by individuals and to require that they be kept in a reasonable state of repair.
63	54	I agree with the spirit of this rule. But I'll admit that some of the benches placed by families are attractive. If the Superintendent were to purchase and place a few benches on the grounds, those might be a welcome rest spot for visitors.
63	54	Agree.
63	54	Disagree. Again, not a problem.
63	54	We disagree. Benches are necessary for those visiting the grave site. They could be of stone or wood if well maintained.
63	54	Totally disagree. The benches on my parents' grave are appropriate to the setting.

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63	54	Disagree. People need a place to sit when they visit plots, and if it's within the boundaries of their private plot and not a safety hazard, I don't see why it's an issue.
63	54	Disagree. Some of us are mobility impaired. Benches are a blessing, not a curse.
63	54	Disagree. I feel having benches is appropriate "and possibly necessary for the elderly and those with disabilities (or even those in a state of abject grief).
63	54	I disagree. A safe bench would not be bad. An agreement process should be possible.
63	54	I think benches should be allowed but according to a code
63	54	I love the benches!
63	54	I agree. Benches should be part of the cemetery's overall plan. Maybe people can be invited to contribute to those.
63	54	Benches should be allowed for respectful contemplation.
63	54	Agree on wooden or wire trellis, tables, and chairs. Disagree on benches: Many people spend extended time visiting graves and the elderly need to be able to sit down. Limits do need to be made on the type of benches approved (concrete & granite are durable; wooden & cast iron not durable). The placement of benches should not block walkways, be placed on other's property, or be placed outside the grave area. For safety reasons the walkways should be open for walking and not have benches, pots, planters, statues, memorials placed in the walkways.
63	54	is there no way to build something as a honor or memorial, something that might benefit all (e.g. a bench)?
63	54	disagree need to work with the stakeholders
63	54	if there is a tree, it would be nice to have a bench underneath so a person may sit to ponder and think of their loved ones. This creates a tranquil place to remember... Additionally and especially in the heat a person may need to sit or if their emotion takes over--before they collapse and EMS is called in.
63	54	disagree.. should allow in certain areas family plots or part of headstone/marker. can add with trees to improve the area through donations for said to help with upkeep
63	54	I'm not aware of the need for other items, but an occasional bench may be a welcome addition for elderly mourners and visitors. A reasonable limitation could be specified: no more than one bench no wider than x feet per every y number of graves.
63	54	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
63	54	DISAGREE!
63	54	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
63	54	Disagree. I think these items add a bit of character to the park. I especially enjoy sitting on the benches to enjoy the peace and quiet not found in other parks (no dogs barking or children yelling/crying). The memorial park and benches are the best place to relax and read! Shhhh... don't tell anyone ;-)
63	54	I disagree. It may well be that a visitor is infirm and needs to sit while visiting the grave of a loved one.
63	54	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado (no, according to the issue)
63	54	Disagree. These would be nice elements of the space.
63	54	People have already done that, so it would be hard to come up with a rule now. I would think that the main thing that I do believe needs to be stressed is that the only space the person has is the grave itself and the headstone space. If you go past that space in an area that someone else needs to be buried, the grave diggers will have to deal with that. It will be cumbersome to put in a new grave without going through a lot of changes.
63	54	I would delete this rule for the reasons expressed in Question #1.
63	54	I am 86 and when I visit my husband's grave, I must be able to sit. I have placed an iron bench at our grave site, and hope that sturdy attractive benches will still be allowed.
63	54	It is my recall that the recent but ignored "Rules and Regulations" did allow concrete benches. I have no problem with this if it is allowed with the approval of the Superintendent.
63	54	Totally disagree. Love the individual benches. They have a former City of Austin park bench that they painted and placed in their family area. Does not like the sanctioned marble benches. Likes personalization.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
83	55	<i>The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
83	55	Not sure I know what the problem is. Probably OK as is if enforced conservatively.
83	55	I agree.
83	55	The construction of gardens over graves is permitted only as provided herein. All plantings must be drought- and freeze-resistant, native or adapted, low- or no-maintenance, and be selected from plants recommended by the City of Austin's Grow Green Native and Adapted Landscape Plants guide. Such plants, at maturity, may not grow higher than 24 inches or spread more than 36 inches. All such gardens must be contained within a rock, brick, or other border or container. Borders may not exceed eight inches in height, and shall be securely anchored in the soil. Plants with thorns or spines, invasive or non-adapted plants, or plants that can spread through a rhizome or root system outside of the grave site are not permitted. Space owner or holder must maintain the garden, including weeding, trimming or pruning, and promptly removing any dead or dying plants or any plants spreading outside of the garden
83	55	Leave rule as is
83	55	No change
83	55	No change

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83	55	I'm not sure what this means. I have seen one plot that seems to have a raised rock/flower garden over it. It was kind of pretty when it was first installed, so it was fine, but now it has lots of weeds.
83	55	Agree. Uniformity and consistency of gravesites adds to the appearance of it being tidy and clean.
83	55	What are "additional mounds"? Piling on of additional dirt? Flowers?
83	55	I can understand this because some traditions do this practice. It interferes with the mowing. While new inters will have a mound, it is only temporary in nature. I am okay with this policy as is.
83	55	No opinion.
83	55	no additional mounds should be allowed.
83	55	Agree
83	55	agree.
83	55	Agreed.
83	55	Uncertain what this refers to.
83	55	There are some old customs such as a mound with shells added to it. What is wrong with this?
83	55	I Agree. Everything should be at grade, and performed by Cemetery Staff.
83	55	agree
83	55	Agree.
83	55	Disagree. I put a cross over my son's grave, it was my right.
83	55	See my response to #3.
83	55	Agree. It angers the spirits.
83	55	I agree as to Memorial Park, which is not the only city cemetery. These rules cannot be applied across the board to all five city cemeteries.
83	55	If the cemetery has a policy to use vaults there is no need for a mound.
83	55	I agree
83	55	I agree. Would create problems for maintenance. Over time the mound would level out from rains.
83	55	I do not know what this means. I planted flowers, and have mulched. I only did this when the city did nothing for the grave other than leave the dirt.
83	55	yes. flat and easy mow surfaces
83	55	Agree
83	55	Agree. Again, cemeteries are shared, public spaces where no individual should be allowed to modify the grounds in ways that pose impediments to visitors and maintenance.
83	55	No change recommended.
83	55	Agree
83	55	Agree
83	55	Disagree if the mound is a small garden.
83	55	agree
83	55	I am not sure what is meant by this question....additional mounds? Please elaborate?
83	55	Don't know what that means. Will have to look into this.
83	55	agree
83	55	Forgive me on this one, I didn't see that practice when I visited. What is the purpose of the extra mounds?
83	55	Agree.
83	55	I agree.
83	55	I think there should be rules that govern the size, construction, and material if these mounds are used in place of a tomb stone marker.
83	55	Concur
83	55	OK, provided that the cemetery management ensures that the graves are leveled adequately and promptly covered with grass. I don't see another reason for people to add more mounds over the graves. If PARD knows of some instances, then address the root cause for this to eliminate the need to have this rule.
83	55	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
83	55	Circled YES
83	55	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
83	55	Agree
83	55	Agree with this. No sense in changing landscape up and down.
83	55	Have never seen this?
83	55	I agree with the rule, assuming that concrete grave covers are allowed.
83	55	I agree.
83	55	Agree
83	55	I agree.
83	55	No opinion on this.
83	55	I think it seems reasonable, but... why would people do this? I do not understand.
83	55	Agree
83	55	Why is this rule even necessary?
83	55	Agree
83	55	I agree with this rule. I don't know why you would want to mound over graves anyway. It would make grounds keeping very difficult.
83	55	I don't totally understand the rule.
83	55	Depends on the mound and the religious significance.
83	55	Agree
83	55	agree

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83	55	I'm not sure what this means. Dirt? Ivy? Stone? If it is stone...it may be okay..but I'm not sure why it is needed? Dirt and Ivy? No.
83	55	Unsure, I have not seen this so don't know how I feel.
83	55	Again, why is this a problem?
83	55	Agree with rule. All graves should be uniform
83	55	Agree
83	55	Agree.
83	55	Agree.
83	55	I agree.
83	55	No problem with this. Since the city maintenance is basic, anything else would be hard for them to handle.
83	55	I can't imagine why this would be a problem to have a mound or not. I think it is another rule for the sake of a rule. Personally I do not care.
83	55	No, sometimes, that's part of the landscaping a person has done and should be respected.
83	55	Don't know.
83	55	What is the definition of "mounds"? that will determine whether this is reasonable
83	55	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
83	55	Agree
83	55	See answer to question #1.
83	55	I agree
83	55	I agree
83	55	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. While I would not deny anyone the opportunity to express themselves artistically or to remember a loved one in their own way, the city cemetery is not the place for such expressions.
83	55	agree with the rule
83	55	Agree. A uniform look is more pleasing, and additional mounds over graves would hinder maintenance workers by making it harder, or impossible, to mow over the area.
83	55	agree
83	55	Agree..again a hazard to the rest of us.
83	55	I'm not sure what this is referring to. If it's the addition of garden soil for planting on, then I think it's fine. Therefore I disagree with this rule.
83	55	Yes, I agree
83	55	This is another rule that merits review. What constitutes a mound? Is there a certain height that poses a problem?
83	55	Disagree. This is a personal issue and unless an additional mound created water runoff issues it ought to be allowed.
83	55	Unclear policy. Would this prevent planting?
83	55	Disagree. Mounds? Could the rule specify the size? One-two foot mounds are not a problem.
83	55	As long as tasteful, there should not be a problem with this.
83	55	disagree with this rule
83	55	Agree
83	55	Not sure I understand this one.
83	55	Disagree. I would allow additional mounds over graves. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
83	55	That depends on the mound. If it's to plant flowers that remember the deceased, why not?
83	55	Agree
83	55	yes
83	55	Keep
83	55	This should be allowed also.
83	55	I do not understand this rule. If you mean allowing a person to plant a field of flowers over the grave, then, yes, the mourner should be able to do so.
83	55	Disagree if those mounds are used solely for planting purposes.
83	55	I agree. This also means that the city will keep the ground level.
83	55	parada !
83	55	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
83	55	Why would you make this rule? Like so many of the others, this doesn't seem to make any sense. What problem are you trying to solve with this rule?
83	55	Similar comment as before: Agree as it applies to new improvements; as to existing, agree as long as the existing improvements don't create a hazard.
83	55	Disagree, within bounds. I believe people should be able to plant flowers or a shrub over a grave and such mound as is necessary for that is reasonable in my opinion.
83	55	I'd have to say disagree because I don't know what "construction of additional mounds" would look like. If it's to landscape the grave for plants, I see no problem.
83	55	Disagree.
83	55	I would change it to allow for mounds to grow certain plants and flowers for the deceased. Especially if it is directly on the grave. I just don't understand what the harm is.
83	55	I disagree. City of Austin should be happy if there are families who care for the grave site. This means less maintenance for the city. Instead it should worry about neglected grave sites or neglected cemeteries in general. Encourage involvement and ownership by families, do NOT discourage it with unreasonable and petty rules and regulations.
83	55	agree - but sunken spots should be filled in by the cemetery (there may not be survivors to tend to it)
83	55	Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Some are attractive and fit the area
83	55	If the "additional mounds" are used to plant something and they don't exceed 6 inches, I would want some flexibility.
83	55	I would put in a height limitation. I would like to see people be able to plant flowers over the grave and add some much etc.

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83	55	Again if maintained by the family members it should be allowed.
83	55	?
83	55	Disagree, define "additional mounds"?
83	55	It depends on the size of the mound. I think anything over 12-18 inches is probably excessive. If someone wants to bring in some good soil in which to plant wildflowers and perennials, I think that's ok.
83	55	neutral
83	55	I agree with this rule.
83	55	yes
83	55	Agree .
83	55	Disagree. In what way does a mound contained in a grave site impede the operations of the cemetery except to mar the sterile esthetics of the person proposing this rule.
83	55	I disagree - as long as the mounds do not exceed the lot area
83	55	I do not understand why someone would mound any more than already is there. But if it is not unsightly, and there is a reason, then each individual should be given a chance to make his case.
83	55	Agree.
83	55	I agree. Mounds create a hazard and would make it difficult for maintenance.
83	55	I disagree with this rule, to the extent it effectively prohibits plants and gardens.
83	55	I agree with this rule which promotes a uniform, level landscape.
83	55	Agree.
83	55	I have no idea what this means, and again, I doubt there are myriad "additional mounds" popping up all over Austin cemeteries.
83	55	We agree.
83	55	Agree
83	55	Disagree. I'm a gardener and Austin soil sucks, and you have to add soil if you want to grow anything. And I like to see small gardens over graves. It's a good way to remember a loved one.
83	55	No opinion
83	55	Agree.
83	55	agree
83	55	I don't care one way or the other.
83	55	I agree.
83	55	Agree.
83	55	Agree: The construction of mounds should not be permitted. Rocks or other items should not be allowed.... only grass.
83	55	disagree
83	55	pls define "additional mounds"...what do you refer to here, I don't understand...pls be ,more specific or give an example.
83	55	yes to be allowed a gravestone of some sort.
83	55	agreed
83	55	No opinion.
83	55	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
83	55	DISAGREE!
83	55	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
83	55	I agree.
83	55	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
83	55	Agree
83	55	That is something that was done years ago, people have been accustomed to doing that. On Mother's day people get together and put mound back in place. The word has to get out. They should be handed what is permitted at a funeral home from now on. No one is going to try to contact the city to see what they can do as far as a family member's plot, but if it's something that the funeral home hands out – that would give you a point of contact.
83	55	I have no opinion on this one.
83	55	Probably agree with this, but could see exceptions. A woman near her has a mound less than 2 feet with broken flagstone. Actually disagree with that if it's tastefully done.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
84	56	Holdings such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
84	56	I would limit this rule to plastic or other disposable planters and to flower pots. Clay or metal urns or vases should be left alone unless they decay or break.
84	56	I agree.
84	56	I do not approve graves being covered with artificial flowers, they should be placed in a confined container and be kept fresh looking and not faded.
84	56	Keep current rule, but add: Cemetery does not have to specifically notify each family they will be removing items from their plot, there should be a set schedule that removal happens and families are given that schedule for notification. Suggests a removal schedule of once a month or after big holidays.
84	56	No change

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		May means that it can or can't – should be specific. Determine who is doing it. If you say that they will be removed – the City is going to do it. If it says must –the plot owner is responsible. Define who is doing what. "May" indicates that it can stay
84	56	Plastic flowers never fade or wither. How do you handle that?
84	56	I think this is very reasonable, but this policy could be improved upon. The R&R state that if a family wishes to keep these items, they have 72 hours to pick them up. You might want to give people a week or maybe even two to come retrieve items from a new burial. These families are grieving and might not remember to come claim items in the first three days of the funeral.
84	56	Families with new burials should receive some grace on the timeframe.
84	56	Agree. Unsightly.
84	56	Disagree. Remove the flowers, not the vases.
84	56	Yes, I think it has to be done. As long as the removal isn't premature, which happens a lot at cemeteries, I think it is acceptable to do so to prevent the further breakdown of material.
84	56	Agree. Flowers can be removed when decayed.
84	56	Communicate with a sign at the entrance that old flowers and pots will be removed otherwise its desecration of a burial site.
84	56	Agree
84	56	agree
84	56	I think the rule is fine as is. All flowers should be removed monthly by cemetery staff.
84	56	Agreed. Unless the family will be back that same week to remove their flowers, then the right should be left with the superintendent or cemetery personnel.
84	56	Agree
84	56	Yes, they can be removed so the cemetery is "kept up".
84	56	Agree. People bring flowers and leave them never to return. If it becomes unsightly cemetery staff should be allowed to remove them.
84	56	disagree, a person should be allowed to bring clay pots or containers for their loved ones.
84	56	They can be removed after posting a date removal will be made.
84	56	Agree.
84	56	See my response to #3 and #4.
84	56	Slightly agree. The flowers may be removed. The pots must stay.
84	56	I agree. Again the four other city cemeteries plot owners need to be informed. It seems that all the emphasis of these rules are to conditions at Memorial Park. Oakwood, Oakwood Annex, Plummers and Evergreen Cemeteries aren't acknowledged and their special needs no always a fit to rules that seem to apply only to Memorial Park.
84	56	Agree. Keep it clean and fresh looking.
84	56	I agree
84	56	I agree. The rule should not be changed.
84	56	Yes unless it is a silk flower and it is not faded.
84	56	yes
84	56	Agree
84	56	Agree. These are undignified and disrespectful signs of neglect.
84	56	No change recommended.
84	56	Agree
84	56	Agree
84	56	Removal only if it's unsightly .
84	56	Agree
84	56	If the clay pot is expensive, I would leave at gravesite. I agree if the flowers fade or wither (same as decorations), they should be removed.
84	56	Disagree. Reasons given.
84	56	agree
84	56	If the flowers are faded and/or withered, they should be removed....however, I don't think it is up to the Cemetery staff to remove the pots....If the staff can be discrete (I don't know what went before), I would say the rule should be kept.
84	56	Disagree. I think it should be up to the families and friends of the deceased to remove their pots and flowers.
84	56	I agree.
84	56	I have used a clay pot with artificial flowers on my grave for over eight years. The pot is anchored in a shallow space to keep it from turning over and the wind blowing it. It does not interfere with mowing, and I keep it maintained.
84	56	I think there should be a set date each year that the withered flowers are removed so owners have the opportunity to do this for you and prevent any special loss of a meaningful arrangement or vase.
84	56	Good rule. No objection to imitation flowers. Subjective judgment is difficult, but they need to be maintained/removed when faded.
84	56	Some holders (fancy clay pots?) may have a special meaning to the owner and the Cemetery should not remov+J419e anything without prior notice and should hold everything in storage for 6 months. This sentence is written in a very disrespectful manner: "the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal". Who is the Cemetery? Is it the Superintendent?
84	56	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
84	56	Circled YES
84	56	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
84	56	Disagree

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84	56	Agree
84	56	Yes
84	56	Agree
84	56	Agree, remove the flowers, not pots unless they are broken.
84	56	Just do it!
84	56	I agree.
84	56	Agree
84	56	I agree.
84	56	I don't object to this.
84	56	Yes! This is more like it.
84	56	Agree
84	56	Agree
84	56	Agree, same as above: this stuff can degrade and become trash.
84	56	Agree
84	56	I agree.
84	56	That is fine as long as the owners have the opportunity to retrieve them.
84	56	Disagree. Only remove the wilting or dead flowers. Let the pots await fresh flowers!!
84	56	The dead flowers should be allowed to remain. They at least represent that their loved one had someone who cared enough to bring flowers. I live in Dallas and can only come every few months. And I am my son's mother. His father and wife never bring him any flowers. I want my flowers to remain there so he knows he is always remembered and loved by me.
84	56	agree
84	56	I do agree for the most part because families must keep up with their stuff and not leave it to wither into nothing as we see each Christmas where people with good intentions decorate public trees but rarely return to un-decorate them and the items blow off and break and add to our trash issue on public roads! However, I again would like to see guidelines set up to offer a CHOICE.....perhaps urn(s) on the side of markers/stones/benches that may hold flowers (fake or real) and are thus contained and somewhat protected. I don't see anything wrong with laminated photos being taped to the marker/stone or something else that would allow a photo...but only on the marker/stone.
84	56	Agree, however if they are clay and out of the way, they should be left to plant future plants.
84	56	Removing dead flowers, decorations is ok. Removing the containers they came in is not. People spent money for those and will come to remove them.
84	56	Agree with the rule.
84	56	Agree, get rid of the junky stuff, it gets weathered and ultimately looks like refuse.
84	56	#s 9, 10 and 11 should be combined and simplified. Unless removed sooner by the persons to whom they belong, natural flowers and potted plants will be removed by city employees when they become wilted, and artificial flowers will be removed thirty days after placement. Holes may not be dug for placement of flowers or other plants. In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants and flowers shall be placed only in the bronze vases provided for that purpose.
84	56	Do not remove the holders. They are the property of others who will collect them at their next visit. Removing dead flowers is ok but do not toss the containers.
84	56	Disagree. People have paid for these and when flowers fade, they will remove it themselves.
84	56	Disagree unless broken or hazardous. Throw dead flowers out, keep holders.
84	56	I disagree, since they do not look bad. It should be the owners to remove it if they want
84	56	We maintain clay planters on 5 plots currently. When the plants or flowers wilt, then we replace or replant new ones. Sometimes we cannot meet your proposed time frame and the destruction of private property is not acceptable. The plots are not owned by the city any more. Just like real estate, appurtenances such as personal property, including personal property, are belonging to the owner of the land.
84	56	No. How is it that someone else decides when a flower, so lovingly placed by a family member, should be removed. Ridiculous.
84	56	Not unless they're broken or hazardous.
84	56	Agree. Remove dead stuff is ok.
84	56	Disagree, should notify owner first as they may want to replant flowers or items, should give owner 10 days to remedy alleged issue prior to cemetery taking action.
84	56	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
84	56	Agree
84	56	See answer to question #1.
84	56	I agree
84	56	I agree
84	56	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
84	56	Well I think a better rule would be to encourage use of paper flowers which look rather gay even when faded. I think it is usually disrespectful to remove flowers or vases.
84	56	Agree. Why would anyone want old, dilapidated containers and faded and withered flowers to remain on their loved one's graves? Isn't that showing neglect?
84	56	agree
84	56	Agree. This rule
84	56	Agree
84	56	Yes, I agree
84	56	This rule needs a more nuanced review as well. The owners should have some opportunity to remove flower/decoration holders themselves. Removed and then what? Returned to the owners? Discarded?
84	56	Disagree. Faded flowers or other decorations ought only be removed after owners have been notified (this could be done easily via text or email) and given time to attend to them personally. If they are given the option to approve staff removal that is fine.
84	56	What if dried flowers are symbolically important to someone? Who are the aesthetic police on this front?

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84	56	Disagree. Having holders of plants and flowers that may have withered are indicators that the grave has been visited. Is someone is required to come back to clean this up immediately? This is creating a problem that does not exist.
84	56	The flowers should be removed, but why create more for a landfill. Leave the pot, wire, frame, so it can be reused.
84	56	disagree with this rule
84	56	Agree
84	56	I agree with this one.
84	56	Disagree. I would allow flower/decoration holders on gravesites. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
84	56	Agree.
84	56	Strongly disagree. Since city took over I have had expensive silk flowers removed several times when they were less than six weeks old. Obviously city can't be trusted to make that determination.
84	56	yes, as long as the owner of such items can retrieve them
84	56	Agree
84	56	Flowers and other decorations should remain until the family changes them. If a paper item is disintegrating and blowing into other areas of the cemetery, it can be removed by the Cemetery.
84	56	I had two dove at my loved one's grave site, sitting very close to the marker. I came one day and they were gone. I was devastated. At first I thought someone had stolen them, but then I thought a weed eater must have broken them. The dove pair symbolized our devotion to each other and I had searched a long time to get ones that had the faces turned to each other. I am still hurt. So, I agree with the proposed removal rule.
84	56	Disagree. Cemetery could be allowed to remove items after X number of weeks vs. what is currently a subjective standard.
84	56	Needs some wordsmithing. I agree that withered flowers should be removed. I question the removal of the containers, especially those that has a value to the ones that placed it there. Some grave markers have a hole designed into them especially for flower containers.
84	56	parada !
84	56	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
84	56	This is now starting to be ridiculous. Even the military cemeteries allow for holders containing flowers to be there more or less permanently. What problem are you trying to solve with this rule? Again, if implemented, it would need to be a board determining, not a person.
84	56	Disagree, remove the rule.
84	56	Agree.
84	56	Disagree. While I think it is ok to remove dead flowers, it is not the right of the cemetery to remove pots or vases.
84	56	I'd agree EXCEPT the grave owner should be notified first because they may have other plans for those clay or plastic pots, etc.
84	56	Agree.
84	56	I disagree with this rule. It should be the families discretion how long to keep holders. Especially ones that are durable and can be re-used.
84	56	No, they should be removed by the owner. However, the cemetery might contact the owner to remove these items if it thinks the grave site has become unsightly.
84	56	The rule SOUNDS fine but we have had newly placed artificial flowers removed.
84	56	Yes
84	56	This sounds reasonable, except if the "other decorations" area not flowers and cannot fade and wither, can they remain?
84	56	With this rule I foresee objects being removed against family wishes. This should only apply to "holders" that are temporary for cut flowers. I think in general, for other objects, their should be some criteria that says once the object has been obviously abandoned and left uncared for it can be removed.
84	56	Agreed
84	56	Disagree. Some flowers are actually pretty when dried, such as yarrow. Perhaps you could limit your list of plants to those in the austin grow green guide, published by the city.
84	56	Disagree, set up a removal date similar to other cemeteries.
84	56	Agree
84	56	I think only plastic pots should be removed and should be recycled, not thrown away. The others should remain, but the dead, cut flowers should be removed.
84	56	Take the flowers sure, but don't touch the holders. I'm sorry but why is this even on the table. What is wrong with you? I refuse to believe that FLOWER HOLDERS are becoming a widespread nuisance.
84	56	disagree Flower holders of a permanent nature should be left alone.
84	56	Yes, I agree with this rule.
84	56	agree
84	56	Only removal of dead flowers and not their container unless plastic.
84	56	While I agree with this rule, because of the arbitrary nature of the other rules I have little faith in the "the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal" will be done with discretion.
84	56	I agree, but allow individual lot owners to request an extension of time due to unusual circumstances - a valuable vase being used
84	56	As a gardener I do not like dead plants, and I think this should be okay with everyone that dead flowers be thrown away.
84	56	Disagree. The cemetery personal should work with the owners to make a determination of removal. All dilapidated articles should be removed.
84	56	I agree; have no problem with this rule.
84	56	This is a reasonable restriction.
84	56	I agree with this rule. Withered flowers and their containers are unattractive. They may also interfere with mowing and maintenance.
84	56	Agree.

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84	56	For plastic and wire, fine. Clay pots are meant to be permanent and are not cheap, so no, they do not need to be removed.
84	56	We agree.
84	56	Agree
84	56	I agree that if there's a vase standing water and wilted/dead flowers, that's gonna encourage mosquito breeding, so removing that is fine with me. But pots with plants in them that are alive and no standing water should be fine.
84	56	Agree
84	56	Agree.
84	56	agree
84	56	I agree, but only if the flower pot stays more than a week after the flowers die.
84	56	I agree.
84	56	Agree.
84	56	Agree: The seasonal floral arrangement should be removed after an appropriate amount of time. The times should be made available to all families. Dead plants should be removed weekly. Limits should be made on the number of planters, bird baths, statues, and other memorials on one grave.
84	56	disagree
84	56	agree
84	56	agree.. see above
84	56	No opinion.
84	56	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
84	56	DISAGREE!
84	56	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
84	56	Agree. However for decorative ceramic pots, the space owner should be notified in advance.
84	56	I agree.
84	56	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
84	56	Agree
84	56	That has been in place already, those things are things that can rust and get stuck in someone's foot and cause problems. When the flowers begin to wither, they should be removed. It just doesn't look good.
84	56	I agree with this rule as long as the phrase "and other decorations" is struck.
84	56	Ok. Exempt clay memorials for this.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
64	57	<i>Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
64	57	Totally OK as to real plants and flowers. Artificial flowers and plants should be left until they begin to decay or fall apart or badly fade.
64	57	I agree.
64	57	Add: Specific time frame for removal of funeral designs or floral pieces, suggested 2 weeks after funeral. Add: No hanging plants permitted.
64	57	180 days (vice 30 days in line 6). Great concern about, in the rules, flowers will be removed after 30 days (too soon).
64	57	Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may [who is going to remove them every month, first of month, end of month, etc. the way this is written is meaningless. What is expected of the public in this? He believes these rules are written poorly.] be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service [doesn't know how you can enforce this, no one is going to count.]. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday [what about real flowers? Can they be there forever? What holiday? All holidays? Every culture has their own holidays – how will you keep track of/enforce this? Write the rules that you intend to enforce, too open to interpretation.]. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited. This overlaps with the previous rule. Rules should be written clearly so that everyone knows what's expected. He does not like the other stuff – whirly things and extra décor are an abomination. Items that are hanging are distracting. Thinks this needs to be combined in a crisper document. Chimes are distracting, you are driving by and see them. The key to enforcement is to keep it simple. The more rules you have, the more interpretations you have. Decide what's important and keep it simple. Relative to all the flowers – real, artificial, plastic, etc – too specific, should have exemptions with approval of cemetery director.

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64	57	Oops. I see the 72 hour rule applies to these items; not the items listed in Question #9! I would still give these families longer than 72 hours to retrieve these items. There are only a few plots that have new burials in them at any given time, so if items are wilting on those few plots, I think we could extend grace to those few families to have a week or two to come retrieve the items. All other plots should be clear of wilting things.
64	57	Agree, seems reasonable.
64	57	Disagree. The rule is too inclusive. Allow artificial flowers throughout the year, not just holidays. After all, the deceased had a birthday, a wedding adversary, and may have commemorated events that were significant but are not holidays like Pearl Harbor day, Juneteenth, etc.
64	57	I agree. However, I know other cemeteries remove the flowers the day after burial and trash them. I think that is where the complaints may be coming from, by over zealous workers who do not care because most grieving relatives come back the next day.
64	57	Agree. Do not allow holes to be dug outside of burials. This policy is great - everyone can have flowers with the understanding they will be removed.
64	57	Artificial flowers are fine - they don't wither! Many families may not live in the area or they may not be able to face coming to the cemetery after a loss so 72 hours is ridiculous. You need a psychiatrist and social workers on this team. City personnel should certainly remove withered real flowers and garbage - this is totally obvious. Anything that is a ritual and harmless should be left alone.
64	57	Agree
64	57	agree
64	57	I agree. All flowers should be removed monthly or 30 days from a major floral holiday
64	57	Digging of any kind - by the public - should not be allowed in the cemetery. This can only lead to problems. However, it would be nice if artificial flowers (with the exception of holiday oriented bouquets) could be left up for longer than 30 days. Maybe 60 or 90?
64	57	Agree
64	57	I agree. Cemeteries are parklike, need to be attractive.
64	57	Agreed as long as there is a set schedule to the clean ups. It helps maintain a clean look.
64	57	This is a ridiculous to do such a thing while in mourning. Shame on you.
64	57	One month is not a practical time period especially for families who place flowers only when they visit Austin.
64	57	Agree
64	57	See my response to #3 and #4.
64	57	I disagree with the prohibition of digging holes. How else am I going to stuff coins in Grandpa's casket?
64	57	I agree. But keep lot owners of the other four cemeteries informed as well. This won't be easy as active, inactive and unknown lot owners.
64	57	The superintendant needs to use his own discretion on this matter.
64	57	I agree
64	57	I agree. No changes need to be made.
64	57	I believe planted flowers should be allowed. if potted plants are dead, remove
64	57	Agree
64	57	Agree
64	57	Agree. Again, these are signs of neglect.
64	57	No change recommended.
64	57	Agree
64	57	Agree
64	57	Disagree. After my 4 year old son's death, I planted flowers on his grave. Tending the little garden was very healing for me. horticulture therapy, garden therapy, and healing with nature are becoming main stream alternative healing practices. I now am installing a healing garden at a grief support non profit. Not being able to express grief including plantings , as long as they are keot up, is behind the times.
64	57	Agree
64	57	I placed a large agave cement urn on my spouse's grave. It does not take any mainteance and looks natural.
64	57	I agree with the dead flowers. That's all. But, again, the owners should do this.
64	57	agree
64	57	This rule seems to be reasonable. I think it is pretty standard practice.
64	57	DISAGREE. See above.
64	57	I agree.
64	57	A limit of 30 days for an artificial arrangement to be removed can be very expensive. I think most owners are reasonable and responsible for keeping them maintained. Quality artificial plants last much longer.
64	57	I keep my ceramic vase with artificial flowers slightly buried in the dirt to keep it from turning over or being stolen. I do not feel I have damaged or impacted the space in any way because I am not digging a substantial hole.
64	57	Good rule

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64	57	<p>This seems to be contradictory of G above. What if the potted plant has withered? When will the clay pot with the withered flowers be removed, each month or when the Cemetery decides? Is the clay pot for a potted plant not considered a clay pot holder? How come cut flowers may be removed each month, but the containers of withered flowers in pots, wire frames, etc. may be removed as determined by Cemetery?</p> <p>Simplify these by stating that flowers, plants and containers will be removed when withered, and pots and holders will be kept for 6 months after notifying the owner.</p> <p>OK as long as it means floral pieces provided by a funeral home, not by the owner as a grave decoration. It doesn't matter what the object is, what matters is the significance of the object to the owner, so it the owner provided it, then it is personal and significant. If the funeral home delivered it, then it is not personal but the owner may want to keep it, so next sentence is OK.</p> <p>Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service is ok.</p> <p>OK for holidays. Also include special personal occasions such as anniversaries, deceased birthday or death, ethnic celebrations, etc. Have a simple online process that grants a permit to have flowers of any kind (live or artificial) for a period of time.</p> <p>The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited is ok.</p>
64	57	Makes no sense whatsoever - Removing dead plants, flowers is ok, but not allowing folks to plant bushes, flowers in ground is ridiculous. That is what makes the cemetery unique and beautiful!
64	57	Allow plants in ground, makes it parklike
64	57	At Austin Memorial- we were told in 2000 that the row where my father was buried did not allow for tree planting - that was every other row - but - bushes could be planted. There are different plants along his row. It reminds me that the people buried there are not "uniform", they are different. Austin Memorial seems to celebrate those differences.
64	57	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
64	57	Circled NO
64	57	I suport the current bi-annual clean up. Quarterly would be fine too. I appreciate the notice given when these clean ups are scheduled.
64	57	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
64	57	A hole to be able to place artificial flowers should be premisable
64	57	No
64	57	Disagree - It's hard to consolidate people's feelings into a policy, may have to revisit this one. In general he is more prone to allow people to grieve in the way that works best for them. Should allow plants to be planted as long as they are within the confines of the person's gravesite and don't interfere with neighbors.
64	57	Question #9 answers this. Plant what you want on your space.
64	57	Just do it!
64	57	I agree.
64	57	Agree.
64	57	I agree.
64	57	Agree
64	57	72 hours seems like a short amount of time, to me.
64	57	My family has always been able to place plants in our family plot at Oakwood Cemetery. There are several shrubs planted by my great grandmother 100 years ago. I think it should be permissible for us to replace those that have died because the city did not water Oakwood during the 2011 drought.
64	57	Agree - however: I feel artificial flowers/flower arrangements should be allowed at any time whether it is a holiday or not.
64	57	I agree in general, but think the planting flowers and other plants should be allowed.
64	57	Agree
64	57	I agree. It keeps the ground looking neat and kept.
64	57	That seems fine.
64	57	Digging of holes for appropriate drought resistant plants should be permitted as a way of beautifying the graves and cemetery. Wilted or dead flowers can be removed.
64	57	I disagree. The grass at my sons gravesite has been dead. There is nothing pretty at this gravesite. I want to plant some native ground cover or a crape myrtle or something there so his gravesite doesn't look like no one cares about it.
64	57	agree
64	57	I do agree with this entire statement.
64	57	Only when they are unsightly.
64	57	It makes no sense whatsoever that plants and flowers cannot be planted in the ground. Why????? The cemetery looks like a pretty garden. Flowers and other plants do much better in the ground than in pots. I think both should be allowed. Potted plants and in-ground plants/flowers. If they are dead, and nobody is caring for them, remove them. Otherwise, let them be!
64	57	We had AMP approve the trees and shrubs and the cemetery planted them for us. I really do agree with the above rule.
64	57	Agree.
64	57	Disagree. There is no sense in not allowing flowers or plants to be planted in the ground. They last longer, are more drought and freeze protected. If they are overgrown or hazardous, feel free to trim them. It makes no sense that you cannot have flowers in the ground when you can have them in pots because either way, you can mow and trim around them. Funeral designs/flowers being removed after they are wilted is ok.

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64	57	Disagree. Not sure what difference it would make to you to have potted versus planted flowers. If it is to mow, you have to mow around either.
64	57	Disagree partially. Funeral arrangements that have rotted or dried should be removed. Holiday flowers should be allowed with no 30-day restriction. No removal of potted plants every month. Some are permanently good looking. If they are rotten, that would be ok. Allow plants and flowers in ground.
64	57	I disagree, planting flowers adds to the beauty of the cemetery. this cemetery is so unique and beautiful, because is so individual and different.
64	57	Partially agree, but the decision should always remain with the family.
64	57	NO! Really. Now we are talking of planting plants. I think that any such desire on the part of the city to remove such things should be done in consultation with the plot holder/family. If there is cause, then let it be shown.
64	57	No, disagree. Let people plant what they want. Funeral wreaths that have gone past their prime should be removed by families, not the cemetery. That's more respectful of the grief people feel. If weeks pass without action, then cemetery workers should remove. Also plantings in ground should be allowed. Artificial flowers should also be allowed at any time given the hot conditions in Austin.
64	57	Disagree. Cemeteries need to have nice decorations so they are not dead looking. Flowers and baskets and plants and decorations are good. They are there now already and looking good.
64	57	Why is digging hole over lot prohibited? what ill side effect is caused by people planting flowers on their lot? Disagree to the extent that cemetery has the ability to arbitrarily decide (without notice to owner) to remove items. Why does the funeral designs or floral pieces have to be removed within 72 hours? there seems to be several rules that are unjustified.
64	57	I disagree. As long as those items are placed on the graves (which are private property), there should be no removal without the written consent of the "stakeholders".
64	57	Agree
64	57	See answer to question #1.
64	57	Agree
64	57	I agree
64	57	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
64	57	I think artificial flowers should remain indefinitely as a rule and should not need to be associated with holidays. we try to keep artificial flowers on my parents' graves.
64	57	Agree. These regulations are necessary to maintain the property. The planting of plants would eventually result in an over-grown appearance. And who would maintain these plants? Who would water them, trim them, dispose of the trimmings, etc.? Not to mention the problems that these plants would pose for the maintenance crews.
64	57	agree
64	57	This rule seems reasonable. I have often left cut flowers on the grave at significant dates, but I expect them to disappear in a short time.
64	57	Agree with all except the last sentence. I think planting on graves is perfectly fine, and it's silly to disallow that.
64	57	I agree.
64	57	Removing plants monthly doesn't allow for tasteful and water-conserving perennial gardens to commemorate loved ones. Owners could be required to maintain perennials. This is a wasteful and over-reaching policy as currently written.
64	57	Disagree. Small gardens on sites are appropriate when maintained and conserve water and other resources. 72 hours is too short a turnaround time for grieving families. Again, "unsightly" is too subjective a term.
64	57	Who decides what is unsightly? Who thinks more than 30 days is an appropriate length of time for certain decor? For example, an artificial Memorial Day wreath that honors military service and does not look "unsightly" to those paying tribute: why should that be removed in 30 days? This is not an HOA.
64	57	Disagree. These rules are unnecessary. Furthermore, no plants? Has PARD visited gracious current and ancient European cemeteries where plants (ranging from ivy to small shrubs) enhance the experience?
64	57	Planting on a grave is an honor toward the deceased. This should be allowed. In Austin, to choose a plant that requires less water than grass should be celebrated.
64	57	disagree with this rule
64	57	Disagree on planting....I don't understand why they can't plant a pretty bush.
64	57	I agree the digging holes should be restricted. Perhaps a specific part of a plot could be designated for this purpose. Personally, I'd love to have someone maintain a small flower plot for me as I am a gardener.
64	57	Disagree. Let families honor loved ones by planting plants and flowers. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
64	57	Agree.
64	57	This rule needs clarification. Is this first part pertaining to recent funerals? If not then NO you can't remove after one month.
64	57	no - again, the owner of the plot can do what they want. After all this is America, we have freedom of expression
64	57	Disagree. Plants should be allowed to be planted on the grave themselves.
64	57	Disagree. Let plants and flowers remain--who cares if they wilt. It's a cemetery for goodness sake.
64	57	Owners should be allowed to set potted plants or floral arrangements on the graves, and should also be allowed to plant flowers or shrubs on the grave.
64	57	I disagree with this rule as those of us who see the withering flowers and aging floral pieces know that the mourner is still dealing with painful loss. Some mourners just cannot bear the thought of returning to the grave soon after the burial because it is still a raw loss. By enforcing a "you must come and clean up your grave site" at a certain period is adding an additional burden on the mourner. Patience and time should be the rule.
64	57	Disagree.

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		parada !
64	57	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
64	57	Disagree. Sounds like someone making up these rules has some control issues he or she needs help to get under control. I don't like artificial flowers, but some people do and they could be quite meaningful to some families. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
64	57	Disagree, remove the rule.
64	57	Completely agree.
64	57	Strongly disagree with prohibition on digging holes for placement of plants or flowers. This is gross injustice if there is a parent mourning a lost child or such. The cemetery has a responsibility to aid in the grieving process, not just to maintain country club-like lawns.
64	57	Denying someone the right to plant something on their loved ones' grave is despicable. People need to be allowed to place artificial flowers on their loved one's birthday, anniversary, anniversary of death, too.
64	57	Disagree.
64	57	Live and well maintained plants should be allowed. The 72 hour and 30 day removal of floral arrangements seems reasonable for ground keeping.
64	57	I would agree until the last sentence. I think real flowers who grow there are much more sightly than any artificial flowers.
64	57	disagree - artificial flowers should not be limited to holidays and should be removed only when faded. A shallow hole secures the pot and benefits the workers.
64	57	Yes
64	57	I disagree only with the last part, which says that flowers and plants cannot actually be planted (by digging shallow holes). I have seen lovely plants and flowers growing in the cemetery that add to its beauty and to the personal nature of the tombs.
64	57	I agree with the removal of withered plants but I think plastic flowers should be left alone, along with plastic toys, for longer. I am not sure how long because I don't know how big a problem it is. My experience is that very few graves have anything plastic on them.
64	57	Again, if maintained by the family members they should be allowed.
64	57	Agree
64	57	Disagree, allow digging of holes for secure placement of items on the grave.
64	57	agree
64	57	I think any plastic flowers, pots or funeral arrangements should be removed, as stated. I disagree with the statement at the end about "holes for placement of plants" I think living plants should be allowed, as long as they're maintained by the family.
64	57	This one is fine.
64	57	disagree To broad.
64	57	I agree with this rule.
64	57	agree with the proviso that 72 hours is much too short. One week is closer to reasonable.
64	57	72. Hours?
64	57	Disagree. While untended potted plants, cut flowers, etc. will fade and can be removed by the previous rule, many traditions allow remembrance gardens on graves and this rule would totally negate that tradition.
64	57	I agree
64	57	same as above, I believe that dead flowers should go. Artificial flowers after 30 days look bad, too. I understand why you wouldn't want plants growing there, as some could be quite large.
64	57	Disagree. This requirement is too stricked that artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The removal should be every 6 months.
64	57	I agree; have no problem with this rule.
64	57	I disagree with the prohibition on planting flowers and gardens. The removal of pots, baskets, and dead cut flowers is a reasonable request.
64	57	I agree with this rule. Withered flowers and plants are unattractive, and they may interfere with mowing and maintenance. I like Portland's seasonal restriction on artificial flowers/plants. [See Question #15]
64	57	Agree.
64	57	Rule is fine until the last sentence. Seriously, people cannot plant the flora of their choice on their loved one's final resting place? This is ludicrous. And do you want to waste city worker's time requiring them to go around digging up beautiful flowers?
64	57	We agree with all except for planting of flowers or small shrubs should be allowed if well maintained.
64	57	Generally agree with everything except planting.
64	57	I agree with the removal of spent flowers, but I don't see why plastic flowers can't stay. And digging holes on private plots shouldn't be a problem unless it becomes an actual safety hazard.
64	57	What is wrong with digging a hole to plant something? Rest is okay but very wordy
64	57	Agree. I disagree with those who do not own a grave to put flowers without the permission of the owner. Putting dead flowers on a grave is forbidden in some religions and cultures and the general Christian types enjoy helping everyone out by placing them, in their well intentioned ignorance.
64	57	agree
64	57	agree
64	57	I agree.
64	57	Agree.
64	57	Agree: Potted plants, cut flowers should be removed when the plants are wilted or dead. The pots, planters should also be removed after the families have been notified of the removal. Artificial flowers have a longer life and may last longer than 30 days. Holes should not be allowed because of the safety hazard of falls caused by holes.
64	57	disagree
64	57	need to work with the stakeholders
64	57	agree
64	57	agree

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64	57	No opinion.
		disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A
		Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
64	57	I would think that planting a native shrub would be more eco-friendly and take less maintenance than fake or real potted plants. It looks as if this rule would disallow that option.
		DISAGREE!
64	57	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
64	57	Disagree. If the artificial flowers are not in disrepair or not holiday-specific, I believe that they should remain. Holes should be allowed if the holes are within the owner's space.
64	57	I agree with the rule for cut or artificial flowers, but believe that living plants should be allowed to remain.
64	57	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
64	57	Agree
		That sounds good, but the only problem is that the people that put the flowers in may just be in town for the funeral and may not have access to come down. There needs to be a common sense rule, the flowers need to be removed. If people have stationary pots that they can put love flowers in, it really should be up to the family. Let the family know that flowers will be taken out when they wither. They aren't serving a purpose anymore.
64	57	As long as the flowers are wilted, I agree with this rule.
		Agree, but who determines when "each month" is. How do they know how long something is out there? Add a standard cleanup day. Disagree if the family is coming out quite often. One month is too soon, 2-3 months is a better time frame. Funeral service flowers: agree Don't agree with artificial flowers portion. As long as they still look attractive. Disagree with digging holes being prohibited. Paid a small fee to have cemetery dig hole for a bush.
64	57	

Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
85	58	<i>In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
85	58	Disagree. Too restrictive.
85	58	I agree.
85	58	Add: Only one urn (vase) allowed per plot
85	58	No change
85	58	No change
85	58	I would agree with this, however we do not own this type of plot, so my opinion might not be important here!
85	58	Disagree. I think approved permanent type vases that monument companies sell, such as marble or granite, should also be allowed. But no store-bought vases that people bring in.
85	58	Disagree. What is to keep the city from declaring that all future graves be flush-type just to prevent grave owners from placing vases and benches and such?
85	58	I think I have to agree with this, for safety reasons. A temporary vase could be glass, and cause a safety issue if it breaks. So I think this is a reasonable rule.
85	58	Agree, unless there is a cultural objection to the bronze vases?
85	58	some religions do not allow for vases! Bronze vases also discolor - cemeteries should have flowers and be parklike.
85	58	Agree
85	58	agree
85	58	I agree. No change is necessary
85	58	Agreed.
85	58	Disagree
85	58	Yes, I agree.
85	58	agreed.
85	58	disagree, you charge too much money, the city is money hungry.
85	58	I do not believe that these flush memorials exist anywhere except AMP. I do agree if that is the rule at the time of burial..
85	58	Disagree -- who wants a cemetery with only bronze vases?????????????????
85	58	See my response to #3 and #4.
85	58	disagree! Bronze? oh come on. plastic is perfectly acceptable.
85	58	I agree, but this seems to apply more to Memorial Park.
85	58	Agree
85	58	I agree agree
85	58	Agree
85	58	with the increasing theft of bronze vases, I would like to see a standard placement of a PVC tube that is flush or just below grade. these could be installed by staff for a small fee to cover the cost of material + labor +20% makeup. no theft of Bronze Vases and uniform placement
85	58	Agree
85	58	Agree. This uniform style is tasteful.
85	58	No change recommended.
85	58	Agree
85	58	Agree
85	58	Disagree, again expression of grief is personal.

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85	58	Agree
85	58	Sometimes an easel will be delivered to the flush type memorials.....I don't think it should be restricted to only bronze vases.
85	58	Disagree. "Approved" containers will not work. We have our own age appropriate ones. Thank you.
85	58	agree
85	58	This seems reasonable.
85	58	DISAGREE.
85	58	I agree.
85	58	I think whenever you limit an item to one type of bronze vase; you are asking for division. I think you should have alternatives and substitutes.
85	58	Who provides vase...didn't see any of them. When you buy a plot, they should be offered a vase to buy as well. No idea what size or where to put it or how it's fixed or attached. He has taken flowers out and dug a little dirt recess by marker 6" wide and 4" deep and set potted plant. They pick up and throw away when it dies.
85	58	OK.
85	58	Keep the cemetery beautiful
85	58	Enforcement (rigid structure) of the above rules rob me of personally memorializing my child. The idea that I cannot plant flowers, place a bench, special objects, breaks my heart. Austin Memorial Park is a beautiful place with pockets of whimsical JOY. Please do not deprive me of this. The rules should be public safety driven. Each cemetery is unique to the community it serves. One size does not fit all. Please, there is none at stake here than saving \$ on lawn maintenance or appeasing people who have no vested interest - no loved one buried. I'm too upset to continue.
85	58	Circled NO and commented 'Ugly'
85	58	No rule on vases only
85	58	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
85	58	No
85	58	Disagree - Doesn't like these type of memorials. Flowers/plants should be allowed to be planted within burial space.
85	58	Disagree, there is no problem now. Question #9 answers this.
85	58	Just don't designate an area for only flush type memorials, and then make exceptions for City favorites.
85	58	I agree.
85	58	Agree
85	58	I agree.
85	58	Agree
85	58	Disagree - seems like a stupid rule.
85	58	I agree, otherwise the grave monument could be overgrown.
85	58	Agree
85	58	I agree. It makes it easier to keep the ground uniform and clean.
85	58	I don't know where they exist.
85	58	Disagree. Let families choose their own appropriate vases.
85	58	How do you find out if your is designated as such?
85	58	agree
85	58	See answer above about urns/vases to allow flowers/plants. I have put holiday type fake flowers with stiff stems directly in the ground...I don't see that as a problem.
85	58	N/A
85	58	Disagree. Why not let people express their individuality??
85	58	I agree
85	58	Agree
85	58	Disagree. Those are unsightly and are a gathering place for mosquitoes when rain accumulates inside.
85	58	This would make the cemetery look so impersonal. I have seen cemeteries that have this in other cities and ours look 1000 times more respectful. Otherwise, it is like a cemetery for robots where everything is standard.
85	58	Disagree.
85	58	I do not understand the question, I do not know what flush type memorial is..
85	58	Approved? I did not see anything in the rules about the approval process except that the Superintendent make decisions. There was no decision making criteria outlined anywhere. This about families and respect!
85	58	No I do not believe that it is appropriate for the city to dictated when and where to place plants. This is not a fast food restaurant where everything is uniform and the same.
85	58	Disagree. They're unsightly.
85	58	Agree.
85	58	Disagree. why only bronze vases? if valid reason for only having bronze, then the vases should be readily obtainable, which they are not.
85	58	The "stakeholders" should be allowed leeway to place holders of their choice on the plots they purchased.
85	58	Agree
85	58	See answer to question #1.
85	58	Agree
85	58	I agree. It is impossible to find vases satisfactory for every taste. A standard prototype is best.
85	58	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.

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85	58	Disagree. I think you should be able to place a flowering plant, in it's pot, on the grave of loved ones, but that these should be thrown away when the plants are wilted.
85	58	agree
85	58	As stated above, I leave cut flowers occasionally on the grave which has a flush marker. I don't have a vase, as that is difficult to mow around.
85	58	Disagree. Why make all these rules? Let people express themselves if it brings them a little peace and reminds them of their loved one.
85	58	What does it mean "sections designated for flush type memorials" Do u mean flush type headstones? Where does one acquire the approved type bronze vases? I might or might not agree depending on answers.
85	58	Do gravesite owners know about this policy before purchasing the site? Why is this restriction necessary?
85	58	This is fine - I presume these owners have chosen this option.
85	58	Do not agree.
85	58	Disagree. "Approved" bronze vases? We live in a city that supports the arts -- local potter and sculptors -- and PARD wants imported bronze vases? Is PARD looking for conformity in a this creative city?
85	58	Disagree. Laying something on the grave should be fine.
85	58	disagree with this rule
85	58	Disagree. Those are stolen often. Also other flowers do not take away from the containers if removed when withered.
85	58	Agreed, assuming this understood at the time of purchase for this specific kind of plot.
85	58	Disagree. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
85	58	Disagree.
85	58	DISAGREE!! Not all graves have the flower holders. I did not think of it when grieving so too late now. I have checked into cost and can't afford! So you will deny those of us who can't afford BRONZE to have flowers on our loved ones grave? Outrageous!
85	58	don't know
85	58	ok with this one since people who bought plots on those sections knew the rules when they purchased.
85	58	Any type of vase or other memorial items should be allowed on the graves in this section.
85	58	I don't agree with this rule. The vase itself does not reflect the location of the deceased's body. Often, one wants to place a memento or flower over the place where the person is actually buried. It's an attempt to touch what can no longer be touched, ever.
85	58	Disagree. Design a set of standards that permit people to have options.
85	58	I agree. Grave owners need to understand this rule up front. If not it may cause some unhappiness between them and the city.
85	58	parada !
85	58	Encuesta en español ? [survey in spanish?]
85	58	Too restrictive. Let people tend to the graves of those they love in the way that brings them peace.
85	58	Agree generally, but why bronze? With thefts of metal objects becoming ever more common, why do you need to regular composition of the container as long as it fits reasonable size requirements?
85	58	I think if this is agreed upon in the initial purchase of the plot, this is reasonable, but not as a retroactive rule.
85	58	Have you contacted all the plot owner's and sought out their input, and then listened to it? They are the ones to be listened to here. This is too restrictive.
85	58	Agree.
85	58	I agree. The flush type grave areas should be easy to mow and keep up.
85	58	I am sorry, I am not familiar with "flush type memorials".
85	58	disagree - not everyone can afford the bronze vase, nor to have someone place it.
85	58	Remove this rule. The most beautiful cemeteries and memorials are the ones with beautiful gardens. You can't legislate beauty.
85	58	Yes
85	58	See number 10 above.
85	58	No I think people should be able to adorn their family plot as they see fit with plantings.
85	58	Too many rules! Come on! we purchased this property. Has been in our family for nearly 10 years. It is maintained weekly by our family.
85	58	Agree
85	58	Agree
85	58	agree
85	58	I disagree. I think the family has the right to place mementos or living flowers on the graves. If they choose to use the bronze vase for cut or plastic flowers, I think those should be removed according to the rules in question 10.
85	58	Sure
85	58	neutral
85	58	Not all flush type memorials have the bronze vases. Graves I visit in Austin Memorial Park do not have the bronze vases, requiring me to utilize green plastic vases designed specifically for placement in a grave.
85	58	agree
85	58	Agree. For people who have chosen the esthetic of being buried flush type monument area, tight regulation of flowers and decoration is allowable.
85	58	I agree on condition these rules are made clear to prospective new owners
85	58	You cannot always get plants or flowers the size of those small bronze vases, so I believe that others should be allowed.
85	58	Disagree. Not all flush type memorials have bronze vases. There should be tolerance here.
85	58	I agree; sounds good and helps keep a dignified appearance.
85	58	I disagree with this rule.
85	58	This seems like a good rule, as it promotes a consistent, attractive appearance.

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85	58	Agree.
85	58	I hate those sections, but if you get a plot there, I suppose you'd best abide by that rule, so Im okay with this one.
85	58	We agree.
85	58	Agree. We particularly chose a cemetery without this requirement.
85	58	As long as it's not a safety hazard and remains on the private plot, I don't see why people can't decorate.
85	58	Agree
85	58	Agree.
85	58	Disagree.
85	58	agree
85	58	OK, except during a sevice.
85	58	I would apply the policy in Question 10 to these graves too.
85	58	Agree.
85	58	Disagree. If the memorial does not have a vase there should be provisions for additional approved containers for floral arrangements.
85	58	disagree
85	58	need to work with the stakeholders
85	58	agree
85	58	agreed
85	58	No opinion.
85	58	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
85	58	DISAGREE!
85	58	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
85	58	I agree.
85	58	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
85	58	Agree
85	58	Does not think Evergreen has flush memorials with containers provided. Some cemeteries provide a holder for flowers for a uniform look. Evergreen doesn't have these. Doesn't think any cemetery in Austin has this.
85	58	I don't see the reason for having uniform styled vases, so I would strike this rule.
85	58	Disagree. Don't want to lose the character of Austin.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
65	59	<i>In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
65	59	OK, but I would allow planting of hardy bushes ad well as trees.
65	59	I agree.
65	59	Long lived hardwood trees such as live oak, Spanish oak, American elm, and cedar elm, and hardy native small trees or large shrubs, such as mountain laurel, yaupon holly, or crape myrtle, may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
65	59	Leave rule as is
65	59	No change
65	59	Planting of anything is prohibited without the approval of the Cemetery Director. [this is a BS statement, if it's prohibited, then say so] Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted [planted where? On the gravesite? Next to a loved one?] with the approval of the Superintendent in a place designated by Super... Are you saying in the interest of maintenance because the City is not going to maintain them? The City of Austin planted the items in their area at the expense of the Temple. XXX expects the City to maintain them. Gravesite is 40 inches with an 8 feet long in his section . if you are going to plant a tree, where are you allowed to put it? In writing this rule, need to be specific.
65	59	I agree. While I love the different textures of successful plantings, a lot of these plants don't get maintained by the families and end up growing out of control.
65	59	Disagree with language. Approval should come from Cemetery Manager, not Superintendent, and should be for all tree or shrub. Flowers, ivy, etc. plantings should not be allowed at all.
65	59	Disagree. Cemeteries can be botanical spaces, calming spaces. No maintenance is required to take care of crinum and flag irises and similar drought-tolerant bulbs.
65	59	Yes, any plantings that are of a permanent nature, not an annual nature, should be approved by the superintendent.
65	59	Agree. Shrubbery needs special maintenance and would take longer for workers to manage. Trees provide shade and are longer growing. Planting a rose bush on a grave may sound nice, but it might grow or die oddly without routine watering.
65	59	Ivy, flowers and shrubs use less water than trees - the City should thank people for helping keep the site beautiful. Just take care of it.
65	59	Agree
65	59	agree
65	59	I agree. Only trees in approved locations should be allowed. No more crepe myrtles.
65	59	Agreed.
65	59	Disagree as long as gardens are maintained by the plot owner.

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65	59	I agree.
65	59	agreed, as long as plantings do not encroach on other peoples spaces.
65	59	no trees planted
65	59	There are other trees that should be acceptable such as crape myrtles.
65	59	Agree and the SUPERINTENDENT needs to do all in its power to keep the LIVE OAKS, SPANISH OAKS, and others healthy and alive.
65	59	With the continuing drought and the need to preserve water, PARD should be encouraging the use of drought-resistant, water-wise, native, low-maintenance plants, shrubs, and trees. During the summer, when the grass was largely dead, often the only green areas were the gravesite plantings and gardens. I have submitted proposed rules regarding plantings on gravesites, including requiring that any plantings be selected from plants recommended by the City of Austin's Grow Green Native and Adapted Landscape Plants guide and placing limits on the size and types of plants (for example no thorny or spiny plants). I also suggested that in addition to the hardwood trees, the rule should be expanded to include hardy native small trees or large shrubs, such as mountain laurel, yaupon holly, or crape myrtle.
65	59	Agree. The world needs fewer trees.
65	59	Yes, I agree. Especially as to historic Oakwood. The fabric of the whole should be vigorously maintained.
65	59	Agree
65	59	Possibly in my family's case, this trellis could have roses with written permission from the superintnedent's office.
65	59	Only in certain areas where tree growth will not intrude or grow in to plots.
65	59	I would allow planting of such items with permission
65	59	yes. it all boils down to long term maintenance. you want to plant a tree an endowment fee needs to be established to help cober the cost of the addition water and trimming in the future. the drip line of the tree is a no use zone, over time the roots expand then someone wants to use a space and they cut major roots and the tree dies.
65	59	Agree
65	59	Agree. Again, it is the superintendent's responsibility to allow only plantings that will not interfere with burial plots, other trees, or damage walkways and roadways, and to prohibit all invasive species.
65	59	Agree.
65	59	Agree
65	59	Agree
65	59	Disagree, as long as the grave site is kept up.
65	59	Agree
65	59	I think ivy over a grave looks nice...and doesn't require mowing. I agree on the trees; except blooming trees like crepe myrtle, mountain laurel.....add color and beauty to the grounds. And they don't require a lot of maintenance.
65	59	Again, our bushes were torn out as was a tree. Shame on whoever did that. This was long ago.
65	59	agree
65	59	Personally, I like the idea of a small plant being dug close to the grave. I like the idea of being able to plant a tree. This seems reasonable.
65	59	Disagree regarding the planting of appropriate flowers at the grave site. This should be allowed.
65	59	I agree.
65	59	I do not think the cemetery should have the authority to limit the exact type of tree planted if the space is owned by someone and they are paying for it. I do think it is helpful to have a suggested list of what grows easily but if the owner is willing to take care of it then I think there should be allowances.
65	59	Agree. Definitely allow trees with approval
65	59	Agree, but does not want Superintendent making decisions. Agree that bushes and other plants can't be planted.
65	59	Who is the "Superintendent"? The Cemetery Manager? Define this. Add "native" and "shade" to the description: "Native long lived shade trees such as Plateau Live oak..." The type of live oak that is not from this area is not as good as the one that is (plateau live oak). Delete Spanish Oak because that name is used for several oak species. Delete American Elm because they drop a lot of branches when older, causing a safety issue in high use places. Add "Plateau Live/fusififormis/, Red, Shumard, Bur and Monterrey oaks. Native long lived shorter trees such as Lacey and Chinquapin oaks, Cedar Elm, Texas Ash, and Texas Pistache." Planting a tree should be allowed provided that it's of an acceptable native species. Most everyone wants to plant a tree as part of the grieving process. We recommend a long lived large shade trees with no tendency for large long roots that will damage graves and pavement (no Bald or Montezuma cypress), or that need lots of water (tropicals, non-natives, Sycamores, Willows, Maples, or Walnuts), or that tend to drop branches (Pecans or American elm). Don't regulate tree species for cemeteries to include only Crape Myrtles and short lived understories (Redbuds and others), in order to minimize maintenance. We need shade from trees in the public cemeteries. We need the next generation of heritage trees and the best places to grow these are the cemeteries provided that a little care I given (mulch and water during periods of insufficient rainfall). Planting a tree in a private lot should come with a commitment from the owner to adequately mulch (2 inches deep and 3 inches from the trunk) and water the tree as needed, not too much and not too little water, per instructions provided by PARD.
65	59	Planting in the ground should be encouraged. Plants, flowers and bushes will dry up in pots and they really add to the character, history, personality and diversity Austin is so uniquely known for. Let grieving families express their love and tender care that way.
65	59	agree

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65	59	Some cemeteries are flat - ground level stones - uninteresting - no stories to tell. Some cemeteries (Austin Memorial Cemetery) are less uniform with different plants, shrubs, trees. They tell stories and reflect a diverse clientele. Diversity even in death.
65	59	There is no logic in not allowing plants/flowers in the ground when you can put them in pots. Either way you can mow, edge around them. It's just too rigid to enforce this rule by pulling up plants that are <u>not</u> in anybody's way or don't pose a safety hazard.
65	59	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
65	59	agree
65	59	No
65	59	Disagree - Planting should be allowed within burial space as long as it doesn't interfere with neighbors. Agree - Trees should be approved by Superintendent, provided Superintendent isn't unreasonably denying people just because they can. Maybe every 4th or 5th grave would be allowed to do it?
65	59	Agree with the tree part. If planting of Ivy, Flowers, Shrubs or Bushes is a problem, mow and trim around problem.
65	59	Just do it.
65	59	I agree.
65	59	Agree
65	59	I agree.
65	59	this seems fair
65	59	See question #10. Our family plot, which we have owned since 1908 has several shrubs planted by my great grandmother over 100 years ago, which should be permitted.
65	59	Agree. However, when trees are planted, I want to make sure surrounding burials will not be impaired from the tree's roots.
65	59	I agree, shade is wonderful.
65	59	Agree
65	59	I agree. Plants and trees become over grown and hard to maintain ground around them.
65	59	I agree
65	59	planting on individual graves should be permitted, or in the plots owned by families. But care should be taken to plant drought friendly and local trees, flowers and shrubs.
65	59	Please give me approval to plant one of these trees at my son's gravesite. I agree.
65	59	I think an approved list of plants should be allowed in keeping with plants that were traditionally used as cemetery plants (iris, lilies, etc); plants that won't overgrow the graves or damage the monuments.
65	59	I completely agree!! I have had the displeasure of burying my mother next to the XXX family, who in disgust of not being allowed to be the only ones in the area, proceeded to get special permission (and so set a precedence!) to plant boxwood hedges around her entire plot of graves. She had a yard service tend to it but did not have the manners to keep her hedges from literally growing nearly halfway onto my mother's grave and headstone!! It took me and the manager of the cemetery at the time, exactly ONE YEAR to get her to remedy the problem! I am not really sorry to "Good Riddance!"
65	59	Disagree
65	59	I disagree. Again, planting flowers, bushes, shrubs is what makes the cemetery a park and a beautiful place to come visit to see your loved ones.
65	59	We planted 3 Italian cedars, 2 crepe myrtles and one oak tree. I've seen alot of boxwoods that look nice too,so i would think that it would depend on where the family wanted to plant something else besides the oaks and elms.
65	59	Disagree. There are a multitude of beautiful trees that thrive in our climate which could enhance the beauty of the cemetery.
65	59	Disagree. Planting of flowers/shrubs/bushes, etc. in the ground should totally be allowed. They add beauty and people are doing a good job. Why fix what is not broken? Tree planting control would be ok if there are too many and their root systems are going to cause problems to the graves.
65	59	disagree. Planting of flowers, shrubs adds the uniqueness of each person/family.
65	59	Disagree partially. Should allow planting of flowers, plants, shrubs and bushes. No ivy because it can take over. Trees should be allowed.
65	59	No I do not agree. This is up to individual what they want to plant. No rules should apply on what to plant.
65	59	See response to Question #9.
65	59	This rule is asinine. Really, no rose bushes but an Oak tree is OK? No, I think that the planting of a bush/flower/shrub is something that the person is doing out of love and, from what I have seen, in good taste.
65	59	No. These should be allowed. They add beauty and ambiance.
65	59	Disagree. Good vegetation planted makes cemetery pretty.
65	59	Disagree. If someone wants to put ivy over their lot then they should be able to do so. Of course there needs to be limitations as to where the ivy is permitted to grow, as in the owner needs to keep it maintained to the lots they own and/or if not pruned/maintained correctly, cemetery can remove (after giving notice of issue and adequate time for the issue to be remedied).
65	59	I disagree. It would not make sense to plant on a grave the hardwood trees mentioned above--they grow too large. Smaller perennials, flowers, and the like are more appropriate.
65	59	Agree
65	59	Change. Allow any trees that are native and drought tolerant, some examples: Redbud, Mexican plum, Mountain Laurel. Also, why ban the planting of shrubs or bushes? As long as they're native, drought-tolerant, and not aggressive spreaders I don't see the problem.
65	59	Agree
65	59	I agree
65	59	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.

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65	59	Agree. I think allowing the planting of trees is adequate, and that allowing this practice is very thoughtful. The more trees, the better.
65	59	agree
65	59	Agree. I want the city employees to be able to do their job.
65	59	Disagree. People who want to plant a few flowers and shrubs to beautify their loved one's grave should be allowed to do so, so long as the plants are maintained by the owner.
65	59	Yes, I agree
65	59	This doesn't seem reasonable. As long as owners demonstrate that they can maintain these plants, I see no reason why they should be banned outright. I can understand banning species designated as invasive/toxic by local agricultural authorities, but beyond that, grave owners should have the right to plant whatever they are willing and able to maintain.
65	59	Disagree. A list of allowed native shrubs, bushes and flowers ought to be developed within size/height limits.
65	59	Disagree. There are many xeriscaped approved plants that would enhance the local natural beauty and reduce water use.
65	59	If the plant is on a grave, owned by an individual, and maintained by that individual, it should be allowed. Perhaps a list of low maintenance shrubs, etc. would be a happy medium in this.
65	59	disagree with this rule
65	59	Disagree
65	59	Disagree. I think flowers should be acceptable as long as the plot owners maintains them.
65	59	Disagree. Allow plants and require they be maintained. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
65	59	Good question. Perhaps something can be worked out on this issue.
65	59	Agree
65	59	yes
65	59	Xeriscape plants should be allowed.
65	59	Disagree. Planting native/hardy plants is preferable to continuing to water and mow. Perhaps the cemetery should encourage people to plant these kinds of plants, including trees.
65	59	All types of plants should be allowed on the grave sites, if planted by the owner.
65	59	I disagree with this proposed rule. Again, the mourner should be allowed to plant a flower, tree, shrub, different than the ones you propose etc. That's how nature does it. Memorial Park is a gem due to the various plantings. If
65	59	Agree. Because these are plants that have long and extensive root systems and ultimately affect more than just the plot they are intended to enhance.
65	59	I agree with the intent of not having the city responsible for additional maintenance. My concern is with the prohibition of planting other things besides the identified hardwood trees.
65	59	parada ! Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
65	59	Any non-invasive plants should be allowed. Any long-lived hardwood trees need oversight as the roots and branches will ultimately affect many graves. The oversight needs to be by a board of the families of those buried in the cemetery.
65	59	Disagree, change to only prohibit all invasives listed by City of Austin.
65	59	Agree.
65	59	Agree except in cases of native plants and shrubs.
65	59	Maybe
65	59	Disagree. Anything to replace water greedy grass.
65	59	I agree
65	59	I do not agree. I think planting flowers, shrubs or ivy should be welcomed and encouraged. I agree that before planting large shrubs or trees, the cemetery maintenance should be contacted to discuss possible issues.
65	59	agree
65	59	Absolutely disagree. The most beloved and visited cemeteries are the ones with antique roses, shrubs and bulbs. These rules are meant for the city's mow and blow crew and will destroy the character of this cemetery. It's ironic that the city encourages planting native flowers, shrubs and bushes in our homes but this rule will prevent this type of environmentally friendly environment for our loved ones. This rule absolutely should be deleted.
65	59	Shrubs and bushes should be included in the approval loop
65	59	See number 10 above. I do not agree.
65	59	I agree.
65	59	The owners of the gravesides should be able to plant shrubs/flowers on their plots. If it enhances the gravesite that should not be an issue.
65	59	Disagree. I do agree with not planting reseeding plants that can take over, or vines that can eat the world, like trumpet vine or Asian jasmine. But butterfly attracting plants would be delightful. Perhaps you can devise a long list of approved native plants that are drought tolerant and would add to the beauty. Again, I refer you to the city's grow green guide, available free at local nurseries. You also should request the advice of our Ag County Agent, Daphne Richards. That's why she has a job, for situations like this.
65	59	Disagree with the prohibition of flowers agree that trees should be preapproved.
65	59	Allow planting of shrubs and perennial flowers. Agree that hardwood trees should be approved by the superintendent.
65	59	I only agree about the planting of ivy or other plants that could creep and become an eyesore or maintenance issue. I love the idea of planting trees. I think smaller plants, maybe under 2' tall should be allowed on the graves without asking for permission. Shrubs and trees, I think should require permission, as placement for mature size is an issue.
65	59	I can see how this could get out of control. Amend it so that people can at least submit a request for planting with the understanding that their shrubs might have to be dug up but they will be NOTIFIED when this happens. Just use respect for stuff like this and it should be fine.
65	59	neutral
65	59	I agree with this rule.

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65	59	Very much disagree. A variety of greenery keeps the cemetery attractive and interesting.
65	59	Disagree. As long as plantings are maintained by grave holders, no objection can be made to any planting on a grave site.
65	59	I agree because the items mentioned will grow to exceed the boundaries of the lot
65	59	I agree. I think anything that will be perennial must have permission/approval.
65	59	Disagree. As long as the vegetation is maintained on private plots their planting should be allowed.
65	59	There are many feasible options for plants that are both beautiful, perennial, neat looking and drought tolerant. There should be an acceptable list of plants to choose.
65	59	I agree and this will help us enforce our requests at the Agudas Achim Cemetery.
65	59	Disagree. As for for the ivy, shrubs, and bushes, these should be permitted. For the larger species that extend beyond plots at are privately owned, I agree that the Superintendent or, more generally, the city, should have approval power.
65	59	I agree with this rule. Trees are great, providing welcome shade. Plantings require special maintenance and interfere with mowing. But I wonder about the list of approved trees. With Live Oaks at risk for disease, are there other species that are good candidates? An arborist would know.
65	59	Agree.
65	59	Disagree.
65	59	We disagree. If flowers or shrubs are properly maintained they should be allowed.
65	59	Disagree. Again, we chose this cemetery because we didn't want the flat mow over grave.
65	59	If you're already prohibited from maintaining this stuff, why is this even an issue? My only concern is that people don't plant invasives. Other than that, I think they should be able to plant what they want as long as it stays in their plot.
65	59	Disagree.
65	59	Agree.
65	59	If planted, then the maintenance should be discussed and followed.
65	59	agree
65	59	Agree
65	59	Would this allow owners to do the planting themselves? Or would they consult with a city worker over planting, watering, feeding? This seems inconsistent with the policy in Question 12.
65	59	Agree.
65	59	Agree
65	59	agree
65	59	disagree
65	59	work with the stakeholders
65	59	I believe some native planets such as Crape Myrtles can and should be allowed to be planted. Perhaps a "donation fee" be required to cover additional maintenance cost/water.
65	59	agreed
65	59	No opinion.
65	59	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
65	59	DISAGREE!
65	59	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
65	59	Agree.
65	59	I agree that spreading plants like ivies and some shrubs should be blocked, but planting flowers should be allowed.
65	59	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
65	59	Agree
65	59	That should be something that definitely needs to be in place. When trees get big, the roots break headstones, sidewalks, etc. When a person buys a plot, that is probably an old-school way of marking the spot. But they do damage the headstones.
65	59	I would strike "flowers." They are small and from my experience, confined to the grave itself. Because ivy spreads and bushes can grow large and obscure other gravesites, I believe they should be prohibited.
65	59	Did not plant a bush per Gilbert's request. Disagree with. Did not plant anything taller than a 3 feet tall bush. Disagree with tree rule. What will the superintendent agree to? Too much or too little. Roots cause more maintenance. Trees must be approved by nearby spaceholders.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
66	60	<i>If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
66	60	Agree.
66	60	I agree.
66	60	Leave rule as is
66	60	No change

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66	60	If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed [by who? This implies the Cemetery] in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent. Again – not clear, where can they plant a tree or a shrub? You can do some stuff, but it better stay in your space. The older sites are more than 40 inches. Some people may have purchased more space to bury loved ones and put a bench and shrubs.
66	60	I do agree with this, but a strict Superintendent might overuse this. Some families may have planted a beautiful, ornamental tree in honor of their child or something sensitive like this. I would be sad to see it removed by staff - especially without conference with the family.
66	60	Agree except for language - Superintendent should be Cemetery Manager.
66	60	Disagree. Pruned, maybe. Removed, not without contacting the owner first. An exception could be made for dead branches.
66	60	Unfortunately, plantings done in the past that were for a person may have to be removed. Perhaps a replacement tree or shrub could be replaced in a nearby area as a gesture of good will to the family.
66	60	Agree. But the removal of plants could be referred to the superintendent and a panel of 3 public citizens.
66	60	Notice should be served to various managers for input before anything is removed, especially trees and plants and shrubs. 60 days Notice in writing.
66	60	Agree
66	60	agree
66	60	I agree. All trees should be maintained by the City and pruned as necessary.
66	60	Agree but plot owner should be contacted first to see if they'll take care of it on their own.
66	60	agreed, it is important to maintain a clean look to the cemetery.
66	60	agree
66	60	Trimming should be done in the proper manner. This year shrubs at Oakwood were butchered and are now in horrible condition.
66	60	agree
66	60	Agree, but in the least invasive manner.
66	60	Agree. The world needs fewer trees.
66	60	Yes, at Memorial Park. Care should be taken at Oakwood to maintain its integrity
66	60	The superintendant needs to use his own discretion on this matter.
66	60	I agree, but it would be kind to inform a member of the family if possible. Cemeteries are where dear people are buried not just a work place for others. I believe a kind balance should be remembered when dealing with other's deceased.
66	60	Agree. Maintain the appearance of the cemetery.
66	60	yes
66	60	agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree. It is the superintendent's responsibility to control and maintain the landscape.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	If the trees or shrubs are on a grave site, notify the owners....same as above.
66	60	Disagree. Again, the owners have this right.
66	60	agree
66	60	I agree to a point. Who makes the determination that the shrub, etc. should be removed? Will the cemetery notify you so that you can make the decision? I would be upset if I came to visit, and discovered a bush had been removed. I think the rule needs tweaking. Prune first, remove last.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	I agree.
66	60	I think if a shrub or tree is removed, the owner should be notified and given the opportunity to correct it before removal.
66	60	I also ASK FOR THE MOSS IN ALL THE TREES BE REMOVED YEARLY. BEAUTIFUL OLD TREES ARE DYING BECAUSE OF THE MOSS.. WHEN IT IS NOT REMOVED, IT MOVES FROM TREE TO TREE.
66	60	Good rule
66	60	For private tree removal: Not without 2 weeks notice if they are privately owned trees. For public tree removal, including invasives: Not without an approved COA tree permit for protected and heritage trees, regardless of tree ownership and regardless of the site specific tree permit given to public cemeteries. For public tree removal due to "Detrimental" or "Safety issue": This requires a certified arborist determination (PARD Forester) for any public tree size. For pruning protected and heritage size tree: No more than 25% of the canopy can be pruned, regardless of tree ownership. For pruning oaks: follow COA Oak Wilt policy at all times, regardless of tree ownership. This means avoid pruning oaks from Feb 1st to June 30th . Plan maintenance accordingly.
66	60	agree
66	60	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
66	60	agree
66	60	OK
66	60	Agree

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66	60	Agree, but try to work with the people.
66	60	Just do it.
66	60	I agree.
66	60	Agree
66	60	I agree.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Many trees in historic Oakwood cemetery have died due to the fact that the city of Austin did not water during the 2011 drought. The city should give attention to saving historic trees and watering to prevent the necessity of removing them.
66	60	Agree. I don't know why you mention shrubs since they are prohibited (see Question #13)
66	60	I agree, this seems like common sense to me.
66	60	Agree
66	60	I agree.
66	60	I agree but again I think the owner should be notified
66	60	agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	agree
66	60	YES!! see above.
66	60	Agree
66	60	I agree.
66	60	Yes, but I believe if the family can be notified first, that would be best, so they don't get angry if they go to the cemetery and their shrubs are gone.
66	60	agree
66	60	?? Shrubs are prohibited, according to #13.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree.
66	60	Yes i agree.
66	60	Partially agree. The trees surrounding the family plot have become un-pruned and unsightly and full of ball moss which are killing the trees. With this rule in place, I cannot prune or remove any detrimental growth to the tree or shrub within the area owned by the family. Again, see the reference to ownership in response to Question #9.
66	60	No. Pruned for equal access, fine. Removed at the discretion of the staff, no.
66	60	yes. that's reasonable.
66	60	Agree. Cleanup is good.
66	60	Agree
66	60	I agree that the city workers would have the right to prune judiciously if there was a case of a tree or shrub impeding a walkway or roadway.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Too much latitude. What do "unsightly" and "detrimental" mean? Any heritage trees should only be pruned or removed with the express consent of the City Arborist.
66	60	Agree
66	60	I agree
66	60	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
66	60	The rule is fine, but it should be a rare instance that this would happen with maybe some occasional pruning for better appearance.
66	60	Agree. How could anyone disagree with this provision? Decisions should be made by a reasonable Supervisor, who would make due note why such action was taken. Photos to accompany the written record would also help to document the reasoning for such action.
66	60	agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree
66	60	Yes, I agree
66	60	Detrimental or impeding access--yes. Unsightly is too subjective a term.
66	60	With the addition of a provision that owners are notified of the problems and given a time span to respond first, this rule should stand.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Disagree. Seriously, if a plant impedes access to a road, it is already addressed. This is an unnecessary addendum.
66	60	Yes
66	60	disagree with this rule
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agreed.
66	60	I agree with this rule.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	Agree
66	60	yes
66	60	Agree
66	60	Keep... except pruned, not removed, unless diseased or dead.
66	60	the same board that I mentioned in Question 4, should also monitor the plants in the cemetery. If 2 of the board members feels a tree or shrub needs to be pruned or removed, the owner should be notified and given a reasonable length of time to do so. If the owner does not do so in the specified time, the Superintendent should prune or remove the plants as necessary.
66	60	The superintendent should request the owner to remove or relocate the impediment to access. Just use common sense when making this judgment.
66	60	Agree if there is a criteria that stipulates what size plants you are targeting with this rule.
66	60	agree
66	60	parada !
66	60	Encuesta en español ? [survey in spanish]

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66	60	It should be by a board, not a person, and the family should be given the opportunity to correct before employees making changes.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	As long as the plot owners are consulted before it's pruned or removed.
66	60	Disagree to removal. Agree to trimmed if impeding walks or roads.
66	60	I agree
66	60	I agree with the condition that the owner of the space is contacted and a solution or alternative is discussed and agreed upon. A tree covering a street or entrance way is different from a flower that the Superintendent happens to dislike.
66	60	agree
66	60	Delete detrimental and unsightly unless you are prepared to define them. You cannot legislate beauty.
66	60	Yes
66	60	I think the family who planted the offending plant should be contacted once and advised that the plants are detrimental or impeding access, and be allowed to come prune them.
66	60	I agree but have concerns about how unsightly will be determined.
66	60	Trees should be maintained (if planted by the grave owners). If not, they should be maintained by the cemetery employees, and billed to the owners (only after written notice give to the owners).
66	60	Disagree with removed.
66	60	Agree on the part about impeding walkways and roads.
66	60	Disagree. First consult with the owner of the grave and let them hire a competent arborist to prune.
66	60	I agree, but I think the family should be notified first, and if they want to come in and prune, they should be allowed.
66	60	Agree
66	60	neutral
66	60	I agree with this rule.
66	60	agree
66	60	Disagree. I agree "any trees [sic] or shrubs situated on any space shall impede [sic - impede] access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads," it may be pruned or removed, But the definition of detrimental is not defined and unsightly is an esthetic. We need to be careful about writing rules around such easy terms to make a broad definition of.
66	60	I agree because any area outside of the lot is demed public and the City is responsible
66	60	I agree. As a gardener, I know how things can grow into something you don't expect.
66	60	Disagree. The Superintendent powers are too broad. Proper maintenance should be performed according to State Law.
66	60	I would recommend contacting the space owner first and allow them to comply.
66	60	I agree. The cemetery needs to look good.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	I would keep this rule in the interest of appearance and public safety.
66	60	Agree.
66	60	Again, "unsightly" is a terribly vague and subjective term. If you want to regulate plants that impede access, that's fine. otherwise, the rule needs to be rewritten. One man's "unsightly" is another man's "beautiful native plant".
66	60	We agree.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Yes, but I think families need to be notified first so they have time to prune themselves, if they want to. I don't trust city employees to not completely butcher the job, sorry.
66	60	Agree
66	60	Agree.
66	60	A group decision should be possible.
66	60	agree
66	60	agree
66	60	I agree.
66	60	Space or section owner must be notified and allowed to self-correct first.
66	60	Agree: Safety should be the top priority. Branches become damaged or weak and can be a hazard and cause death if they break and crush someone. Trees need to be checked often for hazards.
66	60	again the question of unsightly
66	60	disagree
66	60	work with tree experts
66	60	trees should not be removed because having shade is essential...in addition to the tranquil atmosphere they provide... and it takes sooo many years for them to grow...ok for shrubs to be removed
66	60	agreed
66	60	No opinion.
66	60	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
66	60	DISAGREE!
66	60	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
66	60	Agree.
66	60	I agree.
66	60	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
66	60	Agree

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66	60	Some of the trees he's seen have taken over the headstones and you have to do something with the tree or the marker that is supposed to be there. A tree, if it does damage to the headstone, needs to be adjusted and possibly moved to a space with no graves. It should not be a place for families to plant trees, trees have to be maintained. If they are just put in haphazardly, it can encroach on someone's gravesite. They do not want tree limbs on their gravesite.
66	60	Again, I would strike "unsightly" as being too vague.
66	60	Agree
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
67	61	<i>Personnel employed by the cemeteries are not permitted to solicit or accept money or other compensation from any person or persons for maintenance performed within the Cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
67	61	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
68	62	<i>All inquiries or complaints shall be submitted to the main Cemetery office.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
68	62	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
69	63	<i>The grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton inquiry, disturbance, and disregard of the rules.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
69	63	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
87	64	<i>There shall be a strict observance of all the properties due the Cemetery, whether embraced in the foregoing regulations or not, as no impropriety will be tolerated.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
87	64	If any space is not in compliance with these regulations, PARD shall give the space owner or holder written notice specifically setting out the nature of the violation and how the violation may be brought into compliance. Notice shall be sent to the space owner's or holder's last known address by certified mail, return receipt requested. The space owner or holder shall have 30 days from receipt of such notice to remove or correct the said violation. If the space owner or holder fails to remove or correct the violation, PARD employees are authorized to do so in a manner that, within the reasonable discretion of the Superintendent, is the least invasive and disruptive to the space. PARD has the right to remove or correct any violation without notice if the violation presents an immediate and serious danger to the safety and welfare of PARD employees or the public, as well as to remove any broken or deteriorated items and dead plants or flowers.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
72	65	<i>Care shall be furnished for all cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin. Care shall mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the pleasing appearance of the Cemetery.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
72	65	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
88 & 89	66 & 67	<i>Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited. The term "care" shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
88 & 89	66 & 67	Strangely worded and makes no sense. Is the definition of "care" intended to define "special care"? Does "in no case mean(s)" suggest that the staff CAN provide such care? I understand a rule limiting what the staff is expected to maintain or do. This rule does not clearly do so.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Leave rule as is
88 & 89	66 & 67	No change
88 & 89	66 & 67	Not worded well – there is a double negative. What does care mean? Needs to be completely reworded. This is supposed to mean that the cemetery workers will not do work on an individual gravesite. Trying to say, once we see the gravesite and put up the headstone, the City is not responsible to do anything on that gravesite. Once the person is buried, the City is not going to do any maintenance, repair, or curbing, etc. Not going to put in flowers, shrubs, or anything with a grave once someone is buried there. He believes that is the intent. Just say "Cemetery employees are not going to perform any...on and gravesite or space." Maybe add "unless directed by the cemetery superintendent..."
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree with the rule in that it states the cemetery employees should not give special care to any one space. However, I recently received permission by the Superintendent of Austin Memorial Park to have some old shrubs removed from our plots. Cemetery staff removed them. I thought this was reasonable and very much appreciated.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. City employees work for all taxpaying citizens, not for individuals.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree, if you have something extra decorations that requires work, then the family has to attend to it. If heirs don't fix, then it becomes a problem requiring extra work on the workers part. Perhaps a solution would be to have a common area tree, bush or shrub not specific to one grave but for a general section.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree, but do you allow private maintenance? How does that work?
88 & 89	66 & 67	I think if people want to hire someone to care for their loved ones gravesite they can do so - especially if they cannot do so themselves. They will feel consoled that the gravesite is being cared for. Do NOT ban this - it just makes sense if a family can afford it.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree. all graves should be special.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree. I costs more to maintain graves that impact normal maintenance. If you want to have a special grave, you should have to pay for special maintenance

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88 & 89	66 & 67	Agreed.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree except that tilted / sinking headstones should be leveled by cemetery personnel.
88 & 89	66 & 67	The entire cemetery shall be maintained.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agreed.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	OK
88 & 89	66 & 67	I have no issue with this rule.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I disagree. If I slip the guy \$20 here and there, I expect to see my dead given just a little extra attention.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Yes, for Memorial Park. But the term 'care' with regards to the four other city cemeteries should be amended. There are responsibilities due them that are not the same as Memorial Park.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree. Some places need special attention.
88 & 89	66 & 67	The plot where my Father is buried has an old trellis which needs something growing on it or it looks stark and out of place. I think if there is a long-standing trellis, family should be allowed to maintain it at their own expense.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. They are cemetery employees not private contractors.
88 & 89	66 & 67	yes/ if the owner wants special planting, flowers, etc, they should maintain.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree - we can not have staff accepting \$\$ from families for services while on the clock for the city. this does not address others who may be hired to come in on a daily basis and waver for others. there are people who provide services that can be found on the internet.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. All plots are to be maintained with the same high level of care and must adhere to uniform standards as stipulated by the superintendent to maintain best practices.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree, care should be the families responsibility.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I do not expect any special care by any cemetery employees. I would like to see the grass maintained and trimmed; however, many times when I am there, I see them driving up and down the streets in their "golf like carts" or not performing any of the maintenance that is needed and required.
88 & 89	66 & 67	The owners should do their own work.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	This seems reasonable.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I think cemetery employees should be allowed to suggest and assist if it is going to be a problem for the cemetery if the individual is allowed to proceed on their own. Good will and kindness is always a good policy.
88 & 89	66 & 67	In favor of as written
88 & 89	66 & 67	Not OK. All should be treated equally. However, there are special circumstances, like when the plot owner plants a tree in his/her plot and is away and needs help watering it. Also, when a plot owner notices that his/her plot or section is very dry and the grass or trees are dying, or the recently installed grass needs more water, etc. Also, when a tree has a dead branch that is a safety issue but pruning will not be done for that section for a while. What should be clear is that cemetery employees or the cemetery burial contractor (XXX) will not ask or accept any money for providing special care.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Surely there is something in place for the care of the "older" memorials in our cemeteries. Sometimes they need to be repaired - after family is gone. In Hillsboro, there is a cemetery association that cares for and repairs headstones.
88 & 89	66 & 67	In the case of sites where family members are gone, I think the city should straighten fallen or leaning headstones. It's really sad to go in and see the ones that have fallen or leaning. Out of respect we should find a way to correct these issues.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I'm sure the rules are intended to make the cemetery more orderly and more easily cared for.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Not a problem, do not need this rule, if the city gives special care to some graves sites it is OK
88 & 89	66 & 67	I still don't know what "special care" encompasses.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Owners should be able to pay extra for this.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree, we all are equal after death.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree that all grave should get the same care.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I don't know. If it is their family they can do what they like as we do..shouldn't matter they work there. If it is for a dear friend with family there...I don't see why not...that person is there all the time. If it is to impress a well known member of our society...absolutely not!
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree

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88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. Nobody should have special care. Treat everyone the same.
88 & 89	66 & 67	We appreciated the cemetery planting our trees so we knew they were in the correct location.
88 & 89	66 & 67	?
88 & 89	66 & 67	Simplify. Cemetery employees are limited to performing the care and maintenance functions provided in their job descriptions and may not provide additional services for any owner with respect to any cemetery lot or space.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	This is the most egregious rule of all. This needs to be removed from the rules. This is disrespectful to the deceased and the families and to Austin as a whole.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I have no idea why this rule should even be mentioned. I care for the graves of my family and friends and do not need someone else to do it above and beyond their normal job description.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Don't think this is being done. If the families agreed to pay the city for it then special care might be ok but otherwise, everyone should get the same treatment.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Don't know.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree to the extent that the rule is written in an unclear manner. If there are certain actions that staff cannot take list those as opposed to the use of double negatives.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I don't think the cemetery employees should be required to maintenance a grave that has a garden or like upon it. They should be required to maintenance the area surrounding.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	See answer to question #1.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree. Slippery slope.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree with the rule. The city cemetery should be a place where mourners and loved ones can contemplate in peace. The Superintendent must have the authority to maintain it appropriately.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. Cemetery employees are just that.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I do not understand this. So an owner could request special work be done or unusual work....like what? Work could be consumed by special requests leaving no time for necessary maintenance. This rule seems too open ended.
88 & 89	66 & 67	This sounds reasonable. Owners should assume responsibility for any special care of items on their gravesites.
88 & 89	66 & 67	This is fine. Owners must be responsible for the care of their sites.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree. I do not think that loved ones are asking for special care of the grave site.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I think it is reasonable not to ask maintenance workers to go above and beyond for one grave over another... unless it means mowing around a bench or something.
88 & 89	66 & 67	disagree with this rule
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	No problem with this rule. Maintenance of gravesites should be up to families. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. Families who want to maintain special grave memorials should do so.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	sure
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree, within reasonability. People shouldn't erect curbs or other enclosures because they're hard to maintain and must be given special care. But items and plants placed directly over mulched plots should not cause issues.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Leave this rule as is.
88 & 89	66 & 67	The owner of the grave site should bear all the responsibility of its care and the cemetery staff should not be responsible for special care.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	parada !
88 & 89	66 & 67	Encuesta en espanol ? [survey in spanish?]
88 & 89	66 & 67	This is the first one so far that DOES make sense! It would be completely unfair to expect or pay a city employee to tend a private plot would be a poor use of resources.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree, remove the rule.
88 & 89	66 & 67	This is a rule that's regulating the conduct of your employees. Why do you need to impose a rule on us that really attempts to regulate your employees? Why can't you just instruct your employees on what it is they can and cannot do and then, when they are asked to do something they can't do, it's their job to say so?
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree. If a plot owner decides to plant something, it should be their responsibility to maintain it.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	If the families want to create grave markers with items that require special care then the family should maintain it - not the cemetery employees so yes, I agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Well, first of all, the wording is contradictory. Care by an employee is prohibited. But care does NOT mean "maintenance, repair, placing flowers, etc.?" So since this is not care, they are allowed to do all these things? And what exactly would you consider "care", since you only defined what it is not?
88 & 89	66 & 67	disagree - If it is on the personal time of the employee, I see no problem.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Yes, however, our family has arranged with the city and the contractors before to do our own mowing and edging weekly. It is something we like to do and helps us give back and maintain a personal feeling.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.

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88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Remove the rule.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	What exactly do these employees do? If they only cut grass, then let's keep their business to cutting grass.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree, as long as the family members are permitted to maintain the plantings on the graves. If the plantings aren't being maintained, I think the families should be notified. I think it should be clearly stated somewhere who is responsible for what. There should be a schedule of quarterly maintenance which is clearly stated. If the families want to plant flowers on the graves, they should be required to come and maintain them at least quarterly.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Cemetery employees supposed to maintain the cemetery itself. My family can take care of our plots just fine. We never expect or look for special care, in fact we'd rather be left alone.
88 & 89	66 & 67	disagree- Cemetery employees, on their on time, should be permitted to contract with individual owners for special care. I do not know the hourly rate paid workers however I am confident it is not that great.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree with this rule.
88 & 89	66 & 67	don't understand it. The second sentence is not at all clear.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree, because the rule doesn't parse :-). As long a 'care' is defined as active action I agree with you, but if 'special care' is interpreted as including passive action such as avoiding or not touching or handling those monuments, gardens, statues, etc. placed by the grave holder, then this rule can be a force to uniformity.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree because it is the responsibility of the lot owner to care for their lot
88 & 89	66 & 67	I don't understand why an employee would be giving special care to any one grave, but I agree that they should not, unless they perform the same task for all of them.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree. To confusing to understand.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree. The cemetery employees take care of the entire cemetery and are directed by the management of the cemetery.
88 & 89	66 & 67	The double negative makes this question confusing. I'm not sure why we need to have a rule prohibiting any special care by employees, but it has always been my understanding that city budgets for the cemetery are limited.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree with the spirit of this rule, but the wording of the 2nd sentence is confusing. The term "care" in the 1st sentence does indeed mean "the maintenance, repair or replacement..." This needs a rewrite.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Disagree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	We agree except if cemetery workers disturb a grave site they need to fix it.
88 & 89	66 & 67	If this means the the maintenance of memorial headstones the city set, I totally disagree. We requested that the memorial company set the stone and were told no. It is no longer level..
88 & 89	66 & 67	What is wrong with special case if done after hours and people are willing to pay?
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Special care should be allowed.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I don't understand what this means.
88 & 89	66 & 67	It's hard to understand because of all the negatives. I would revise it to: An employee may not make any special arrangements with an individual owner to maintain, repair, replace...
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree: All maintainance should be approved by the cemetery officials. It something needs to be done the families should notify the employees and it should be taken care of after receiving approval. The individual owners should go through the proper method for approval of items needing to be done.
88 & 89	66 & 67	disagree use reasonable sense to care
88 & 89	66 & 67	agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	agreed
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
88 & 89	66 & 67	DISAGREE!
88 & 89	66 & 67	Use the K.I.S.S. rule/principle
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree.
88 & 89	66 & 67	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree
88 & 89	66 & 67	That should be something that the workers should be told when they begin working there. Some people do stuff for money and don't report it. That is something that the workers can be told. Nothing other than normal maintenance. There should be something that the attendants should be able to get ahead of. If no one is doing it, someone needs to do it.
88 & 89	66 & 67	I agree with this rule. Owners should be required to maintain any special plants and features they install themselves.
88 & 89	66 & 67	Agree, but Gilbert told her they would help take care of a bush she had in a pot in her area
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule

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74	68	<i>The City of Austin reserves the right to correct errors made by staff that is associated with interments or conveyance of property. In the event such error shall involve interment, the City reserves the right to remove and re-inter the remains to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. Should an error develop in the conveyance of property, the City may correct such error by conveying property of equal value in a similar location insofar as possible.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
74	68	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
75	69	<i>The right to revise and/or add to Cemeteries (a section of sections) from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of or any part thereof or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks is expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for water sprinkling systems and drainage, is also expressly reserved, as is the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparation for interment, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of passage to and from other spaces.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
75	69	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
76	70	<i>No easement is granted to any owner in any road, drive or walk within the cemeteries, but such road, drive or walk may be used as a means of access to the cemeteries and its buildings as long as the City of Austin devotes such road, drive or walk to that purpose.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
76	70	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
77	71	<i>The City of Austin disclaims responsibility to owners, their personal representatives or successors in interest for the loss or damage to cemetery spaces or memorials by any cause, natural or otherwise, direct or indirect, beyond reasonable control of the City of Austin.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
77	71	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
78	72	<i>The statement of any employee of the cemeteries shall not be binding upon the City of Austin except as such statement agrees with the document conveying the right of interment and these rules and regulations.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
78	72	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
79	73	<i>The City of Austin reserves the right at any time and from time to time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind, or add to these rules and regulations or any part thereof to adopt any new rule or regulation or any temporary exception with respect to said cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
79	73	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
80	74	<i>In all matters not specifically covered by these rules and regulations, the City of Austin reserves the right to do anything which in its judgment is deemed reasonable pertaining to the cemeteries and such determination shall be binding upon the space owner and all parties concerned.</i>
Rule #	Rule ID #	Comment
80	74	
Rule #	Rule ID#	Rule
AC	New/AC	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment
AC	New	I would very much like to see in the Rules and Regulations a section that states emphatically that there shall not be any encroachment on cemetery property by any entity wanting to open the cemetery up to all sorts of problems by putting in any type of walking, jogging, biking trails. There have been attempts to do this and every once in a while there is an attempt to do an "end run" and accomplish such a feat. There is state law backing the prohibition of such endeavors yet they still keep trying. Once and for all, there needs to be a statement and notification that this type of desecration of the cemetery will not be tolerated. They need to cease and desist.
AC	New	I think the name of the cemetery needs to be changed as Austin Memorial PARK Cemetery is a misnomer. A park by definition is a large public green area in a town used for recreation. The cemetery is not a recreational area but a sacred and designated area to bury the dead. Do you have a suggestion about how to go about changing the name to AUSTIN MEMORIAL CEMETERY?
AC	New	These regulations shall be posted on the Internet through the PARD web site on a publically-accessible web page. Notice of these regulations shall be clearly and prominently posted at each cemetery, including the URL of the web page at which the regulations may be accessed by the public. Written copies shall be readily available at each cemetery or from PARD upon the request of a space owner or holder. A written copy of these regulations must be provided to each space owner or holder at the time of the purchase of any space. At the request of any memorial dealer, PARD shall provide a reasonable number of written copies of these regulations for distribution to persons purchasing memorials for installation within a City of Austin cemetery.
AC	New	Any items or plantings not in compliance with these regulations prior to the effective date of these regulations are grandfathered and not subject to removal. Provided however, PARD may remove any item or planting that is outside of the allotted space, presents an immediate and serious danger to the safety and welfare of PARD employees or the public, or is broken, deteriorated, or dead. PARD and its employees may notify and encourage such space owners or holders to bring items or plantings into compliance, and may work with that owner or holder to bring the item or planting closer to or within compliance with these regulations.

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AC	New	This might be cumbersome, but in the event that the Superintendent chooses to exercise the current R&Rs and intends to remove an item that seems to have been permanent for some time (tree, shrub, "dilapidated or unsightly" monument, etc.) I would suggest that the family be given sufficient notice so as to be respectful.
AC	New	I believe that the current staff has been very respectful towards families and I would like to see this continue.
AC	New	might want to consider policies on the placement of unopened soda cans, beer, liquor bottles, santa hats on angels (in Feb), balloons & tinsel decorations related to holidays. Also, have seen simple wood crosses, among monuments oft granite. The memorials were actually tastefully done, but I can also see problems if there wasn't a time limit on when they should be removed. Also seen Garden fencing and rock borders, shells on top of grave, wildflowers covering the whole cemetery, etc.
AC	New	since it is the custom in many religions to leave something on the grave marker when you visit, please publish a list of allowable items. i.e., pebbles, stones, flowers, etc when can be removed after a month by staff.
AC	New	The city should actively establish a maintenance plan to keep current shade trees healthy.
AC	New	Headstones that have become tilted, etc. should be straitened.
AC	New	I think the city should maintain the trees it has. all of the trees near my sons grave are covered with the horrible moss balls that kill the trees. they fall all over the graves. please take care of this.
AC	New	I feel that the city should be responsible for keeping headstones leveled. We just paid \$369.00 to have our headstone installed. For that price, I don't think it would hurt for them to maintain the position, not the condition, of every headstone in order to enhance the visual appearance of the cemetery.
AC	New	Allow dogs in cars and to visit a specific grave provided they are leashed and waste is picked up
AC	New	Cameras need to be installed for security. While visiting my husband's grave @ 2:30 on July 8th, the driver's window was smashed and my purse was taken. I was not more than 50 feet from my truck. I have not felt safe visiting his grave, alone, since then.
AC	New	Possibly implement a board or committee that would approve or disapprove with consent.
AC	New	Somebody needs to do something with soil stabilization...a shared expense.
AC	New	Question he has: wondering if they can place a bench. Suggest space for a bench to be allowed if you own at least 3 adjacent plots or more.
AC	New	I think that couples should have the option to both be buried in the same grave site. Saves land. Ft Sam Houston in San Antonio does that.
AC	New	I would like to see the hours of operation expanded from the current times; I propose that the city cemeteries are open from 7 am until sunset
AC	New	The city will mow and trim the grass every two weeks all year along. (mowing leaves in the winter). The city will fix all headstones that are on the ground. The cemeteries wil close 15 minutes after sundown and open at 6:00 am each day.
AC	New	I don't know if this is a rule, but after a funeral there should no less than 2 people from the cemetery to finish placing the dirt on the grave. I know that some religious leaders do not leave until that is completed and it can take a long time with only one person to take down the tent, put away chairs, finished placing dirt. etc.
AC	New	I propose we expand the use of this space by allowing leashed dogs on the premises.
AC	New	a system of fines should be instituted to ensure compliance with the rules with the fines escalating for repeat offenders.
AC	New	I suggest a new rule: The wishes of the plot owners will be followed respectfully whenever possible. Cultural heritage (placing stones on graves, for instance) must be honored. That needs to be the primary rule under which every other rule operates. Unfortunately for these people, homogeneity from birth to grave may rule out, and then everyone loses out. Keep it Austin.
AC	New	Any action on removal of art, memorials or planting should be made with first contacting the owning grave holder and getting their permission. Only once sufficient attempt to contact fails and sufficient time passes (120 days?), should items or planting be removed without permission.
AC	New	I did not see the following addressed directly: There is a long-standing custom for a Jewish mourner to place a small stone on the headstone of grave he/she has visited. At one local cemetery (and perhaps others), a small birdbath containing stones for this purpose has been placed among the Jewish graves. Mourners seem to take care not to scatter these stones where they would become a hazard to visitors or caretakers, and this practice should be permitted to continue.
AC	New	Jews traditionally place stones on graves. We'd need to have a container holding stones and the ability to place them on graves when visiting. We also wash our hands and need to have a fountain to do so.
AC	AC	I agree that the personalizing of graves inhibits efficient maintenance, but it is essential to the purposes of a grave or cemetery to allow for individualized expressions and memorials. The city needs to budget accordingly and the staff needs to embrace the concept or find more routine work. Do the best you can to leave people's stuff alone and allow the cemeteries to be real places for people not just stones. Items placed with love should be left until they are truly deteriorated.
AC	AC	I would like to state that I understand that there need to be rules in order to maintain the beauty of the cemetery plus to make it more easily accessible for the crew's mowers and equipment. With that said, I think that it needs to be taken into consideration that plots are bought and are owned by the purchaser and thus they have rights too.
AC	AC	Last week when I was there, 2 graves were added in open spaces and see that much improvement has been done with the new installations. Seems that more care was taken in the digging and covering recently. In the past the trucks have been driven over the graves leaving ruts.
AC	AC	I do not agree with putting in recreational activities.

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AC	AC	<p>I tried to preserve the long-established tradition of individualizing grave sites, as well as balance the right of certain religious groups to practice their traditions and the need for families to mourn and memorialize their loved ones with PARD's need to maintain the cemeteries. To that end, I have proposed limits on the type, size, weight, number, and materials of items to be placed within a space or on a grave. Certain items, such as items with political statements or offensive language, non-weather resistant items, and bird baths and bird feeders, are barred. The regulations make it clear that the space holder is responsible for maintaining any items or plantings within the space. However, the regulations also provide a simple process that would allow PARD to remove noncompliant items. I also clarify that PARD has the right to remove any dangerous or neglected materials without notification. Although the regulations grandfather in existing grave site memorials within their allotted space, the regulations also encourage PARD to work with space holders to bring such sites within compliance. I have proposed specific regulations regarding plantings, limiting the type and sizes of plants that may be used within a space. There are also several alternate proposals regarding benches. Finally, there are provisions requiring the publication and distribution of the regulations to avoid future conflicts.</p>
AC	AC	<p>My group is Austin RAMP (Tx non-profit corporation) – Rescue Austin Memorial Park – formed in 1991 when a church was going to take 5 acres. My group did the research and placed the plaque; we did that, not the City. I have been engaged in this for 25 years. I have been dealing with rules since 1991. Contractor did not pick up anything until 2007. Austin Memorial became a junkyard. In 2008, we convinced city to have the contractor start picking up junk twice a year. Had everything working fine when picked up just junkie stuff twice a year. 2008 semi-annual removal of dilapidated items worked fine. Put out signs to notify people. Twice a year removal of dilapidated items works. There should be no stuffed animals, etc. It is wrong that the City has not cleaned up dilapidated items since last fall. City already has the right to do so. Nothing that can deteriorate should be left (stuffed animals, ball caps). Should be able to place non-dilapidated items anywhere on your plot. Last year the cemetery manager announced that he would enforce rules – sweep everything off the cemetery. Wrong to sweep cemetery clear of everything.</p>
AC	AC	<p>City doesn't realize that the plot owners should have more weight than just regular members of the public. The stakeholders are the plot owners. Influence should be weighted toward plot owners (as compared to other stakeholders).</p>
AC	AC	<p>City should establish a subcommittee of the Parks Board or its own Board for Cemeteries to get public input. Need to establish a citizen's board for cemeteries (primarily plot owners). City has people they could be talking to on policy changes but they don't do it.</p>
AC	AC	<p>Scrap the rules and start from scratch. These rules were originated a long time ago. The cemetery manager added to them without public comment. Should not have put up that fence around the construction site without public comment. The cemetery manager decided what the cemetery boundaries are (doesn't include all the land) – this is against State Law. Too much turnover at City. Every time someone new came in we would have to start over (in regard to rules, maintenance, upkeep, encroachment).</p>
AC	AC	<p>He may have some negative comments, but he thinks that one of the issues is that the cemetery manager is charged with the responsibility to react and implement. He does not consider the cemetery manager as management – he is who is doing the work. It seems that any recommendations for change should go to the cemetery manager's boss, because the cemetery manager may not like them. It's going to make his job harder. He asked, who is going to be looking over the cemetery manager's shoulder to make sure things are getting done. Who makes sure the best interest is being served. Always want to make sure that one level of management. He doesn't agree with most of the feedback he's heard in the media so far.</p>
AC	AC	<p>Some of this is the rules that people are unhappy with. Another whole issue that bugs people are when you go to the Cemeteries and a lot of the headstones are tilted and cockeyed. It doesn't look like a respectful, well maintained cemetery – it doesn't look like a nice cemetery. Who is responsible for them? Who makes those corrections? The cemetery manager's answer is that they are not responsible but he can't say who is responsible. Half of these deceased people have been dead for a long time.</p>
AC	AC	<p>Another issue is – what are the City's responsibilities. Are they responsible for weed control? Make the appearance of the cemetery look a little bit better. Last year and the year before, he put down weed and seed himself – he shouldn't have to do that. Define what the city is supposed to do. Would make him a lot happier to follow rules if he knew what the city is going to do. Would help the relationship with the citizenry.</p>
AC	AC	<p>Once sod is down, who is responsible for maintaining it? XXX is the one that keeps going out there to keep it looking decent. The sinkholes – casket gets buried, dirt goes on top and fill in the holes, wait a few months to let dirt settle. At least a few times a year a sink hole is created. A few times he could put his arm in past his elbow. Maintenance people go by there and don't do anything; they should at least report it. They are creating a situation that could get worse – leaving things exposed like that. Once it's pointed out to the cemetery manager, it's usually fixed within 24 hours but they should be required to fix them before people have to complain. Define perpetual care vs. special care.</p>
AC	AC	<p>They put down the sod, don't water it, then it dies. For several months, it's just dirt. He sees footprints and tire tracks that go right through the grave. At least have some respect for the families of the loved ones that come out to the cemeteries. They don't want to see a tire track over a loved one's face. Cemetery staff needs training, or refresher training, to be more sensitive that they are working in a gravesite/cemetery to maintain the serene setting. Once grass is in, it's different – not as obvious.</p>
AC	AC	<p>I would like to suggest that most of the rules are the wrong rules - you have to realize that these are places for grief, solace, faith, hope and not just a tract of land. The Rules are also badly written by any grade school standard, including long lists of contradictory items.</p>
AC	AC	<p>Just enforce the current rules. Enough is enough.</p>

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AC	AC	The cemetery is used for dog walking and bike riding. I find this much more distracting and disrespectful than the violations addressed in this survey.
AC	AC	ALL CEMETERIES SHOULD BE CARE FOR EQUALLY. THIS INCLUDES WATERING.
AC	AC	Rules to reflect the needs and issues at all five city cemeteries and not just Memorial Park. Commitment of City to actively and equally address the individually five cemeteries.
AC	AC	ownership history is the key to most of your issues. the owners receive the rules but friends and relatives are clueless and decorate at will. this needs a good quality video to explain why.
AC	AC	This cemetery has been a favorite because of the beautiful trees, the ambiance and ability to place things there. It should not change.
AC	AC	My input is simple. Leave these cemeteries be. If you know Austin, you know one of the favorite sayings is "Keep Austin Weird". I loved the cemetery I selected...Austin Memorial. I love the beauty, the originality and I was willing to pay good money to be buried there. If you remove all of the "weird", you are destroying something wild and wonderful. If you want a military-style cemetery, go to Ft. Hood, Ft. Rosecrans, anyplace you want....but leave our cemetery alone!
AC	AC	The friends and families who have loved ones buried in this cemetery have already suffered an enormous loss. It is additionally painful and unfair that they be subjected to management rules which do not allow for plantings at the grave sites or to incidents where their plot has been nearly destroyed by the lawnmowing. Please treat these cemeteries and the families with the respect they deserve. Also, please do something about the wind chimes. Had I realized this cemetery allows wind chimes EVERYWHERE, I would have definitely chosen another location. It is extremely disturbing.
AC	AC	I sincerely appreciate the work the City of Austin has done to improve the cemetery. It is part of our history and it reflects how much you care. It is a partnership with City and owners. The cemetery staff has an opportunity to be ambassadors for the city of Austin and should be building relationships. This is an opportunity for the community to feel goodwill.
AC	AC	City should have some nice metal benches placed throughout the cemetery; i.e. park benches and trash containers. No proper place for trash right now.
AC	AC	Sees some of the points that are being made. Does not want some type of military type feel to the cemetery. Don't willy nilly remove items. Did notice that some items are excessive. Love the idea of wind chimes in trees. Benches ok. Remove dilapidated items, i.e. crappy plastic bench cushions. Understand need for cleaning up some items. Encourage us not to destroy the ambiance. Make sure dilapidated items are removed. Own judgment can be used, not a committee.
AC	AC	Many of these rules should be changed because they are excessively strict and some violate federal requirements for ADA accommodations and are against the City's commitment to provide access to all. This is ironic since cemeteries are places with a high number of disabled and elderly visiting the graves. These are the places where accommodations should be provided instead of making it much more difficult for the elderly and disabled with these rules, all for the convenience of not having to deal with these issues. Many of these rules lean towards reducing the need to manage the cemetery, but a cemetery is a place of activity and day to day operations need to be managed.
AC	AC	All Cemetery employees and contractors shall treat the public with respect, without verbal or physical abuse, without making insulting gestures. The Cemetery management shall apply these rules equally to all, without favoritism or prejudice. The public shall not be prevented from entering or remaining in the public sections of the cemetery during posted hours, except for special circumstances posted a week in advance at the front office. The public has the right to expect silence and respect while at the cemetery, specially during burials, from all, including cemetery employees and contractors. Bands, loudspeakers, and other type of amplified noise will not be allowed. Mechanical noise (vehicles and equipment) will be kept to a minimum. No special event that lowers the dignity of the cemetery shall be held within cemetery boundaries, including Halloween, weddings, and fund raisers.
AC	AC	Exempt Section 6 from all rules at Austin Memorial Park
AC	AC	Please exempt section 6 of Memorial Park from these rules. It's beautiful and well kept. Consider having new sections that open up with the rules so people can buy those. Please leave our section as-is. It's cared for and if there are safety hazards/dilapidated stuff, remove those but please leave what's there as-is.
AC	AC	Please water the trees and grass - drought or no drought.
AC	AC	Parents that lost children are the one's that over and want to still give to their kid. This is the group that ud will hurt with these rules.
AC	AC	I am not happy with this very compressed process PARD staff sat on this issue for 6 months and now we are being pushed through process in less than one month. Only one meeting, June 5th, is for the initial presentation of the recommended rules, and the final rules are issued on June 18th. There is absolutely no opportunity for the public to review the proposals prior to the June 5th meeting and comment. At the very least, all stakeholders should received a copy of the proposed rules prior to the June 5th meeting, and there needs to be at least one or two other meetings prior to the final presentation for the public to review and comment on any changes. Right now, I feel like this process is being pushed through with as little input from the public as possible.
AC	AC	We drove around the cemetery to pick a good section. Loved Section 6. Please leave it as is. Open up new sections with rules for more rigidity. If you see a safety hazard (broken benches, broken glass, broken clay pots, graves tipping over), please address it. Otherwise, why mess with what is an oasis of comfort and love for families? Please when you enforce rules, do it in the spirit of the rules, not the letter of the rule! Why pull up flowers someone lovingly put in the ground? Who are they bothering? If you're saying you can put the same one in a pot, where's the logic of that? Cards, signs, toys, expressions of love - why remove them? Who are they hurting? If they are a safety hazard ok, but if someone's kid played basketball, let him have his sign. If someone played an instrument, why not display it? If you believe in angels, who is it hurting?

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AC	AC	A truly interactive process with real discussing and registration should be as follows. 1.) Prior to June 5th meeting, all stakeholders receive a copy of the recommended Rules & Regulations (RRR) 2.) At the June 5th meeting, a full discussion of the RRR including suggestions regarding revisions 3.) 2nd Meeting (June 10?), do review and discuss revised RRR and take further input. 4.) June 18th Final RRR
AC	AC	RE: Chimes There is an area where families have chosen to add to the chimes "Music of the Spheres" - there about 7 of these black chimes that are high and hanging from the trees - all different lengths producing different tones. All are musically tuned by professional musicians. This area of the cemetery is very special and peaceful. <u>Please let these chimes be.</u>
AC	AC	Many family members of the previous two generations of my family are buried at Austin Memorial Park. The first burial I was aware of as a child was Roland Roebuck, who died at an early age. My aunt Antoinette, his young widow kept a bed of pansies planted over his grave for many years. She would ask some of us children to accompany her as she attended this bed of pansies, so she would not be alone. It was a labor of love to remember him in this way. She is now buried adjacent to his plot, having lived a long life.
AC	AC	Items placed by families should be left in place as long as they are not dilapidated, rotting, of that nature. The cemetery staff should remove items that are decaying. If they pose a safety concern, remove them. If they aren't harming anything and are just inconvenient for maintenance, they should be left alone.
AC	AC	Because there is a pre-existing pattern established by the fact that many of these things have been allowed over time and because of this, the cemeteries should grandfather in ornamentals already in place providing there is no safety or health concern.
AC	AC	There should be some mechanism in place for the public to revisit these issues from time to time and potentially revise based on responses at that time. The bottom line is this is a graveyard and things change over time.
AC	AC	I suggest that the City actually enforce any and all such rules.
AC	AC	Our historic cemeteries should be preserved and cared for, including watering during times of drought to preserve the trees. Although they are no longer a source of income for the city, they preserve our city's history, and if properly cared for and maintained as has been done in other cities, could be a beautiful place for all to enjoy for walks and learning about history.
AC	AC	I have 2 plots in Block 1 under an oak tree. I want to be assured that my future burial in these plots will not be refused as it is very possible the tree roots will be cut to bury me.
AC	AC	I don't live in Austin but I do have family buried in the cemeteries there. I like the idea of upgrading and fixing the problems in the cemeteries that have come up over the years. I don't mind the things people leave to remember family like a bench to sit on while they are there or a chime left in a nearby tree if they are small and do not look unsightly.
AC	AC	seems like a lot of these rules eliminate human interest issues
AC	AC	How about mending the rusted fence surrounding the cemetery??
AC	AC	I'm afraid it is May and a very busy time for parents and have barely enough time to finish this...it has taken three days. I'm sure I will think of something later unfortunately.
AC	AC	Please think about what you're trying to achieve. If it's a safety concern, add a new rule. Otherwise, let things be. The cemetery at Memorial Park is beautiful. Do NOT destroy its uniqueness and beauty.
AC	AC	I think every thing is covered
AC	AC	Exempt existing sections from these rules. People don't like having different restrictions based on when they bought the plot. If someone wants a restrictive set of rules for the burial of their loved ones, they can buy at other cemeteries or buy in a more restrictive new section of the cemetery. I would suggest also doing exemptions by section. If a section has no problems, don't fix it. Please exempt section 6.
AC	AC	Memorial Park is a cemetery with a lot of dignity and respect while preserving each person's way of grieving. Please do not change how things are or at least for the people that already paid for the graves of their loved ones. People made a choice to go there based on how it is at present. If you want to change the rules, you can do it for the new sections people have not bought graves on.
AC	AC	Cemeteries look mostly good right now. Just fix the gravesites whose stones have moved. Those need maintenance and it's not being done. Otherwise, estetically pleasing and reflective of the city of Austin.
AC	AC	I love this cemetery, because is so different and so individual from other cemeteries. Please do not force all the rules that you have, leave people alone to do their individual mourning.
AC	AC	Create or allow the creation of a foundation to enhance the respectfulness of these special places. Obviously, the City of Austin only cares about the income it derives from the sale of plots and not the long term condition of the cemeteries. With family members dating back to the 1870's buried in both public and private cemeteries, special days have provided an opportunity to reunite with other family members to remember those who have gone on and pay respect to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice among those whose remains are placed on sacred ground. These rules need to be about the lost, the families and Austin heritage. I don't see that here.
AC	AC	I have two points. The first one is that we selected this cemetery for various reasons. At this time you are proposing that things will change making this cemetery a cookie cutter place. I do not believe that the people affected by these rule changes are being cared for. Stop messing with something that has worked and brought great love and joy to countless people. The second point is that this should never be considered retroactive. If you proceed with what you intend, and you do historically ignore those affected by taking your own course of action, then under no circumstances should this be retroactive.
AC	AC	Gravesites whose stones are no longer sitting right in the ground should be fixed by the owners/funeral homes/city?
AC	AC	Don't know.
AC	AC	The city of Austin should not be enforcing draconian rules which have never been advertised or enforced. The graves should be left to the care of the "stakeholders" and the city employees should be responsible for roadways and areas between graves.

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AC	AC	Though cemeteries bring a sense of peacefulness and reflection upon the user, not many people use them, except for the recently bereaved. And, while that certainly is their chief usage (use for the recently deceased and bereaved), the benefits of cemeteries could be expanded by creative ways to encourage non-impactful uses of the space. The least impactful use of the space is walking. But, beyond visiting the deceased, again, there are not many users of this space. I propose we expand the use of this space by allowing leashed dogs on the premises. This gives a reason for people beyond the bereaved to visit cemeteries. This will encourage a greater appreciation for our ancestors our shared past. I am sure I am not the only citizen who would appreciate such a change. I look forward to the planning team's response.
AC	AC	Stone only headstones and benches should be allowed. My parents grave is next to one with a homemade wooden cross that has flaking paint and leans. I feel it lessens the memory of my parents.
AC	AC	The State Cemetery in Austin is an inspiration. It is beautiful. There are no tacky artifacts. Everyone who goes there is comforted. The State Cemetery has a bigger budget, but its philosophy is sound.
AC	AC	What a lot of rules! I agree that occasionally someone who is mega-messy may need to be reined in, but a completely orderly cemetery is a dead cemetery, not an alive one where people show their love for their loved ones. The focus should be on LENIENT (and hopefully, tactul and kind) enforcement to make it a nice cemetery like for instance Assumption Cemetery. People should be encouraged to tend any graves they care too, not get the idea that it would be better to abandon them. I wonder if this is the "Anglo cemetery preservation" movement. I am an Anglo myself but I really like the warmth created when others pay more attention to their graves than I usually do and I think it makes me happier about my parents' resting place.
AC	AC	Even though the rules were not enforced for several years, they did, in fact, exist. They are not new rules. I agree that the rules must be enforced, even though there will be push-back, and even anger.
AC	AC	I will use this as an opportunity to thank the city for reclaiming the maintenance and operation of the cemeteries. At Austin Memorial, there was an immediate & observable improvement in conditions. I don't know if there will be any improvement in administration (like those in the office).
AC	AC	This entire policy seems more suited to an HOA or private cemetery than it does a public space with diverse and varied cultures and classes.
AC	AC	Many users of this site see no problem with the existing situation. PARD is creating a problem and issue.
AC	AC	OPEN RULE MAKING UP TO THE STAKEHOLDERS...
AC	AC	I am not understanding why this level of control over gravesites is necessary. Remember, families own these gravesites - not the City.
AC	AC	Work with those who have loved ones buried here. This is no time for arbitrary enforcement of ridiculous rules.
AC	AC	Remember this is Austin and we value individuality. There are limites, but the people buried in the cemetery lived and were loved here. They existed. Most people do not want antiseptic grass, sprayed, watered, and mowed. It's a waste of resources and not what Austin is about.
AC	AC	none.
AC	AC	none.
AC	AC	No rule shall be made that prohibits customs of differing cultures to be performed.
AC	AC	¿cDãñde estÃj mi encuesta en Espanol? [where is my survey in spanish?]
AC	AC	Fundamentally, these kinds of rules need to be on a cemetery by cemetery basis and at the discretion of a board of interested parties, NOT city employees.
AC	AC	None.
AC	AC	I am not sure who came up with these rules. The clear goal seems to be a depersonalization and "uglification" of our local cemeteries. I was hoping for a more balanced questionnaire or set of regulations. Is not the purpose of cemeteries to provide a welcoming space to remember a loved one? An individual, unique person who should be allowed to be remembered with all of their uniqueness? Not anonymous mass graves!
AC	AC	Please remember this is Austin, a very special and unique place. City government is making tremendous strides to accommodate wishes of all citizens all over town. Cemeteries are extremely personal and sometimes emotional places. All care should be given to compromise in individual cases. This is not a place to put down hard, unbendable rules. Some families like myself have been enjoyed and been comforted by our cemeteries as they are for decades....let's not swing the pendulum too far....Thanks
AC	AC	Plot owners must be included in these decisions and must be respected. Remember, your clients in many cases are people who are living out lives in grief and one way to manage that is by tending to the grave of their loved one.
AC	AC	In general I would give family members significant control over the gravesites, where no obstruction or dangerous, or obviouly offensive modifications are made. If visitors to the cemetery or family members with persons in other plots find any modifications meeting the above criteria distasteful, they should be more accommodating.
AC	AC	I would be interested to know who is behind this initiative? If there is an outside source that the city of Austin is using (paying for with our taxes) to provide this enforcement policy.
AC	AC	These rules are too general and lack specific definitions leaving all the discretion in the hands of the city. There should be an open process so that stakeholders are allowed to give input.
AC	AC	I have no other rules, but these are my closing thoughts: I think a pleasing compromise can be reached, as long as both sides attempt to understand and be respectful of each others' feelings and requirements. I think too often, cemeteries are sterile, boring places which don't honor the memory of our loved ones or bring peace to their survivors. When families are allowed to bring tokens of memory to the graves and plant flowers, and the space draws in birds and butterflies, it can create a sacred space of healing and not just a repository for the forgotten.
AC	AC	Less rules please.
AC	AC	n/a

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AC	AC	We need a truly public process and not asked questions on the internet. This process is completely inappropriate and behind closed doors.
AC	AC	Maybe the Master Naturalists and Master Gardening groups could help to make a suitable plant list of permi
AC	AC	I have no issue with rules not included.
AC	AC	I would like to see more done to trim the trees and to periodically (perhaps every five-to-ten years) have moss cleared so as to extend their longevity.
AC	AC	I like Portland's seasonal restriction on artificial flowers/plants. Seems like this would facilitate summertime mowing in Austin. I also like the look and the formatting of Portland's cemetery webpage. Their lists of do's and don'ts make rules clear, so noone can say "I didn't know..."
AC	AC	Not at this time.
AC	AC	To close, I cannot believe that we are wasting city time on this very unpopular and unnecessary rule when there are so many more pressing issues for our community to deal with.
AC	AC	Do these policies allow wind-chimes? I'm OK with those. Do they disallow electric lights? I'm NOT ok with those.
AC	AC	Limit number of items on any one grave to avoid clutter and unsightly appearance.
AC	AC	quite making 'rules' without getting the input from the stakeholders...
AC	AC	WORK WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.
AC	AC	disagree; keep rules simple...Such as: Rules and Regulations Governing City Owned Cemeteries Longview Code of Ordinances Section 22-14, Exhibit A Rules and Regulations Governing Grace Hill, Greenwood & White Cemetery in the City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas
AC	AC	KISS principle... https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". Other variations include "keep it short and simple" or "keep it simple and straightforward".
AC	AC	no, de acuerdo a lo complicado [no, according to the issue]
AC	AC	Some people dug into Plummer's Graveyard and disturbed the grave, that shouldn't have been done. They should have found out beforehand. They shouldn't have been digging up remains. No burying on top of other graves, that's not good. Thinks existing gravesites that are not marked, a marker should be put in place. If the graves are scattered, that whole section should be marked off by some means, a concrete border so that people know. Have a plaque with the people that are buried in that section "This section dates from....and holds the remains of..." That way no one will go in and dig by mistake.
AC	AC	Our marker is beginning to shift a bit. How do I go about having this corrected? I have not seen this problem addressed in any of the information presented. The drought has caused the grass that was present to be completely gone, and weeds growing instead. With the present restrictions on watering, what is the best solution?
AC	AC	we chose section 6 in march of 2006 when we had a grandson, still born, full term. his ashes are buried there. he was joined 2 years later by the ashes of our beloved daughter-in-law XXX. this spring we buried the ashes of our dear 'mama XXX' in our garden plot. (XXX's mom). we have enough room in our 'garden' for our entire family. we chose section 6 in austin memorial park because of its heartfelt eclectic nature. there is such love and personality & deep connection shown in this section 6 (and other areas but perhaps to a lesser degree). i hope that these few photographs will show what we so appreciate in this area. we often experience families visiting their loved ones, sitting on a bench & visiting & drawing other visitors to them because of the nature of the memorials. we love strolling through the area & 'reading' the gifts left on individual plots. enjoying so much what families leave to manifest their love. i can't imagine this being a sterile 'by the rules' area. horrible to even contemplate. we look forward to continued dialog & a sensitive outcome that allows families individual expression.
AC	AC	I am voicing my opinion against all the junky objects that people put on the graves in this city cemetery. It is out of control when the cemetery is littered with stuff such as flags, bird feeders, windchimes, hanging plants, stone objects other than headstones, and many other things. I want a dignified and clean cemetery. Please enforce the rules that keep these things out. It is not fair for my family's grave to be surrounded by others full of "litter." Please keep me informed if there is a petition to sign against grave litter etc. or if my voice can be counted.
Rule #	Rule ID#	Question
Intro	Intro	<i>Keeping in mind that cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred places, can you please describe the environment and ambiance you want to experience at City of Austin cemeteries?</i>
Rule #	Rule ID#	Comment

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Intro	Intro	I want the cemeteries to be welcoming, dynamic places where surviving friends and families and other visitors feel free to express their emotions and create personalized memorials for their departed loved ones. I detest the dry stone deserts that the cemeteries have become now that the rules have been enforced. All the life has been sucked out of them.
Intro	Intro	One of peace, nature, beauty and serenity. It is important to me, with family members buried at Austin Memorial Park, that we adhere to the current Rules & Regs in order to keep these aesthetics.
Intro	Intro	Quiet, peaceful, serene, uncluttered (clean) surroundings - cluttered environment clutters the brain, which doesn't allow for quiet reflection.
Intro	Intro	I see cemeteries as an extension of a city's green space and as potential botanical gardens. They offer space for quiet walking paths and reflection.
Intro	Intro	I like it when the grave stones tell me something about the person who is under it. The flags, the statues, the football memorabilia add to the personality of a cemetery that may otherwise appear to be a forgotten place.
Intro	Intro	a compromise between formal and from memorials that have gone too rogue. I've seen all sorts of cemeteries from fancy to country, and I believe I know what works and what doesn't work.
Intro	Intro	Safety: safe parking, well-lit, and wheelchair access. Mowed grass or longer native grasses - visual maintenance must match landscaping plan. Drought-tolerant plants are ok. Should have picnic tables, restrooms, and other amenities suitable to mourning and to burial services. Park-like.
Intro	Intro	clean, quiet, good roads for access, well maintained consistently by City. Plant more trees!!
Intro	Intro	Peaceful, serene and consistent.
Intro	Intro	clean, neat, well manicured without trash or acts of desecration
Intro	Intro	A respectful and contemplative space that reflects the historical nature and purpose of cemeteries.
Intro	Intro	A cemetery should be peaceful, serene, calming; a place that pays respect to those buried within its gates, as well as those coming to visit.
Intro	Intro	I do not mind grave ornamentation - it shows that someone still cares about the deceased. I do mind forgotten graves, those with dead grass and tilted headstones - this sadly suggests that there's no one left to care.
Intro	Intro	I love to visit historic cemeteries. Respectful and solemn places to sit, walk, contemplate.
Intro	Intro	Less clutter and more natural look to the cemetery. Nothing is more beautiful than clean, well maintained grass.
Intro	Intro	simple and quiet, safe place for my loved one along with my safety while visiting the grave site
Intro	Intro	They should look respectful and serene.
Intro	Intro	Not as simple grave marker with vase of fake flowers. Windchimes, benches, personal touches, large trees, well tended grounds.
Intro	Intro	I think the Austin Memorial Park already balances the long-established tradition of individualizing grave sites, the right of certain religious groups to practice their traditions, the need for families to mourn and memorialize their loved ones, and PARD's need to maintain the cemeteries. I visit the park every week, and have not seen any items left on the gravesites that are not in keeping with respect to those who have passed or the peace and beauty of the Park. If anything, the memorials lend a warm and individual touch to the Park and add to its special atmosphere of contemplation. The memorial gardens and plants add a touch of green to the Park, especially during the dry summer. The benches give visitors a place to rest and meditate. Plus, many of these memorials have been in place for years, and removing them would desecrate gravesites and add nothing to the Park. On the other hand, the rusted and sagging chain link fence, deteriorated roads, and neglected trees seriously detract from the appearance of the Park and are disrespectful for those who rest there.
Intro	Intro	Basically everything I've come to expect from Happy Hour at TGIFriday's would be great.
Intro	Intro	Cemeteries intent can grow and be added too. Respectful can also be not neglected, protected from not only vandals and thefts, but physical care and upkeep. Sacred means also respect, does death mean that citizens are to be forgotten. Educational programs and events insure that the dead or recognized as honored citizens of Austin.
Intro	Intro	I expect the grounds to be well taken care of. The monuments straight and things looking orderly.
Intro	Intro	Respect and the ambiance of a sacred place...just as it should be.
Intro	Intro	Serenity and respect. Plot decorations should be tasteful and not extend outside of the plot. Austin maybe 'weird' but cemeteries should not.
Intro	Intro	peaceful but with people able to decorate their loved ones graves with personal items.
Intro	Intro	well maintained with maintenance cost considered when it comes to tree plantings and ornamentation
Intro	Intro	Peaceful and quiet places to reflect upon the dead and appreciate the living.
Intro	Intro	As noted, they are intended to be respectful and sacred places, and this is what I would hope would be provided at all.
Intro	Intro	Clean, organized, well-kept grounds.
Intro	Intro	We do not think the rules should be changed. When we purchased our lots we expected this to be enforced. Its not fair to change the rules that were in effect for current owners.
Intro	Intro	I would like Hancock Memorial stay as it is, where we can express our grief. Maybe have quarterly clean up days, removing tattered decorations and dead plants.
Intro	Intro	Nice environment, quiet
Intro	Intro	Everyone grieves differently...Usually women visit grave sites and take pride on maintaining them. Of course we all want a place that is respectful, peaceful, safe and sacred!
Intro	Intro	I want it to be homey. A place to come, sit on a bench, decorate my son's Christmas tree, have his toys out. This is the way it has been for years and years. No change please.
Intro	Intro	peaceful and quiet.....
Intro	Intro	I recently purchased a plot at Austin Memorial Cemetery. I loved this park the minute I drove in. I purchased my plot based on what I saw. I love the lack of military precision on the grounds. I love the freedom people have used to "warm up" a beautiful setting. I bought my plot based on the good feelings I had when I entered the grounds. I don't regret my decision.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful environment; well-maintained cemetery.
Intro	Intro	Calm and dignified. My favorite cemeteries are the military cemeteries at Arlington, San Antonio, and Fort Leavenworth. The Texas State Cemetery is also very nice.
Intro	Intro	Trees, green grass and flowering shrubs provide a beautiful, peaceful, refreshing environment.
Intro	Intro	Water, Cut and trim the grass, correct headstones that on the ground.
Intro	Intro	Headstones erect and repaired.

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Intro	Intro	Cemeteries are for honoring the deceased and for the living. CoA cemeteries should be places that welcome the living. The landscaping should be cared for and maintenance should be careful.
Intro	Intro	Oakwood particularly has many faded and broken grave stones. Often those buried here have no family left to maintain the sites. The city has an obligation to preserve the graves. The cemetery is a historical site as well as a burial site, and must be preserved as such.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful and serene. A beautiful, natural final resting place.
Intro	Intro	They are a place for the families to find solace and comfort and to display whatever expression of grief that might ease their pain.
Intro	Intro	This question presupposes an experience being had which, by asking the question, you anticipate the respondent having had (that is, having had experience at City of Austin cemeteries).
Intro	Intro	Though cemeteries bring a sense of peacefulness and reflection upon the user, not many people use them, except for the recently bereaved. And, while that certainly is their chief usage (use for the recently deceased and bereaved), the benefits of cemeteries could be expanded by creative ways to encourage non-impactful uses of the space. The least impactful use of the space is walking. But, beyond visiting the deceased, again, there are not many users of this space. I propose we expand the use of this space by allowing leashed dogs on the premises. This gives a reason for people beyond the bereaved to visit cemeteries. This will encourage a greater appreciation for our ancestors our shared past. I am sure I am not the only citizen who would appreciate such a change. I look forward to the planning team's response. Thank you, XXX
Intro	Intro	A beautiful, peaceful place to for families to visit and remember their loved ones, and where community can use as well- for walking, learning about Austin's history, perhaps see landscaping that uses appropriate drought tolerant trees and plants.
Intro	Intro	trees, green grass, landscaped, paved roads
Intro	Intro	The presence of shade trees is welcoming. Visiting deceased relatives should not mean standing in the hot sun.
Intro	Intro	Clean, clear of clutter, neatly kept grounds, and quiet.
Intro	Intro	well-kempt landscaping, native flowering plants, maintained trees and plots, buildings in repair, attractive fencing and gates, maintained roads and pathways
Intro	Intro	Healthy trees and grass; to contrast the sadness of death
Intro	Intro	To honor Austin's unusual and eclectic ambience - individual grave owners should be allowed to adorn private grave sites as they wish - with religious symbols if necessary or appropriate items honoring the human being or child buried there.
Intro	Intro	I'd like the environment to be beautiful and green with colorful native crape myrtle trees, dogwood, magnolias and orchid trees planted near our loved ones resting places. Also, proper watering options. I have offered and am willing to pay for a crape myrtle by my son's gravesite.
Intro	Intro	a safe place to go to contemplate family and appreciate history
Intro	Intro	Beauty. Serenity. Peace. Quite. Shade Trees. Benches. I don't like tons of yard art and wind chimes.
Intro	Intro	I love the personal touches that people add to their loved ones final resting place. It makes me feel that they are not forgotten and people still care.
Intro	Intro	Austin cemeteries should reflect what Austin and Austinites are: unique. If I wanted to bury my father in a plain vanilla cemetery I would not have chosen Memorial Park. Memorial Park is beautiful because it allows the expression of love, grief and culture. Please DO NOT mess with it!!! I love that young parents can put toys on the grave of their 11 day old child, that I can plant flowers for my father, that someone can put a little rock garden for their loved one. If I wanted uniformity and a boring cemetery, I would have gone to Cook Walden on 135!! I love the benches of different colors and styles and types. I love the diversity of the trees/flowers/bushes/decorations. Why are you trying to mess it?????
Intro	Intro	Clean, well kept, uniform, not alot of cheap benches, windchimes and folksie memorabilia.
Intro	Intro	Cemeteries should be peaceful and void of yard "art." I have plots at Austin Memorial and will sell them and buy somewhere else if the grounds are not cleared of junk.
Intro	Intro	To "respectful" and "sacred," I would add "peaceful," "orderly," "well-kept" and "dignified." As to Oakwood, specifically, "historic" is especially applicable, and it is a bit disconcerting to see leaning and fallen monuments and other evidence of neglect.
Intro	Intro	Beauty, serenity, respect for cultural diversity and expressions of grief.
Intro	Intro	I love Memorial Park where my family and some friends are buried. It is a place which exemplifies respect and sacredness, but is not as lifeless as Cook Walden on 35 North.
Intro	Intro	A place of serenity, peace and beauty.
Intro	Intro	respectful and and sacred.
Intro	Intro	A place of respect for those who have passed and the families.
Intro	Intro	A place to feel the warmth, atmosphere that I have come to expect from a very peaceful cemetery.
Intro	Intro	Keeping it the same, park-like setting, beauty and serenity.
Intro	Intro	different from other, corporately owned cemeteries. historically preserved. beautiful. green and tranquil zone.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful and calm
Intro	Intro	I would like the city to allow "stakeholders", those who have purchased plots and own them in full to respect that those "stakeholders" be allowed to keep personal mementos on those graves. The city should only be responsible for enforcing the removal of items which are potentially dangerous--like the fence which surrounds the cemetery.
Intro	Intro	Well maintained with no broken headstones.
Intro	Intro	I don't want to talk about little plastic flags on tombstones. There's a waste of time. Let's talk about the deteriorating condition of our cemeteries, the dying trees, the crumbling buildings, the defunct irrigation systems. The City and it's contractor gives no regard to Oakwood cemetery. Please don't waste my time on meaningless distractions about dead flowers.
Intro	Intro	My parents are buried there, and I will be too. I wish for the cemetery to be a quiet, beautiful, reflective space that my kids will want to come and remember their family.
Intro	Intro	Serene, beautiful and uncluttered. A place for contemplation.
Intro	Intro	A cemetery should be a place for quiet reflection and remembrance. Anything that detracts from that should be prohibited. While it's understandable that some people might want elaborate or extensive memorials to loved ones, a city cemetery is not the place for such things.

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Intro	Intro	I want City of Austin cemeteries to look like places where people care about their loved ones. My parents are buried in El Paso and I am always pleased that the cemetery there with many Hispanic graves looks like people care about their loved ones (especially on holidays when people visit and picnic and play music, but also because of the artificial flowers and other decorations).
Intro	Intro	An uncluttered environment lends itself to allowing all to experience feelings of serenity and peace when visiting the resting places of their loved ones.
Intro	Intro	quiet, peaceful, pleasing to the eye
Intro	Intro	While I don't expect uniformity, I want quiet, serene surroundings. I remember Austin Memorial Park from my childhood and it was well maintained and appropriate. More recently it has some graves decorated like those markers on the side of a road, lots of signs, wind chimes, and silk flowers.
Intro	Intro	I think people should be allowed to express themselves with personal items at City of Austin cemeteries so long as those items do not create a hazard for maintenance workers and are appropriately scaled. Certainly plants, flowers, toys, wind chimes, benches, and the like are additions that harm no one and give pleasure to the bereaved.
Intro	Intro	Cemeteries should promote the healing and peace of the bereaved, and the bereaved should have the right to include any plant, token of affection and remembrance, cultural artifact or seating area for rest and reflection that doesn't cross the boundaries of other gravesites or pose a threat to the safety of workers or visitors. Austinites cherish our individuality and our stories; a public cemetery should honor and uphold personal expression.
Intro	Intro	I believe CoFA cemeteries should be places where differing cultures can express and experience their reaction to the deaths of loved ones in their own ways as long as there is no boisterous noise involved.
Intro	Intro	It should allow expressions of grief that reflect the plot owner's culture, belief system and faith. Just as our city and country are strengthened by diversity, so should the expressions of grief in a PUBLIC space.
Intro	Intro	Restful, contemplative, appreciative of the thoughts of the relatives of loved ones. Individuals' grave sites should reflect the loss and thoughts of loved ones.
Intro	Intro	I want them to be a place to celebrate the life of an individual. This often means plants on a grave, or a toy of a child, or a flag, or rocks on the stone. They should NOT be sterile places of just manicured grass and grave stones.
Intro	Intro	respectful and sacred places
Intro	Intro	Personal expression!!
Intro	Intro	I want the cemetery to be for the families. If the plot are owned by the family than they should be able do as they want with it. I like seeing the individualism of the publics. It gives you a sense of who the person was that is buried there.
Intro	Intro	I would like you to stay out of the business of policing gravesites. Period. End of discussion.
Intro	Intro	It's not about what environment and ambiance I want to experience at CoA cemeteries, or you, or the Mayor or City Council - it's what people whose loved ones are buried at CoA cemeteries want to experience.
Intro	Intro	Remembrance of any personal sort by the families.
Intro	Intro	A place to pay respect in peace.
Intro	Intro	They should be orderly, but individualized according to the beliefs and tastes of the persons who own the grave
Intro	Intro	Respectful yet personalized environments are important for those who are grieving. I believe that barring dangerous situations, that mourners be allowed to decorate their loved ones' resting places
Intro	Intro	Respectful and remembering. I like seeing mementos of those who came before us, bits of their personality, evidence that they existed and were loved. As long as the mementos don't interfere with others, they make me smile.
Intro	Intro	I think people should be able to leave mementos at graves and plant flowers on them or do whatever they want to pay tribute in a respectful manner.
Intro	Intro	I would like to see an area that is clean with no trash, such as paper or other debris. I do not consider sentimental items as trash. It should be peaceful and comfortable, with benches and even, tables, to accommodate the families and friends who visit the graves. It should include plants, from wildflowers to trees, and other landscaping items, such as birdhouses and bird baths. It should not be a sterile, bland area that is depressing and boring.
Intro	Intro	I want to see that mourners are allowed to place mementos that represent the love they feel for their lost ones. I like seeing Christmas trees, Easter motifs, baby toys, etc. which allow the mourner to deal with the tremendous loss of the loved one.
Intro	Intro	Tasteful individualism. Individuals should have latitude with their graves.
Intro	Intro	one that is personal, and reflects the love that people have for those who are deceased.
Intro	Intro	Clean and maintained, allowing me to visit with out being distracted by the look of neglect.
Intro	Intro	Encuesta en espanol? [survey in Spanish?]
Intro	Intro	The environment should reflect the city and those interred. If a cemetery is not a military one, it should not be ordered and consistent. Austin is diverse, and the graves in an Austin cemetery should reflect that.
Intro	Intro	A personalized environment! This is a place to honor our loved ones, not turn over to someone else for sterile homogenization.
Intro	Intro	The cemetery should be well cared for but existing garden improvements to plots should be grandfathered and not affected by any rule changes... at least unless or until they create some hazard.
Intro	Intro	Peace and tranquility where people can keep the memories of their loved ones alive in a manner they choose at their gravesites.
Intro	Intro	I want diversity, not homogeneity. I prefer memorials decorated by the families and friends, with symbols of their love and remembrances of the person buried there. But then it's not about the ambiance I want, it's about the environment and ambiance the grave owners want. THIS IS AUSTIN. KEEP IT AUSTIN. Private cemeteries can have their boring, severe, cold look, but public cemeteries need to be an expression of those buried there and their families.
Intro	Intro	Whatever the bereaved need to honor their loved one so long as it does not pose potential harm to a cemetery worker.
Intro	Intro	I'd like the environment to be well kept - free of litter and greenery not overgrown. I think the grave markers should be the decision of the family and not homogenized.

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Intro	Intro	It should be a serene and beautiful place, somewhat like a park with lots of trees, bushes, flowers and benches to sit and contemplate and remember loved ones. It should NOT be a sterile all-lawn no-personality place.
Intro	Intro	Reasonably quiet and well tended, but not sterile. Should reflect different cultural traditions of honoring loved ones. A place to sit and remember. No runners (it is not a track or public park)
Intro	Intro	Freedom to express how you would like to remember your loved one. Especially planting personal gardens at the gravesite. Gardens at grave sites are a historically appropriate way to remember a loved one.
Intro	Intro	Calm, peaceful, personal
Intro	Intro	Beauty and tranquility, but I expect and appreciate individuality in the graves, such as plants, flowers, flags when appropriate, and other tokens that can be an expression of a family's feelings for their dead loved one.
Intro	Intro	I would like to know that those with loved ones buried in the cemetery are allowed to express their remembrance of their loved one with reasonable modifications, to the gravesite, such as plantings, special objects, etc. It is moving to see the occasional gravesite with beautiful flowers or some precious plastic toy. Seeing these items tells you that someone has drawn comfort by placing those objects or plants there.
Intro	Intro	A place to reflect remembrance and solitude of those lost. Personal artifacts are part of the process to remember. As long as it is maintained by the family member, it should be allowed.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful, and also acknowledging our green initiatives and water emergencies. Planting grass is completely against city policies, at least that's what one department would say. But I know that departments don't talk to each other. Let people plant native plants, plant flowers that were favorites of their loved ones, and customize the memorials. Austin is unique, after all, and cemeteries shouldn't be one size fits all.
Intro	Intro	I would like people to have the opportunity to engage in remembrances that are in keeping with their ideas of "respectful and sacred". That would include following such sacred and respectful traditions as placing flags and celebrating Dia de los Muertos.
Intro	Intro	I want to see the deceased honored in a way deemed appropriate by their survivors.
Intro	Intro	Native flowers and grasses, wind chimes, pretty benches and bird houses, and personal mementos should be allowed, as long as they're maintained by the families / appointees of the families. It shouldn't look like a golf course.
Intro	Intro	I want a peaceful place where I can sit and reflect with my loved ones that have passed and share with them what I have been up to.
Intro	Intro	A place for personal reflection and remembering loved ones in a manner of a personal nature and in keeping with family customs.
Intro	Intro	I want to experience an environment that dignifies those buried in the cemetery and is respectful of those family and friends who visit the graves to pray and pay their respects.
Intro	Intro	Quiet, green, and attractive.
Intro	Intro	Focal points a plus.
Intro	Intro	Expanses of grass are a minus.
Intro	Intro	A cemetery is a place for remembering and therefore I am happy when I see that someone buried there has not been forgotten. Whether it be flowers or a favorite plant or even some special memento tells me this.
Intro	Intro	I want to go to a site where people who have died are properly loved and memorialized by their families. The cemetery should not be a sterile wasteland, but a vibrant locale where people can represent the love and respect they have for the people they have buried there and visitors can feel and witness it.
Intro	Intro	a peaceful place where I can sit on a bench and contemplate surrounded by the blessed dead and vibrant nature.
Intro	Intro	Knowing that each person buried there is very individual, I expect to see all sorts of things on graves, out of the respect for those that died. They are very sacred to those whose loved ones are buried there. we should respect their wishes as well.
Intro	Intro	Markers and stones straightened and leveled per State Law. Trees well maintained with no ball moss or dead branches, regular watering of trees which will help prevent future marker settlement. Pickup the dilapidated articles and flowers on a regular schedule. Repair the buildings and roads. Respect the cemeteries for their historical significance including the historical boundaries.
Intro	Intro	At City of Austin cemeteries, I would like to see maintained green spaces with plants that are water conservation with low water plant requirements. Families should be allowed to provide these conditions at their personal grave sites.
Intro	Intro	The environment and ambiance I want to experience at COA cemeteries is one of peacefulness and comfort so I can reflect upon the memory of the departed.
Intro	Intro	I believe that the City of Austin's practice of allowing families to plant gardens and place objects that allow the families and friends of those they have lost to express their grief and respect believes of the departed is extremely important.
Intro	Intro	I have personally spent a considerable amount of money to care for trees at the cemetery. Rather than spend city resources removing gardens, bird houses, benches, rock piles, wind chimes, and the like, I wish the city would do more to protect the trees.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful, quiet, respectful of those who are interred and their loved ones. A natural landscape. Trees are great; trinkets belong in the trash. Wind chimes are particularly annoying.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful and Reflective
Intro	Intro	I want a peaceful environment which is flexible enough to accommodate each family's choice of memorabilia.
Intro	Intro	A place that has well maintained grounds that allows meaningful mementos to be placed on grave sites by family members.
Intro	Intro	Reverent, respectful, peaceful
Intro	Intro	I want lots of peaceful green space.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful. Quiet. Tasteful (no plastic windmills and colorfully tacky objects).
Intro	Intro	I don't much care.
Intro	Intro	Clean, quiet, simple.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful. Nicely maintained landscape...like a quiet park. Occasional benches.
Intro	Intro	Peaceful, restful, neat & uncluttered, well groomed and maintained, with improvements & repairs made as needed.

**City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
Public Input Received on Existing Rules Regulations (As of 7/2/14)**

Intro	Intro	quiet but with environment for people to enjoy
Intro	Intro	respectful
Intro	Intro	sacred
Intro	Intro	clean, no garbage, with plants and trees
Intro	Intro	devoid of plastic ornaments, flowers - which are not religious
Intro	Intro	should be kept clean with no dead plants
Intro	Intro	Relatively quiet; respectful to a reasonable degree of the various cultures and religions of the family members of those interred; and demonstrating concern for those responsible for the care and upkeep of the cemetery.
Intro	Intro	respect; sacred place
Intro	Intro	A place where families can remember their loved ones in the way they feel best captures the deceased's personality
Intro	Intro	cemeteries are intended to be respectful and sacred
Intro	Intro	I would like that the space owner and the individual's spirit to prevail! The addition of personal items helps the healing process and provides others with an insight to the life once lived. These items give life to the park! I personally spend more time in the memorial park (quite the undiscovered resource) than in other city parks.
Intro	Intro	I want to see a place where people of all ages can walk and sit and reflect.
Intro	Intro	si-, respetuoso y sagrado [Yes, respectful and sacred]
Intro	Intro	Open, serene, natural setting. Uncluttered, maintained and tidy.
Intro	Intro	First of all, cemeteries are places for the families and friends of the deceased to visit. They are not "environments" to be "experienced" by visitors. The use of the term "ambiance" is in itself disrespectful. My own father and grandparents are buried in a cemetery in another town in Texas, a place where people leave flags, footballs, toys, plants, mementoes at the graves of their loved ones. I find all of these to be incredibly touching whenever I visit. They are expressions of heartfelt love.
Intro	Intro	Items placed by families should be left in place as long as they are not dilapidated, rotting, of that nature. The cemetery staff should remove items that are decaying. If they pose a safety concern, remove them. If they aren't harming anything and are just inconvenient for maintenance, they should be left alone.
Intro	Intro	Peacefulness. Not constant bickering with the City. Not having the City take heavy handed approach.
Intro	Intro	RELAXED ENVIRONMENT FOR REFLECTION. RESPECTFUL AND QUIET, WITH TWO PURPOSES: 1) HOME TO LOVED ONES 2) HISTORICAL PLACE. NO TRAILS, NO COMMUNITY GARDENS, NO NOISE, NO DISTRACTIONS: A relaxed, low key, but respectful quiet environment of reflection. Absolutely NOT "a celebration of life" environment that has community gardens or trails going through the cemetery. A COA public cemeteries should be a calm place where people can visit their loved one, remember them, and find peace for their aching hearts. It should be place of respect where the public can expect silence and calm.
Intro	Intro	A PLACE WHERE THE PUBLIC IS TREATED WITH RESPECT: It should be a place where people are NOT afraid to go because of the hassle they fear they will get from the Cemetery manager, who is very moody and treats some people in a very disrespectful manner when he is in a bad mood. It also should be a place where people are NOT reluctant to go because of the cemetery contractor that performs burials (InterCare) and his workers. I have personally observed how these workers are rude to some of the public without provocation.
Intro	Intro	A PLACE THAT ABIDES BY ITS RULES: It should be a place that people can count will be open per posted hours, not a place where people are hurried to leave 10 minutes prior to closing time, or that is not open on a holiday just because the Cemetery Manager felt like not opening that day.
Intro	Intro	WHERE ALL ARE TREATED EQUALLY WITHOUT PREJUDICE: It should also be a place where the same rules apply to all in the same manner, without favoritism or prejudice against some people. There should be no retaliation from the cemetery manager when people bring up concerns.
Intro	Intro	A PLACE THAT IS CARED FOR: It should be a place that is taken care of, where all of the older trees are watered during periods of insufficient rainfall so that they don't die, where fresh graves are topped with grass soon after burials so relatives don't have to add to their heartache by seeing an ugly pile of dirt instead of a grave covered with grass, a place where the stones are straight and leveled, and if they are not, a place where no one is afraid to point out because of the retaliations and lack of action from the Cemetery manager.

Rule #	Category	Current Rule	Proposed Rule 2 July 2014
1	Definitions	The term "Cemeteries" as used in these rules and regulations shall mean cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.	Unchanged
2	Definitions	The term "Superintendent" shall mean the person duly appointed by the City of Austin for the purpose of supervising and administering cemetery functions.	The term "Cemetery Administrator" shall mean the person duly appointed by the City of Austin for the purpose of supervising and administering cemetery functions.
3	Definitions	The term "Owner" shall mean the owner as indicated by the deed.	Unchanged
4	Definitions	The term "Interment" shall mean entombment or burial of the remains of a deceased person.	Unchanged
5	Definitions	The term "Memorial" shall mean any marker, monument, headstone, tablet, or other structure, upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or partially therein for identification or in memory of the interred.	Unchanged
6	Definitions	The term "Space" shall mean the area normally designated for a single Interment.	The term "Space" shall mean a platted space of ground that contains interred human remains or that is intended to be used for interment of human remains in the ground. This may include cremated human remains (cremains).
7	Definitions	None	The term "Memorialization Space" shall mean an area of defined boundaries within a space in which plants, memorabilia, and other objects may be placed for the purpose of memorializing loved ones (reference Rules #46-52).
8	Definitions	None	The term "Care" shall mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the pleasing appearance of the Cemetery. The term "care" shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.

9	Definitions	None	The term “Deteriorated” shall mean items that are decayed, splintered, broken, frayed, or otherwise unserviceable based upon the judgment of the Cemetery Administrator.
10	Admission to Cemeteries	No person shall be permitted to enter or leave the cemeteries except by the public access gates. The cemeteries will be open to the public during reasonable hours as established by the Superintendent.	No person shall be permitted to enter or leave the cemeteries except by the public access gates. The cemeteries will be open to the public during reasonable hours as established by the Cemetery Administrator.
11	Admission to Cemeteries	The admission of motorcycles to the cemeteries may be refused on the basis of noise or disruption of services.	Unchanged
12	Admission to Cemeteries	Any unauthorized person found on the cemetery grounds after dark will be considered a trespasser.	Unchanged
13	Admission to Cemeteries	The use of any cemetery equipment or facilities may be refused at any time to any person or persons as the rules, judgment and custom may indicate.	The use of any cemetery equipment or facilities may be refused at any time to anyone.
14	Arrangements for Interments	Written authorization from the owner of record of a burial space, or his designated representative or successor in interest, or other proper legal authority, will be required for interment.	Written authorization from the owner of record of a space or other proper legal authority will be required for interment.
15	Arrangements for Interments	The Superintendent shall have the right to schedule the time when interments or disinterment may be conducted.	The Cemetery Administrator shall have the right to schedule the time when interments or disinterment may be conducted.
16	Arrangements for Interments	A minimum of twelve (12) working hours before the announced times of the funeral will be required for the preparation of the grave.	A minimum of 12 working hours before the announced times of the funeral will be required for the preparation of the space.
17	Arrangements for Interments	In making a request for interment, the casket or vault, if of unusual size, must be particularly indicated.	Unchanged
18	Arrangements for Interments	The Superintendent shall not be responsible when an error occurs from an order placed by telephone regarding a grave location or container size to be used. The Superintendent reserves the right to make an equitable additional charge whenever additional labor costs result from such mistakes. The Superintendent shall not be liable for any delay in the interment of a body when a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.	The Cemetery Administrator shall not be responsible when an error occurs from an order placed by telephone regarding a space location or container size to be used. The Cemetery Administrator reserves the right to make an equitable additional charge whenever additional labor costs result from such mistakes. The Cemetery Administrator shall not be liable for any delay in the interment of a body when a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.

19	Interment, Disinterment and Re-Interment Procedures	Proper authorization as required by local government or public authority having jurisdiction in the matter must be presented to the Cemetery office at the time of interment or disinterment is affected. The Superintendent shall not be liable for the accuracy of the data contained in said authorization or for the identity of the person to be interred or disinterred.	Proper authorization as required by local government or public authority having jurisdiction in the matter must be presented to the Cemetery office at the time of interment or disinterment is affected. The Cemetery Administrator shall not be liable for the accuracy of the data contained in said authorization or for the identity of the person to be interred or disinterred.
20	Interment, Disinterment and Re-Interment Procedures	All interments, disinterments and re-interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws. The Cemetery staff will only be responsible for the opening and closing of the grave.	All interments, disinterments and re-interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws. The Cemetery Administrator will only be responsible for the opening and closing of the space.
21	Instructions for Owners and Owners' Rights	Burial vaults, either partially or entirely above ground, are prohibited.	Unchanged
22	Instructions for Owners and Owners' Rights	A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for all adult interments. Sections 9, 9A and 10 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery and Sections D and E at Evergreen Cemetery are exempt from this provision.	A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for adult interments with the exception of cremations.
23	Instructions for Owners and Owners' Rights	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, steps, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will not be permitted on or around any space or lot. Cement, iron, wooden, glass, plastic, paper, or other miscellaneous statues or objects, as well as objects of a temporary nature, will not be permitted. The City of Austin reserves the right to remove any objects which are erected, planted, or placed in violation of this rule.	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, or steps shall not be permitted on or around any space.

24	Instructions for Owners and Owners' Rights	Only one casket will be permitted in each grave. In the event cremation is utilized, a maximum of four (4) interments will be permitted in one (1) space.	Only one casket and one cremains will be permitted in each space. In the event only cremations are to be utilized in a space, a maximum of four interments will be permitted. For spaces specifically designed for cremains, one cremains will be permitted.
25	Instructions for Owners and Owners' Rights	The use of a space is for the owner or such other person as the owner may designate.	The use of a space is for the interment of the owner or such other person as the owner may designate.
26	Instructions for Owners and Owners' Rights	In the event of the death of an owner, any and all privileges of the owner shall pass according to the laws of the State of Texas.	Unchanged
27	Service Charges and Payments	The City of Austin shall have the right to establish a charge and time of payment for each interment and disinterment.	Unchanged
28	Service Charges and Payments	The City of Austin reserves the right to specify the amounts and terms of purchase of all spaces to the original purchaser.	Unchanged
29	Service Charges and Payments	In the event an owner sells or conveys a space or spaces, a record of such sale or conveyance must be provided to the City of Austin.	Unchanged
30	Service Charges and Payments	When a disinterment is accomplished for the purpose of re-interment within the same cemetery, the current price of the vacated space, less 25%, shall be allowed as payment toward the new purchase. The established charge for opening and closing each space will be in addition to the price of the new space.	Unchanged
31	Memorials	All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.	Unchanged
32	Memorials	Only one memorial will be permitted on one grave space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more grave spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the grave space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.	Only one memorial will be permitted on one space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.
33	Memorials	Space or lot corner markers will be set flush with the turf.	Unchanged

<p>34</p>	<p>Memorials</p>	<p>Flush type Memorials— -The marking of each space or grave in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish and construction as indicated in this section. -Flush type memorials shall be made of granite marble or cast bronze installed on granite, marble or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4"). -Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6") and shall be smooth on all sides. -All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2") of sand for cushioning and leveling. -The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the grave space width.</p>	<p>Flush type Memorials— -The marking of each space in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish and construction as indicated in this section. -Flush type memorials shall be made of granite marble or cast bronze installed on granite, marble or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4"). -Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6") and shall be smooth on all sides. -All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2") of sand for cushioning and leveling. -The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the space width.</p>
<p>35</p>	<p>Memorials</p>	<p>Above Ground Materials -In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used. -All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite or similar permanent type stone. -Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions: --The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18") in width --The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42"). --The length shall be at least ten inches less than the grave space width.</p>	<p>Above Ground Materials -In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used. -All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite or similar permanent type stone. -Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions: --The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18") in width --The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42"). --The length shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the space width.</p>

36	Memorials	Should any existing memorial or mausoleum become unsightly, dilapidated, or a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemeteries, the Superintendent shall have the right to correct the condition or to remove same. The expense of such removal or repair may be charged to the space owner.	Should any memorial become a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemetery, the Cemetery Administrator has the right to correct the condition or remove the memorial. If the Cemetery Administrator determines that a memorial must be removed, he or she shall attempt to contact the owner to advise him or her of the required removal and the associated expense. If cemetery personnel have contact information for the owner available within their contact management systems, they shall attempt to contact the owner using such contact information. If cemetery personnel do not possess contact information for the owner, they shall make a reasonable attempt to find such information and they will place notice on the space. The Cemetery Administrator shall consult as required with the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission concerning alterations to, or removal of, memorials. The expense associated with removing or repairing memorials may be charged to the owner.
37	Memorial Foundations	The size of concrete foundations for all above ground memorials shall be 1" larger in length and width than the size of the base.	Unchanged
38	Memorial Foundations	The top of concrete foundations shall be from 1" to 2" below the top of the ground to allow for adding cement grout to level the memorial base.	Unchanged
39	Memorial Foundations	Concrete foundations shall be a minimum of 8" thick and have perpendicular sides and flat bottom.	Unchanged
40	Memorial Foundations	Excavations for foundations for above ground memorials shall be a minimum of 10" deep from the top of the ground. If the memorial base is two feet (2') or more in length, there shall be one 6" diameter round hole dug 18" deep (or to rock) below the bottom of the excavation at each end of the excavation.	Unchanged
41	Memorial Foundations	Concrete for all memorial foundations shall be 1 part cement, 2 parts sand and 4 parts gravel.	Unchanged
42	Rules for Memorial Work	Memorial dealers shall abide by all the rules and regulations of the Cemeteries.	Unchanged

43	Rules for Memorial Work	The Superintendent reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.	The Cemetery Administrator reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.
44	Rules for Memorial Work	Memorial dealers engaged in placing or erecting memorials or other structures are prohibited from scattering their material over adjoining spaces, or from blocking roads or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is necessary. Damage done to spaces, walks, drives, trees, shrubs or other property shall be repaired at the expense of the memorial dealer, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent.	Memorial dealers engaged in placing or erecting memorials or other structures are prohibited from scattering their material over adjoining spaces, or from blocking roads or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is necessary. Damage done to spaces, walks, drives, trees, shrubs or other property shall be repaired at the expense of the memorial dealer, to the satisfaction of the Cemetery Administrator.
45	Rules for Memorial Work	Work of any nature may be stopped if proper preparations have not been made; or when work is being done in such a manner as to endanger life or property; or when there is evidence of misrepresentation; or when work is not being executed according to specifications; or when any reasonable request on the part of the Superintendent is disregarded; or when any person employed in the monument work violates any rule of the cemeteries.	Work of any nature may be stopped if proper preparations have not been made; or when work is being done in such a manner as to endanger life or property; or when there is evidence of misrepresentation; or when work is not being executed according to specifications; or when any reasonable request on the part of the Cemetery Administrator is disregarded; or when any person employed in the monument work violates any rule of the cemeteries.
46	Memorialization Space	None	<p>The Memorialization Space is for the purpose of memorializing loved ones, is located within the space (as defined in Rule # 6), and shall not exceed the following dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 36 inches (36") in length from the top of the space - The width of the space less 10 inches (10"), specifically 5 inches (5") on each side - 42 inches (42") in height - Single-owned multiple adjoining spaces may be combined and shall maintain the width limit in aggregate. <p>For spaces designed specifically for cremains, the Memorialization Space shall not exceed the following dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 inches (16") in length from the top of the space - The width of the space less 10 inches (10"), specifically 5 inches (5") on each side. Single-owned multiple adjoining spaces may be combined and shall maintain the width limit in aggregate.

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47	Memorialization Space	None	Owners may place plants, memorabilia, and other objects within the boundaries of their Memorialization Space. All items must be firmly anchored to secure and prevent the item or any parts of that item from leaning, falling over, breaking or blowing outside of the confines of the space. The Cemetery reserves the right to move or remove items that fall outside the Memorialization Space.
48	Memorialization Space	None	The Memorialization Space shall not be used for the storage of maintenance items such as water hoses or sprinkler cans.
49	Memorialization Space	None	No person may alter the landscape outside of the Memorialization Space. Specifically, digging holes and constructing mounds outside the Memorialization Space shall not be permitted.
50	Memorialization Space	None	The only items that may be placed outside of the Memorialization Space are chairs or benches with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator (reference Rule #63) and temporary funeral floral pieces (reference Rule #64).
51	Memorialization Space	None	Owners must maintain and care for any plants located within the Memorialization Space, including weeding, trimming or pruning, and promptly remove any dead or dying plants or any portions of plants that spread outside of the Memorialization Space.
52	Memorialization Space	None	Owners are responsible for watering any plants they place within the Memorialization Space. They may water by hand only and they may leave privately owned hoses at water spigots within the cemetery. Owners shall coil these hoses at the spigot when not in use.

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53	Non-Permitted Materials or Objects	None	<p>The following materials or objects are not permitted anywhere on cemetery property and shall be immediately removed by cemetery personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plush or stuffed animals - Glass - Paper - Cardboard - Balloons - Styrofoam - Clothing or other non-water resistant fabric - Candles - Items of an offensive or profane nature - Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs - Tobacco Products - Weapons (except as permitted by Rule #60) - Any item that constitutes a safety hazard based upon the judgment of the Cemetery Administrator - Standing Water
54	Monthly Clean-Up	None	Cemetery personnel shall remove dead plants and deteriorated items from cemetery property during the first week of each month.
55	General Regulations	Visitors or workers shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, unless it becomes necessary to walk across other spaces or graves to gain access to a space or grave.	Visitors or workers shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, unless it becomes necessary to use another route to gain access to a space.
56	General Regulations	Automobiles, trucks and other vehicles shall not be driven through the cemetery grounds at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour. Unauthorized vehicles may not be driven or parked off the designated roadways or parking areas.	Unchanged
57	General Regulations	Pets shall not be allowed in the cemetery.	Pets shall not be allowed in the cemetery.

58	General Regulations	No person will be permitted to use profane or boisterous language or in any way disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery.	Profane or offensive language, conduct, or materials shall not be permitted on cemetery property. Boisterous language or any actions that disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery shall not be permitted.
59	General Regulations	All persons are strictly forbidden to break or injure any tree or shrub, or mar any landmark, marker or memorial, or in any way deface the grounds of the cemetery.	Unchanged
60	General Regulations	No person or persons (except peace officers or a military guard of honor) shall be permitted to bring or carry firearms within the Cemetery.	No weapons of any kind shall be permitted within the Cemetery (except firearms borne by peace officers or military guards of honor). All honor guards shall notify cemetery staff prior to initiating activities at municipal cemeteries.
61	General Regulations	No signs, other than those installed by City personnel, will be permitted on the cemetery grounds.	Signs or plaques may be installed only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator.
62	General Regulations	The City of Austin is not responsible for vandalism or theft of any memorial or other personal property.	Unchanged
63	General Regulations	The construction, installation or placing of any wooden, concrete or cast iron bench, chair or table, or any wooden or wire trellis, shall not be permitted on the cemetery grounds.	Chairs and benches may be placed at the foot of a space only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator. The length of the bench seat must be 10 inches (10") shorter than the width of the space; owners of multiple adjoining spaces may seek approval for benches of greater length. Approved chairs and benches shall be firmly anchored in an approved foundation and location and comprised only of the following materials: cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone. Chairs and benches are not permitted on spaces specifically designed for the interment of cremains.

64	General Regulations	Placement of potted plants, cut flowers, or baskets is permitted on graves in all cemeteries; however, to improve the appearance and to aid in maintenance, all potted plants, cut flowers, and baskets may be removed each month. Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from the graves when they become wilted or unsightly. Persons desiring to retain same must remove them within 72 hours of funeral service. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves for holidays with the understanding that they will be removed thirty days after the holiday. The digging of holes for placement of plants or flowers is strictly prohibited.	Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from spaces within one week of funeral service.
65	General Regulations	In the interest of maintenance, planting of ivy, flowers, shrubs, or bushes is prohibited. Long lived hardwood trees such as Live Oak, Spanish Oak, American Elm, and Cedar Elm may be planted with the approval of the Superintendent.	Trees may be planted with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator and in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. Other plants may be planted within the Memorialization Space in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. The owner is responsible for watering vegetation he or she places within the Memorialization Space.
66	General Regulations	If any trees or shrubs situated on any space shall become detrimental, unsightly, or impede access to adjacent spaces, walks, or roads, they may be pruned or removed in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Superintendent.	If any trees or shrubs impede access to adjacent spaces or create a safety hazard, cemetery personnel may prune or remove them in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Cemetery Administrator. The Cemetery Administrator shall consult with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department Forestry Division concerning tree pruning and removal.
67	General Regulations	Personnel employed by the cemeteries are not permitted to solicit or accept money or other compensation from any person or persons for maintenance performed within the Cemetery.	Unchanged
68	General Regulations	All inquiries or complaints shall be submitted to the main Cemetery office.	All inquiries or complaints shall be submitted in writing at the main Cemetery office.
69	General Regulations	The grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton inquiry, disturbance, and disregard of the rules.	The grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the deceased and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton inquiry, disturbance, and disregard of the rules.

70	General Regulations	None	When a space is out of compliance with these rules, cemetery personnel shall attempt to contact the Owner to provide an opportunity for the violation to be corrected within 30 days of attempted notice. Cemetery personnel shall place notice on the space and make a reasonable effort to contact the Owner. If the Owner fails to correct the violation within 30 days of attempted notice, cemetery personnel shall have the right to bring the space into compliance.
71	General Regulations	None	If an owner perceives that these rules impede religious or cultural practices related to interring or memorializing the deceased, the owner may advise the Cemetery Administrator of the perceived impediment and may submit a written request for a variance from these rules. The Cemetery Administrator shall consider this request and make a determination based upon his or her judgment.
72	Care of Cemeteries	Care shall be furnished for all cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin. Care shall mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the pleasing appearance of the Cemetery.	Care shall be furnished for all cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.
73	Care of Cemeteries	None	Cemetery personnel shall water vegetation according to City of Austin specifications and/or restrictions. Cemetery personnel are not responsible for watering any plants that owners place within the Memorialization Space (reference Rule #52).
74	Reservations of the City of Austin	The City of Austin reserves the right to correct errors made by staff that is associated with interments or conveyance of property. In the event such error shall involve interment, the City reserves the right to remove and re-inter the remains to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. Should an error develop in the conveyance of property, the City may correct such error by conveying property of equal value in a similar location insofar as possible.	Unchanged

75	Reservations of the City of Austin	The right to revise and/or add to Cemeteries (a section of sections) from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of or any part thereof or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks is expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for water sprinkling systems and drainage, is also expressly reserved, as is the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparation for interment, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of passage to and from other spaces.	The right to revise and/or add to Cemeteries (a section or sections) from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of or any part thereof or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks is expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for water sprinkling systems and drainage, is also expressly reserved, as is the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparation for interment, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of passage to and from other spaces.
76	Reservations of the City of Austin	No easement is granted to any owner in any road, drive or walk within the cemeteries, but such road, drive or walk may be used as a means of access to the cemeteries and its buildings as long as the City of Austin devotes such road, drive or walk to that purpose.	Unchanged
77	Reservations of the City of Austin	The City of Austin disclaims responsibility to owners, their personal representatives or successors in interest for the loss or damage to cemetery spaces or memorials by any cause, natural or otherwise, direct or indirect, beyond reasonable control of the City of Austin.	Unchanged
78	Reservations of the City of Austin	The statement of any employee of the cemeteries shall not be binding upon the City of Austin except as such statement agrees with the document conveying the right of interment and these rules and regulations.	Unchanged
79	Reservations of the City of Austin	The City of Austin reserves the right at any time and from time to time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind, or add to these rules and regulations or any part thereof to adopt any new rule or regulation or any temporary exception with respect to said cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.	Unchanged
80	Reservations of the City of Austin	In all matters not specifically covered by these rules and regulations, the City of Austin reserves the right to do anything which in its judgment is deemed reasonable pertaining to the cemeteries and such determination shall be binding upon the space owner and all parties concerned.	Unchanged

81	General Regulations	The use of intoxicating beverages within the cemeteries is strictly forbidden.	[Delete]
82	General Regulations	The Superintendent has the authority to enter upon any space and to remove any objectionable thing that may have been placed there contrary to the regulations, and may remove any dead or damaged flowers, trees, shrubs or vines.	[Delete]
83	General Regulations	The construction of additional mounds over graves shall not be permitted.	[Delete]
84	General Regulations	Holders such as clay or plastic pots, wire, frames, etc., containing flowers or other decorations may be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make that determination and such removal.	[Delete]
85	General Regulations	In sections designated for flush type memorials, plants, or cut flowers shall be placed only in the approved type bronze vases provided for that purpose.	[Delete]
86	General Regulations	No boxes, shells, toys, discarded glassware, sprinkler cans, water hoses, or similar articles will be permitted to remain on any grave, walkway or street.	[Delete]
87	General Regulations	There shall be a strict observance of all the properties due the Cemetery, whether embraced in the foregoing regulations or not, as no impropriety will be tolerated.	[Delete]

DRAFT

88	Care of Cemeteries	The term "care" shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any grave or space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.	[Delete]
89	Care of Cemeteries	Special care by cemetery employees of any grave or space located within the cemetery is prohibited.	[Delete]

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City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
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1	The term "Cemeteries" as used in these rules and regulations shall mean cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.
Rule #	Comment
1	
2	The term "Cemetery Administrator" shall mean the person duly appointed by the City of Austin for the purpose of supervising and administering cemetery functions.
Rule #	Comment
2	the change from Superintendent to Administrator seems good and it alludes to a title of more authority. As long as Cemeteries are under PARD there will be someone who goes over the administrators head and straight to council or the pard department head. along with the rules there has to be a dispute resolution process defined.
3	The term "Owner" shall mean the owner as indicated by the deed or the owners successors.
Rule #	Comment
3	or the owners successors is not clear. You should always refer to state law, the property code. State law will change and you do not want to creates laws in your rules.
4	The term "Interment" shall mean entombment or burial of the remains of a deceased person.
Rule #	Comment
4	
5	The term "Memorial" shall mean any marker, monument, headstone, tablet, or other structure, upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or partially therein for identification or in memory of the interred.
Rule #	Comment
5	
6	The term "Space" shall mean the area normally designated for a single Interment.
Rule #	Comment
6	There is a serious technical problem in the proposed rules. It contain no clear definition of the lot, plot or area that the City sells to an Owner that is conveyed by a deed. The result is ambiguity and confusion in numerous places in the proposed rules. Throughout the proposed rules various words or terms are used to refer to the land or portions of land for burial space sold to an Owner. The words or terms used in the proposed rules relating to a lot or plot, or portions thereof, include these various words: "Space," "Space Holders," "burial space," "full size burial space," "one burial space," "niche," "lot" and a new term "Memorialization Space." All this is confusing because "Space" and "Space Holder" is often used throughout the proposed rules to describe a lot or plot sold to an Owner. But then "Space" is actually defined in Proposed Rule 6 to be the area "normally designated for a single Interment." And since there can be four interments on a "full size burial space" under Proposed Rule #24, this creates a circle of confusion. And of course the word "space" in common usage could reasonably refer to the distance between lots or plots, areas of the cemetery that have not been sold or developed, or public areas of the cemetery. Solution: (i) there needs to be a clear definition for each lot, plot or area that the City conveys in a deed to an Owner, (ii) avoid using the word "Space" as a definition because it has multiple meanings, and (iii) assuming that definitional issue is corrected, then a reassessment should be made as to what other specific definitions are absolutely necessary to define an area within a lot or plot in order to explain the rules in a manner that is clear, unambiguous and understandable by the public.
7	The term "Memorialization Space" shall mean an area of defined boundaries within a burial space in which plants, memorabilia, and other objects may be placed for the purpose of memorializing loved ones (reference Rules #46-51).
Rule #	Comment
7	I personally would not have done this, not that big of an area. You are adding a layer of responsibility and creating an avenue for people to challenge the placement of Items thus having staff to go out and measure and document then reply back to the concerned citizen
7	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
7	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS
7	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
7	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]

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7	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University - KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!" ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
7	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
7	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
7	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
7	no changes.
7	I think that, if you have a tree growing on your loved ones grave, the branches of the tree should be part of the Memorialization Space of the location of the base of the tree.
7	Memorialization space should be the entire land purchased by the stakeholder. NOT just the immediate area around the headstone, the stakeholder (landowner) has purchased the land and should be allowed freedom to decorate and use the space as he/she/they see fit.
7	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
7	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
7	Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.
7	This is good. People should be allowed to memorialize their loved ones.
7	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... Sí- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
7	I believe plot owners should be allowed to use the entirety of their burial space for whatever plants and memorabilia they wish, so long as it is regularly maintained and not dangerous to anyone.
7	I own my son's grave site, I should be able to place memorials and plant what I want in that space.
7	The term "Memorialization Space" shall mean an area not to exceed the boundaries of the Burial Space in which plants, memorabilia and other objects may be placed for the purpose of memorializing loved ones.
7	The space should be personalized. Do the "defined boundaries" include the headstone? If so, this really limits the size of this space. What is small, native, xeriscaped shrubs grow nicely? Will these be pulled out just because a small part goes out of this space?
7	Yes please allow families the right to plant flowers or shrubs on the graves of their loved ones. Also - Allow them to place any objects or memorabilia on the graves - which they own.
7	We ask that "Memorialization Space" be revised to include the entirety of the burial space which belongs to the family of the deceased, not just an "area of defined boundaries within a burial space," as designated by this rule. Cemetery stakeholders who own plots should be allowed to place private memorials on the entirety of those plots.
7	I would like to see the entirety of the grave designated as the "memorization space."
7	The boundaries should be the entire plot as long as it doesn't interfere with mowing in the common area.
7	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
7	If loved ones want to place small knick knock items, crosses, flags etc they should be able to as long as it is place on or around the marker's marble frame. As long as it is not cluttery and or faded or junkie.

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7	There is no place to put this information. So I will put it here. I do not have a plot or tend one in this cemetery nor do I ever intend to have one. I simply think that making changes in the middle of the game is unfair.
7	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
7	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃºn en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ¡n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ©cades. There is a common understanding in the law n ^o that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
7	Ok
7	This was mentioned at the meetings, but not in the survey: Current gravesite memorials WILL NOT be grandfathered! Leaving this crucial fact out skews the entire survey and brings into question the whether the process is truly unbiased. While this rule might be acceptable applied to new gravesites, to retroactively apply it to existing memorials, many of which have been place for years, is not only cruel, but a waste of resources. First, requiring families to tear up rock borders and flourishing gardens is not only going to cause great emotional pain, it is going to leave significantly damaged gravesites. Is PARD willing to spend the time and money to immediately truck in new soil and sod and repair these graves, plus plant and water new grass in the middle of summer? Or are these graves going to lie bare and desecrated for weeks, or even months, while the top soil cracks and blows away and the families are forced to visit a continuously deteriorating gravesite, helpless to take any steps to stop the slow erosion and destruction? What about the now large and flourishing trees, plants, and bushes families have planted by graves? Are you going to require those to be torn out as well? How is it going to improve the appearance of the cemetery to rip out beautiful thriving plants and leave big empty holes (not to mention adverse environmental impact and soil erosion)? If the whole purpose of creating these rules is to improve the appearance and maintenance of the cemetery, not grandfathering in existing gravesite memorials is counter to that purpose. PARD should work with families to ensure that existing gravesite memorials are safe and well-maintained and to bring them as close into compliance as practical, but PARD should not be given the unfettered right to force wholesale removal of long-established memorials. And again, the very fact that existing memorials WILL NOT be grandfathered and the rules will be enforced retroactively throws into question the entire survey.
7	This proposed rule creates a new definition for a term called "Memorialization Space." The term is described as meaning an area of defined boundaries within a burial space in which plants, memorabilia, and other objects may be placed for the purpose of memorializing loved ones." First, it is unclear what the purpose of this proposed rule is and why it is necessary. Lots or plots are small (ranging from 40 inches by 10 ft to 48" by 8 ft depending on the cemetery) and expensive so why is it necessary to define boundaries within a burial space for memorabilia and other objects. And this proposed rule establishes dimensions of the Memorialization Space, which are stated to be 36 inches in length from the top of the space, an undefined width, and a height of 48 inches. It is my strong opinion that an Owner should be able to place plants, memorabilia and other objects to memorializing loved ones within his or her small lot or plot. Second, since four burial spaces exist within a lot or plot for burying the remains of deceased family members, what does "Memorialization Space" mean and how is it applied to a lot or plot that is only 8'x4' and used solely for burying the remains of those four deceased persons? Presumably it means no plants, memorabilia or objects can be placed over the area where the lower two remains are buried. Finally, this is an ambiguous and unclear rule that limits an Owner's ability to place memorabilia when a lot or plot is purchased for remains. This new definition is anything but clear and raises major issues.
7	The memorialization space shall be the boundaries of the plot purchased. There is no need to sub-divide the plot in zones of compliance and zones of violation. It makes no sense when I see how some plots have footers as part of the memorialization. It makes no sense when I see how plants grow in a variety of ways. Defining sub-zones of violation makes no sense if you have a set of plots which define a family's burial site and it makes no sense if there of 4 Remains on one plot.

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8	The term "Care" shall mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the pleasing appearance of the Cemetery. The term "care" shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial or curbing placed or erected upon any burial space; nor the placement of flowers or ornamental plants or shrubs or trees; nor the performing of any special or unusual work for any individual owners.
Rule #	Comment
8	while this is written with AMP in mind you have created a conflict with Oakwood which has curbing, use your Rules that are adopted by council to refer to a set of "Policies" that are more fluid and created at the department level that reflect industry change and the recommendations of things like a master plans that are tailored for each site.
8	"Care" is defined to mean the maintenance of buildings and grounds required to preserve the "pleasing" appearance of the Cemetery. The Comments to Proposed Rule 36 explain that rule eliminated the use of words like "unsightly" or "dilapidated" due to the imprecise definitions of these words. The word "pleasing" is as, if not more, imprecise than the words "unsightly" and "dilapidated." The word "pleasing" should be deleted from Proposed Rule #8. It is adequate to simply "preserve the appearance of the Cemetery."
9	The term "Deteriorated" shall mean items that are faded, decayed, splintered, broken, frayed, or otherwise unserviceable based upon the professional judgment of the Cemetery Administrator.
Rule #	Comment
9	remove the word "professional" it pops out as a word that anyone could challenge. " what professional training in this area do you have?"
9	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
9	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
9	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
9	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
9	If something exists that could pose a hazard, then the owner should be notified in writing and given an opportunity to make repair before any further action is taken.
9	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
9	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
9	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
9	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community.Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
9	What about broken monuments or fencing? Will these be removed.
9	A person should be able to inform the Cemetery Administrator that something is not to be discarded due to it's deterioration, that it is a part of the Memorialization Space. Then, it should only be discarded if it is presenting a safety hazard to the community.

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9	the cemetery administrator should not be czar. i am very upset at the amount of latitude given the cemetery administrator. there definitely should be a board overseeing the administrator. many families cannot get out frequently to see their loved ones memorials. only after a 2-3 month (at least) period of decay should the administrator have power to remove. and perhaps only then with a review by the appointed board to oversee the administrator.
9	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [Â ¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
9	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! Â¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? Â¿DÃ³nde estÃ¡ el consenso? [Â Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
9	Agree.
9	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA' ... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
9	No change
9	I should be told before anything is removed from my son's grave.
9	The term "Deteriorated" shall mean items that are splintered, broken, unserviceable and/or presenting a safety hazard, based upon the professional judgment of the Cemetery Administrator.
9	"Unserviceable" as a term is too broad. A small American flag with a worn out tip should be left in place; this is meaningful. If these items are not a health and safety issue, they should be left alone.
9	Families have the right to be given a notice period within which time they are required to remove damaged or broken items. Otherwise the city can warn families that such items will be removed after the said time limit
9	We ask that the new cemetery rules respect and embrace an aesthetic which includes faded and decayed items for the benefit of families past and present unless they present a hazard to visitors.
9	The only change to that is that permanent, "hard" pieces should be allowed--rocks, unbroken glass figurines.hard plastic that will not blow away. Additionally, perennial plants which will seed out should be allowed to complete that biological process before prune.
9	That should involve a notification and mutual agreement (win win solution) with the mourners. A cemetery is not for entertainment or potential candidacy for Better homes and Gardens features. They are sacred places to mourn loved ones in a personal way.
9	Agreed
9	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
9	Loved ones need to be notified of these rules prior to burial of deceased. We placed a beautiful marble angel that was small on marker only to have it thrown away. It was not faded nor ugly. It was actually very small and very expensive. This was placed on the marble frame of the marker. As long as it is not ripped or faded then I think it should remain. BUT again cemetery needs to inform families of these rules prior to them investing money, emotion and prayers over the item that has a sentimental significance to the deceased and family.
9	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
9	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ³n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ¡n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
9	Ok, although I have concerns about the implementation of this rule given the recent adversarial relationship between PARD and members of the community.
9	The term "Deteriorated" includes the word "faded" along with relevant words like decayed, splintered, broken, frayed or otherwise unserviceable. A decoration can be "faded" without being broken or unserviceable. The word "faded" involves a matter of degree and should be removed from Proposed Rule #9.
9	Faded should be preceded by the word severely.

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10	No person shall be permitted to enter or leave the cemeteries except by the public access gates. The cemeteries will be open to the public during reasonable hours as established by the Cemetery Administrator.
Rule #	Comment
10	
11	The admission of motorcycles to the cemeteries may be refused on the basis of noise or disruption of services.
Rule #	Comment
11	
12	Any unauthorized person found on the cemetery grounds after dark will be considered a trespasser.
Rule #	Comment
12	
13	The use of any cemetery equipment or facilities may be refused at any time to any person or persons.
Rule #	Comment
13	who uses the cemetery equipment ? This needs more thought, what if you have someone out that is a wiccan, a recognized religion who wish's to clarify a grave by burning sage and do some ritual(yes I have seen this at a city cemetery) refer to a policy. that will address tourism, religious acts.....your master plan will address the publics use of the space, remember you are writing for all 5 cemeteries
14	Written authorization from the owner of record of a space, or his or her designated representative or successor in interest, or other proper legal authority, will be required for interment.
Rule #	Comment
14	your terminology should refer to the same verbiage as state law Sec. 711.040. MULTIPLE OWNERS OF PLOT. Two or more owners of a plot may designate a person to represent the plot and file with the cemetery organization written notice of the designation. If notice is not filed, the cemetery organization may inter or permit an interment in the plot at the request or direction of a registered co-owner of the plot. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 634, Sec. 21, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.
15	The Cemetery Administrator shall have the right to schedule the time when interments or disinterment may be conducted.
Rule #	Comment
15	
16	A minimum of twelve (12) working hours before the announced times of the funeral will be required for the preparation of the space.
Rule #	Comment
16	use Internment space, that will cover nitch space in the future and any in ground space.
17	In making a request for interment, the casket or vault, if of unusual size, must be particularly indicated.
Rule #	Comment
17	
18	The Cemetery Administrator shall not be responsible when an error occurs from an order placed by telephone regarding a space location or container size to be used. The Cemetery Administrator reserves the right to make an equitable additional charge whenever additional labor costs result from such mistakes. The Cemetery Administrator shall not be liable for any delay in the interment of a body when a protest to the interment has been made, or where the rules and regulations have not been complied with.
Rule #	Comment
18	
19	Proper authorization as required by local government or public authority having jurisdiction in the matter must be presented to the Cemetery office at the time of interment or disinterment is affected. The Cemetery Administrator shall not be liable for the accuracy of the data contained in said authorization or for the identity of the person to be interred or disinterred.
Rule #	Comment
19	this is a CYA legal sentence. We almost lost XXX to the Texas State Cemetery due to this clause. While of course you are not a judge or police that are required to investigate all claims presented you should CYA by documenting who you are dealing with and have them sign an affidavit of fact. if you do not have two people in the office that are notary's. think about it.
20	All interments, disinterments and re-interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws. The Cemetery Administrator will only be responsible for the opening and closing of the burial space.

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Rule #	Comment
20	use Internment space, that will cover nitch space in the future and any in ground space.
20	This proposed rule continues the existing rule that "internments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided for by the State and local laws." It is my understanding that no funeral director is required to perform an interment by cremation at a cemetery. If that is correct, Proposed Rule #20 should begin: "Except with respect to cremations in the Cemetery...."
21	Burial vaults, either partially or entirely above ground, are prohibited.
Rule #	Comment
21	
22	A permanent type of container, such as a concrete liner or burial vault, is required for adult interments with the exception of cremations.
Rule #	Comment
22	this needs some thought , most cremains we inture are the plastic boxes set in a hole dug by a shovel. What if someone approaches us in the future to disinter a set of cremains and you punch through the plastic box and damage it. Or what if you can not find them? cremains could easily be removed (which would be a felony) by a family member, then they have set you up for a big lawsuit because you LOST their loved one. do cremains have an ID tag inside the box or are we relying on the paper tag taped to the lid? think 50 or 100 years out. while cremation is an affordable option not everyone chooses to inture remains. the added cost for a mini vault could be a deal breaker for some, but it protects the vessel be it a plastic box or an urn, and creates a level of safety and a revenue source.
23	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing, or steps shall not be permitted on or around any space.
Rule #	Comment
23	again this creates an issue for lots at Oakwood and plumbers which are historic burials. You can keep it as written and make it apply to all burials from 1964 forward
23	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
23	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
23	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
23	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
23	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
23	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
23	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
23	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. <u>Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)</u>
23	What about the slabs, curbing, or steps already installed?

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23	What is a slab? I enjoy putting interesting rocks on my father's grave. I hope they will not be considered slabs. I would hate to lose them.
23	again, i feel the purchased property should be decorated at the discretion of the owners. slabs, curbing, steps can be very beautiful and add great character to the memorials
23	Â¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [Â¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
23	Â¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! Â¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? Â¿DÃ³nde estÃ¡ el consenso? [Â Disagree with this rule (government)! Â What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
23	Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.
23	There should be a process that curbing can be installed or repaired at Oakwood.
23	Agree. Although benches should be allowed for personal reflection/meditation.
23	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
23	I think curbing is fine, as it is useful in making an edge for gardens and keeping grass out.
23	If the above items are within the boundaries of the grave site, it should be allowed.
23	Construction or installation of slabs, curbing or steps shall not be permitted to exceed the boundaries of the Burial Space or exceed 1" in height above the normal level of the grounds. They may not prevent access or routine maintenance by grounds personnel.
23	On wet days, a small tasteful slab can be useful to stand on. If such slabs are placed flush to the ground, mowing should not be affected. Perhaps this rule should specify that the slab be flush to the ground.
23	Families have the right to do whatever they wish in a plot they own (say a family plot involving a number of graves). this might include extra slabs.
23	The plots are owned in full by family members. Weâ€™re ask only the allowance to memorialize our loved ones on land we own.
23	I would like to see that rocks and tidy edging be allowed around the perimeter of the grave space.
23	This is fine for "around" the space, but not inside the sacred space.
23	Agreed
23	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
23	I don't understand what you mean by SLABS? Is that the actual cover over the grave that says who is buried there?? Not clear. Curbing or steps I don't know I have only seen benches made of marble but not steps or curbs??
23	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow Â© Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
23	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ¡n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ©cades. There is a common understanding in the law n o that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is Â© cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
23	Insipid jails should be allowed to install steps or ramps to allow for access to their loved one's plot.

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23	Proposed Rule #23 also affects numerous lots or plots in Section 6. This proposed rule prohibits the construction or installation of “slabs, curbing, or steps...on or around any space.” One of the most touching memorials in Section 6 is the burial site of a XXX year XXX month old boy named XXX. The sandbox/play area his parents built and accompanied by children’s toys which is adjacent to his monument clearly violates Rule #23—and it has for 13 years since it was installed. On the following page is a photograph of XXX’s sandbox/play area. And recently members of my family were at Austin Memorial Park and saw children playing in the sandbox. It is a valuable contribution to Section 6. I cannot imagine who is going to stand up in the City and call or write the XXX family and tell them, “Sorry, we adopted new rules this year and you have to remove this curbed sandbox/playground from XXX’s grave site or else we will tear it down and plant grass.” I personally do not care if slabs or curbs are prohibited in the future, but I most definitely do not want any powerful memorial like this to be removed from Austin Memorial Park. Likewise, I do not want the memorial, the bench (it’s not anchored or at the foot of the burial space and it is resting on stones that are not buried in concrete), the screens, and any of the decorations to be removed from the gravesite in Section 6 honoring the Marine, XXX, who died at the age of XXX in the Iraq war. This gravesite violates or arguably violates Proposed Rules 7, 46, 52, 53, 63 and perhaps others. See photograph below of XXX’s gravesite.
23	Slabs, curbing or steps are fine. People visually define a sacred spot in a variety of ways.
24	Only one casket and one cremains will be permitted in each full-size burial space. In the event only cremations are to be utilized in the full-size burial space, a maximum of four interments will be permitted.
Rule #	Comment
24	I like this it allows a spouse to be cremated and placed in the same lot. Are you going to place cremains in the concrete vault or if room allows in the space between the surface and the vault lid. You need to address the size of the monument that will have two names.
24	This proposed rule refers to “full-size burial space” which is part of the definitional problem in Proposed Rule #7. This proposed rule, combined with others, highlights a major issue and flaw in drafting the proposed rules. When the current rules were adopted in the 1970s there were relatively few cremations in comparison to casket burials. That has dramatically changed in the past twenty years. I do not know the percent of cremations at various City cemeteries that are active, but I called Cook-Walden Funeral Home in Austin to find out the percentage of cremations they handle. I was told that city-wide, a total of 40% of the funerals presently handled by Cook-Walden are now cremations. This is relevant because as one reads through the existing and proposed rules (and many of current rules are carried forward or only partially modified) the language reflects that the current rules were drafted primarily to address casket burials—with cremations almost as an afterthought. It appears that cremation or cremains is mentioned in only two of the Proposed Rules—Rules #22 and #24. Obvious examples of this bias are evident in many of the proposed rules. Proposed Rule #20 provides that all interments shall be performed by a funeral director or other person as provided by law, and Proposed Rule #18 which states that the Administrator is not liable for delay in the interment of a “body.” In fact, cremains are given by a funeral home directly to the family of the deceased and the burial or scattering of the cremains does not require a funeral director. Proposed Rule #32 provides that memorials will be centered “at the head of the burial space” but the proposed rules permit four cremation burials on “a full size burial space.” Other proposed rules directly affect the burial of cremains. Memorialization Space contemplates defined boundaries that will impact lots or plots where the cremains of four persons are buried. Another is the new restriction that benches must be placed at the foot of a burial space which significantly affects lots or plots that were purchased for four cremains. Since the trend is toward cremations and that is likely to increase in the next ten years, the proposed rules need to address cremations in a clear and understandable way. It would be helpful to consolidate those rules so this increasingly popular method of burial is not a patch work of scattered and inconsistent rules that in the 1970s when casket burials were the norm.
25	The use of a space is for the interment of the owner or such other person as the owner may designate.
Rule #	Comment
25	goes back to property code, a legal issue that need to be reviewed by your legal department/
26	In the event of the death of an owner, any and all privileges of the owner shall pass according to the laws of the State of Texas.
Rule #	Comment
26	
	The City of Austin shall have the right to establish a charge and time of payment for each interment and disinterment.
Rule #	Comment
27	
	The City of Austin reserves the right to specify the amounts and terms of purchase of all spaces to the original purchaser.
Rule #	Comment
28	
29	In the event an owner sells or conveys a space or spaces, a record of such sale or conveyance must be provided to the City of Austin.

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Rule #	Comment
29	
30	When a disinterment is accomplished for the purpose of re-interment within the same cemetery, the current price of the vacated space, less 25%, shall be allowed as payment toward the new purchase. The established charge for opening and closing each space will be in addition to the price of the new space.
Rule #	Comment
30	
31	All memorials shall be installed and maintained at the expense of the owner.
Rule #	Comment
31	
32	Only one memorial will be permitted on one burial space. A companion or family memorial may be placed upon two or more burial spaces. Memorials will be placed in alignment with adjacent memorials and centered at the head of the burial space. The actual location for memorials will be determined by cemetery personnel.
Rule #	Comment
32	the placement of bronze military markers set as foot stones Could be allowed. This addresses those freebie
33	Space or lot corner markers will be set flush with the turf.
Rule #	Comment
33	markers that the family orders that you do not know what to do with. Set them in concrete to prevent theft and insure they don't drift up and create a trip hazard or damage equipment,
34	<p>Flush type Memorials—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The marking of each burial space in areas designated for flush type memorials is restricted and limited to memorials set flush with the turf, and of such dimensions, materials, design, finish and construction as indicated in this section. -Flush type memorials shall be made of granite marble or cast bronze installed on granite, marble or concrete base. Granite and marble memorials and bases shall have smooth sides and bottoms and a minimum thickness of four inches (4"). -Concrete bases shall have a minimum thickness of six inches (6") and shall be smooth on all sides. -All flush memorials shall be set on a minimum of two inches (2") of sand for cushioning and leveling. -The length of flush type memorials shall be at least ten inches (10") less than the burial space width.
Rule #	Comment
34	
35	<p>Above Ground Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In areas of the cemetery not specifically designated for flush type memorials, either an above ground or flush type memorial may be used. -All above ground memorials shall be of marble, granite or similar permanent type stone. -Memorials used above the ground level to mark a grave shall not exceed the following dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --The base shall not exceed 18 inches (18") in width --The overall height shall not exceed 42 inches (42"). --The length shall be at least ten inches less than the burial space width
Rule #	Comment
35	Proposed Rule #35 provides that all above ground memorials must be made of marble, granite, or similar permanent type stone. This was not required in the past because many of the monuments in Austin's older cemeteries were made of limestone. And since the existing 1970s rules were adopted, new materials, composites, and methods of construction or firing have been developed that cause currently available materials to be strong—sufficiently strong that they are used regularly in construction projects. And beautiful memorials presently exist at Austin Memorial Cemetery that are made from limestone, wood, tile-type material and various metals. A rule that limits monuments to be made only out of marble, granite or similar stone is outdated. We need to allow Owners the opportunity to use a range of materials for monuments. The way to address this and provide flexibility is to include a sentence in Rule #35 that if a memorial is broken or becomes a hazard to the safety of persons, the Administrator has the power to require the Owner to repair or replace the monument or otherwise the Administrator can remove the memorial. Rule #35 also provides limits for the size of memorials, including that the base shall not exceed 18 inches in width. Obviously, in walking through any of the Austin cemeteries, a high percentage of monuments are much wider than 18 inches Nothing is said in this rule about how this dimension applies if an Owner has two or three adjacent lots or plots. Perhaps there is some unwritten rule that allows wider monuments if the Owner owns adjacent lots.

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36	Should any memorial become a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemetery, the Cemetery Administrator has the right to correct the condition or remove the memorial. If the Cemetery Administrator determines that a memorial must be removed, he or she shall attempt to contact the owner to advise him or her of the required removal and the associated expense. If cemetery personnel have contact information for the owner available within their contact management systems, they shall attempt to contact the owner using such contact information. If cemetery personnel do not possess contact information for the owner, they shall make a reasonable attempt to find such information and they will place notice on the space. The Cemetery Administrator shall consult as required with the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission concerning alterations to, or removal of, memorials. The expense associated with removing or repairing memorials may be charged to the owner.
Rule #	Comment
36	The City should replace old fallen monuments at City expense (against state law).
36	work to define abandoned property rules for monuments, just posting at the gravesite may not be good enough, what if they only come out once a year? Public notice in newspaper may be required
36	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
36	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED.Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
36	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
36	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
36	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
36	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
36	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
36	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
36	if a memorial is TRULY hazardous.....this sounds ok. as far as charging to the owner: Sec. 713.011. MAINTENANCE OF MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES. (a) A municipality that operates or has jurisdiction over a public cemetery shall maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare. (b) A municipality's responsibility to maintain a cemetery under this section includes: (1) repairing and maintaining any fences, walls, buildings, roads, or other improvements; (2) leveling or straightening markers or memorials; (3) properly maintaining lawns, shrubbery, and other plants.
36	Â¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [Â ¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
36	Â¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! Â¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? Â¿DÃ³nde estÃ¡ el consenso? [Â Disagree with this rule (government)! Â What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
36	Agree.

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36	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
36	No time is specified for trying to locate the owner. I suggest 30 days.
36	I agree all efforts need to be made to contact the owner before anything is removed.
36	Health and safety are paramount. However, what constitutes a hazard/ A small shrub? A wind chime?
36	Yes - owners should be contacted within a decent time frame should any item be considered a hazard. However if families are only permitted to do as they wish within a family owned plot - then there is no hazard - unless something has been blown onto an adjoining path
36	The owner or designates should be contacted. Dangerous items should be removed with permission.
36	Sounds reasonable. Hopefully each owner is invited to have another party to advocate/contact him/her before action is taken
36	Headstones need to be kept upright (not sunken, not tilted) and paid for by whoever is maintaining them. If it is a major item, it could be negotiated with the family but the maintenance/manager is responsible for upkeep and keeping everything up to "par!"
36	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
36	If it is a hazard I understand and yes please inform families of issue prior to taking action. I do agree if you cannot reach family that a judgement call will need to be made by Administrator.
36	Administrators come and go, so leaving a letter for the justification of the removal/s in the file would allow owner discussions when dealing with subsequent administrators.
36	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
36	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
36	Yes.
36	How is this expense determined? it there going to be a cap? What are the consequences if the owner refuses to pay?
36shall attempt to contact the owner to advise him or her of the required removal, the associated expense, the date by which the removal needs to happen and give the owner the option to remove it themselves or have the Cemetery Administrator remove it for the stated fee. [Note: how long will the notice on the space be posted? If something is somehow "extremely dangerous" the time duration would naturally be shorter than if it is a generic hazard]
37	The size of concrete foundations for all above ground memorials shall be 1" larger in length and width than the size of the base.
Rule #	Comment
37	
38	The top of concrete foundations shall be from 1" to 2" below the top of the ground to allow for adding cement grout to level the memorial base.
Rule #	Comment
38	
39	Concrete foundations shall be a minimum of 8" thick and have perpendicular sides and flat bottom.
Rule #	Comment
39	

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40	Excavations for foundations for above ground memorials shall be a minimum of 10" deep from the top of the ground. If the memorial base is two feet (2') or more in length, there shall be one 6" diameter round hole dug 18" deep (or to rock) below the bottom of the excavation at each end of the excavation.
Rule #	Comment
40	
41	Concrete for all memorial foundations shall be 1 part cement, 2 parts sand and 4 parts gravel.
Rule #	Comment
41	
42	Memorial dealers shall abide by all the rules and regulations of the Cemeteries.
Rule #	Comment
42	
43	The Cemetery Administrator reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.
Rule #	Comment
43	the proposed confederate monument comes to mind. There needs to be an appeal process if the admin. Rejects a monument. You do not require approval before the families order a stone, you do not sell stones, to come in after the fact and tell someone NO after they spent all of that \$\$ paints you as the bad guy in the media this needs a rework
43	#43 'the cemetery administrator reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions & foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries'. YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! NO ONE SHOULD HAVE THIS KIND OF POWER. again, only with review by a cemetery board to oversee the supervisor should this be allowed!
43	This rule provides that the Cemetery Administrator reserves the right "to approve the size, craftsmanship quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries." First, why should the Cemetery Administrator have the right to approve the "inscription" a family chooses to place on a memorial of a loved. If the purpose of that particular provision is to prevent profane or disrespectful language being used on a monument, then that is already covered in Proposed Rule 57 which prohibits "profane or offensive language, conduct or materials" on cemetery property. But the word "materials" appears unnecessary since that issue is addressed in detailed in other rules. Likewise, why is "size" to be approved by the Administrator in Proposed Rule 43? There are detailed rules regarding size (some of which are confusing). Finally, has "craftsmanship" quality ever been an issue in Austin cemeteries? In any event, craftsmanship is protected in Proposed Rule 36 which provides that if a memorial becomes a hazard to the safety of persons, the Administrator has the right to correct the condition or remove the memorial.
44	Memorial dealers engaged in placing or erecting memorials or other structures are prohibited from scattering their material over adjoining spaces, or from blocking roads or walks, or from leaving their material on the grounds longer than is necessary. Damage done to spaces, walks, drives, trees, shrubs or other property shall be repaired at the expense of the memorial dealer, to the satisfaction of the Cemetery Administrator.
Rule #	Comment
44	
45	Work of any nature may be stopped if proper preparations have not been made; or when work is being done in such a manner as to endanger life or property; or when there is evidence of misrepresentation; or when work is not being executed according to specifications; or when any reasonable request on the part of the Cemetery Administrator is disregarded; or when any person employed in the monument work violates any rule of the cemeteries.
Rule #	Comment
45	
46	The Memorialization Space is for the purpose of memorializing loved ones, is located within the burial space, and shall not exceed the following dimensions: - 36 inches (36") in length from the top of the space - The width of the space - 48 inches (48") in height
Rule #	Comment
46	Useable width space minus 10"for burial space separation (5" on each side).
46	I do not agree with any of this, its opens you up to policing the rule and others constantly coming in the office to report others.
46	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
46	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
46	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]

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46	<p>¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]</p>
46	<p>NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!" ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..</p>
46	<p>NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex</p>
46	<p>NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO...https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.</p>
46	<p>NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)</p>
46	<p>What about family plots?</p>
46	<p>I think the height rule is unreasonable. It should include the possibiltiy of a memorial tree or birdfeeder.</p>
46	<p>The space should be smaller. This would allow someone with a cremation space or a baby's grave to be completely covered with stuff hanging from the trees (which should not be allowed).</p>
46	<p>outrageous. it should include the entire dimension of the purchased land. if each burial area is 3 feet by 8 for 1 burial or 4 cremations, that entire area should be available for the family to decorate & maintain.</p>
46	<p>¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]</p>
46	<p>¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? ¿DÃ³nde estÃ© el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]</p>
46	<p>Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.</p>
46	<p>Agree.</p>
46	<p>NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ­ a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]</p>
46	<p>I think the entire burial space, which is privately owned by plot owners, should be allowable for memorializations.</p>
46	<p>I should be allowed to use the entire space that I own.</p>
46	<p>The Memorialization Space shall not exceed the dimensions of the area of the Burial Space or prevent the safe maintenance or upkeep of the immediately surrounding area.</p>
46	<p>Does the 36" space include the headstone? This is too small. Also, does this width include slabs that are flush to the ground?</p>
46	<p>The Memorialization Space should be the dimensions of the entire plot! It is owned by the family and they should be able to use the entire space for whatever memorialization they want to install.</p>
46	<p>Drop the height and length restrictions - they dont make sense.. Give families the right to do what they feel is appropriate on a grave or in a plot - as a way of honoring departed loved ones.</p>
46	<p>The "Memorialization Space" should be revised to include the entirety of the burial space, not just on a designated area within the burial space as specified by the city. The plots are owned in full by family members who are only asking allowance to memorialize their loved ones on land they own.</p>
46	<p>The memorialization space should include the entirety of the grave. Limiting the space alters the aesthetic that has evolved at Austin Memorial Park and those graves with memorials should be allowed to keep the memorials and gardens.</p>
46	<p>Ok</p>
46	<p>N/A - not sure about space limits... but having a sofa or a porch swing, etc., certainly exceeds the space and these items have been an eyesore, not respectful to the dead and an eyesore to the public (and to the beautiful landscape that could be there honoring all of the deceased.)</p>

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46	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
46	I have a loved one buried at Assumption Cemetary and I see other people who put silk or plastic flowers around the grave area. I don't have an issue with that. I did it though when my loved on was first buried and they were taken away as other were able to keep theirs. My loved on is my Dad and was a Vietnam and US Air Force Service man who died in 2007. We have a beautiful marker for him.
46	I really do not see any good reason to not leave things as they have been for the last however many years. I would think that you would at least grandfather in any upgrades that were in effect when whoever decided to make a change.
46	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
46	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ¡n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
46	This is inappropriately restrictive. It has been a tradition for centuries for Texans to memorialize loved ones by planting favorite flowers, sometimes quite large (indeed, this has led to the preservation of plants that have been recognized to be particularly suitable to growing in Texas). I would suggest a much more expansive memorialization Space, perhaps 7 feet long by 5 feet wide by 7 feet tall.
46	See my response to #1. While this may be serviceable applied to new gravesites (and only if the owners are properly and promptly notified of these rules), I fail to see how this is going to ease maintenance. If a family follows the rules, placing a memorial space at the top of the grave and a small bench at the base, that means PARD employees not only have to maintain and water the odd swatch in between, they have to somehow maneuver a lawn mower between the memorial space and the bench without damaging either. And this is assuming that PARD even manages to plant, water, and maintain grass in that small swath (see my response to #20 about the folly of even trying to promote a lush green lawn in the middle of a severe drought and watering restrictions). If the family is allowed to memorialize the entire gravesite, that is one less plot for PARD to maintain and less to water and mow. Better to allow families, if they wish, to memorialize the entire gravesite (within the limitations set out in these rules and with assistance from the Austin Grow Green program), then this piecemeal approach which will satisfy no one and will even complicate maintenance.
46	The Memorialization Space is the dimensions of the burial space. There is no need to make a rule which says that the relatives buried on the upper 36" of a plot can have some memorializing objects, but the relatives buried in the lower portion of the plot may not. A plot is a plot, and I may have up to 4 Creains on that plot. This is not a mowing field. I'm guessing that the purpose of this line of thinking is that a cemetery should be a field of St. Augustine grass which is mowed by large machines and irrigated thoroughly. That is not the only way to manage a cemetery, nor has it been that way historically. And nor can we necessarily expect that we will be able to afford to pour that much water on our cemeteries in Texas in the future, due to drought and climate change. It is, however, traditional in many historical Texas cemeteries to have memorialization spires, pedestals and cenotaphs which are higher than 48".
47	Owners may place plants, memorabilia, and other objects within the boundaries of their Memorialization Space. All items must be firmly anchored to secure and prevent the item or any parts of that item from leaning, falling over, breaking or blowing outside of the confines of the space. The Cemetery reserves the right to move or remove items that fall outside the Memorialization Space.
Rule #	Comment

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47	Why not encourage people to plant water-wise native plants, xeriscaping - in drought it is ridiculous to try to maintain wasteful grass. While the proposal memorialization space will work for new graves (and only if PARD ensures all new grave holders are properly notified of the rules), it is not workable for existing sites. the notes say no grandfathering, but there are beautiful, well maintained gravesite gardens and borders that have been in place for years. There is no way to remove these memorials without desecrating/violating the grave. For example, my sister-in-law in 2006 installed a xeroscape garden and limestone border around her daughter's grave (only TWICE after calling PARD and getting no response). One reason people created these gravesite gardens is because they were disgusted to find footprints and tire tracks on their loved ones graves (this happened TWICE to my niece's grave with DEEP tire tracks). Austin is in severe draught and will continue in severe draught. It is ridiculous to pretend there is ever going to be lush green grass again. In most places, the grass is completely gone after a rain, most of the grass is simply weeds. You force people to take out the gardens, all that will be left on the graves is dry dirt and scattered weeds. Not only will this be far less sightly, it will result in dust, loss of topsoil, again people finding tire tracks and footprints on graves.
47	while I recognize the grieving process, and being that you have conceded and the media has shown the public the concept, you can limit the time that these items are placed, lets say 18 mos. from the date of internment, headstones may take 4 mos.? before they are ordered, delivered and set. the real question is who is placing all of this stuff and what is the common theme of which graves are decorated? I'm guessing its children's graves or young adults. NOT grandparents or spouses. the problem is the people who do most of the decorating are not property owners but friends who don't know better.
47	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
47	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
47	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
47	¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
47	NO TO THIS, THESE RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to the STAKEHOLDERS..
47	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex.
47	There should be a communication to the owner, designee or loved one of the proposed removing of items. Also in the event that the issue was created by natural disaster or other means how will this be addressed?
47	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
47	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
47	again the Memorial Space should allow for a tree that may hang over another grave, or that would grow taller than the limit.
47	Flimsy plastic items and soggy stuffed animals are the worst offenders, and should be barred, although I don't know how to word that exactly.
47	each memorialization space should be the entire land owned by the stakeholder (3x8?).
47	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [NO to all these rules of TO!]
47	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
47	Memorabilia and objects are too broad of terms to use when referring to what may be placed on a plot. This needs to have more limits. Some items should be in memorials at homes rather than in the public cemetery.
47	Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.

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47	Agree. Although any good cemetery admin would return the "offending" article to its original place.
47	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
47	No change
47	Owner should be contacted before any removal.
47	...within the boundaries of their Burial Space. The Cemetery reserves the right to move or remove items that fall outside the Burial Space.
47	Fair enough - families should be required to place or plant items that will remain within the Memorialization space.
47	I want the memorialization space to span the entirety of the grave. Items should be anchored.
47	Tthe committee fixes the situation before taking action with reasonable costs to the owner after the owner is notified to take timely action.
47	A rule should be established and perhaps an item for sale by the maintenance manager... like a giant U pin to hold artificial flower in place or an acceptable vase available to each family. Memorabilia, no! Toys, cherubs, windchimes, boats, columns, birdbaths? I was seriously thinking of installing a burnt orange tent with battery operated twinkle lights and two directors chairs and a carpet runway after seeing what all was in Memorial! And, this was after someone had removed a nosegay in front of my parents' headstone --my nosegay being 6" in diameter.
47	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
47	We have always kept my Dad burial area neat and beautiful. He has a stand that we can place flowers and flags inside. He has plenty of space around the marble area to place small symbolic items. Sometime the wind may blow over the other American Flags placed around his grave marker and I think as long as it is not torn or trashy looking it should not be thrown away if the wind has obviously knock it over.
47	Allow planting of drought resistant plants and flowers, the erection of bird houses, the additions of flags on special days, and the Jewish tradition of placing rocks.
47	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ@spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
47	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ©cades. There is a common understanding in the law n e that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
47	Ok
47	See my response to #5.
47	Owners my place plants, memorabilia, and other objects within the boundaries of their burial space. [period]. All items at our cemeteries are not firmly anchored. They are not. Have you seen the Jewish section? Have you seen the end of the movie Schindler's List? It is a Jewish tradition that visitors place a pebble or small stone on the burial area of a loved one to mark a visit. It has been this way the world over for who knows how many years and this will not change by making a rule to forbid it. A lot of memorabilia by its nature, is not "firmly anchored". There are a variety of expressions possible, and it should be encouraged. If the issue is litter, let's deal with the issue. How might we deal with the issue of objects that have clearly ceased to be functional memorialization items and have indeed become litter? There are any number of ways we might deal with that. Creating a culture of "It's My Park" with signs outlining how visitors can pitch in and deposit obvious litter into the available trash cans is one. Giving the Cemetery the right to move or remove items that fall outside the burial space is certainly another.
48	The Memorialization Space shall not be used for the storage of maintenance items such as water hoses or sprinkler cans.
Rule #	Comment
48	common sense
48	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.

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48	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO...https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
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48	no changes.
48	I think this is unreasonable. These things are part of the interaction between family members and the Memorial Space. Only the Owners can determine what is part of the Memorial Space and what is in storage. Others must respect the space.
48	tastefully stored items to help maintain the plot should be allowed
48	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
48	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
48	Agree.
48	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas.
48	I believe maintenance items like hoses and sprinkler cans for watering are reasonable and should not be banned.
48	If the above items do not cause a safety hazard , it should be allowed.
48	A small watering can placed carefully under a plant is not a problem.
48	Fair enough
48	I agree.
48	That these items if usable on premises are aesthetically placed within the plot.
48	I agree. I haul my hose to water. I have to move the bench that someone else has placed in my "Memorialization Space". Visitors to cemeteries in California, see a respectful, beautiful landscape. Maintenance should have guidelines. In Oakwood, I would bring my own hose; I would be glad to volunteer to water---but I understood the handles have been stolen because they are brass and that removing the spigots might be next? This cemetery needs trees donated and volunteer watering people. It should be saved and beautiful.
48	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
48	It is nice if there is a water hose in the area of the grave as long as it is neatly rolled up. I see no problem with that. We in the past have brought one and unhook it but sometimes others leave their for all to use. It keeps the lawn nice and looks beautiful for the upkeep. I think people should bring their sprinkler cans, garden shears and then take them back with them and store in the trunk of their cars like we do. But site should not be a STORAGE AREA by no means.

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48	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â © Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?
48	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ³n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ¡n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
48	Ok
48	Where are we to store maintenance items? I have a neighbor near our family plot who keeps a watering can under their bench down at the base of a stand of trees. It's always available, hidden, convenient, and allows me to water my plants and the plants of those around me while I'm at it. There is also a water hose located behind a headstone near a water outlet nearby. Without that hose stored there, the flowers in my area would not be watered near enough to survive. It won't work for every person to have to lug in a hose and a watering can each visit. One can in my area serves many of us without any issues. Is there a watering can issue going on that this rule is required to address? It's going to have an impact on me if my water source is less convenient, that's for sure. If we can't store them near our plots, can we store them at some tool chest located in each region of the Cemetery? That might work somewhat, but it would add cost, complexity and maintenance issues to implement. I'm wondering if there is a problem to be solved here, or if this is a rule just in case someone piles up a bunch of watering cans on the plot of their loved one.
49	No person may alter the landscape outside of the Memorialization Space. Specifically, digging holes and constructing mounds outside the Memorialization Space shall not be permitted.
Rule #	Comment
49	you will need to have training for the staff that makes it very clear that items removed are placed in a dumpster and not taken home or sold. If you do not manage the disposal You open yourself up to one employee destroying the trust the public has placed in you over salvaging a little statue.
49	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
49	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
49	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
49	Â¿No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
49	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
49	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex

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49	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
49	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
49	no changes.
49	OK
49	the memorialization space should be the ENTIRE 3x8 (?) area owned by the family.
49	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
49	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
49	Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.
49	Agree.
49	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÍ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas.
49	No change, so long as benches are allowed (rule #9)
49	I should be able to plant on the entire space of the grave site.
49	...outside of the Memorialization Space, which shall coincide with the bounds of the Burial Space itself, shall not be permitted.
49	This would limit what a group of people may want to do to enhance the space.
49	Fair enough.
49	As long as the memorialization space spans the entirety of the grave, this is appropriate. Limiting the memorialization space limits free use of owners' land and limits expression of memorialization , which negates the aesthetic of the cemetery as it has evolved in past decades.
49	Fine.
49	If a family wants to donate trees, this could be a big plus. I know I could get oleanders donated for the entry and, perhaps, boundary of Memorial but I am told that they would have to be equally divided (or at least the money would). It could be so lovely---like LA
49	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
49	I agree with this.
49	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÍ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razón) sagrada y se deberán tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacésped(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberán prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios históricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades históricas estatales. Siga poniéndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. ¿No por qué tener un sitio web en español como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacésped Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. © Not out why having a website in español as speakup-azusa?]
49	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÍ lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante décadas. Hay un entendimiento común en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estatales que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas están de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuirán mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÍ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during decades. There is a common understanding in the law that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is not agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules not Decrease maintenance substantially.]

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Rule #	Comment
50	The only items that may be placed outside of the Memorialization Space are chairs or benches with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator (reference Rule #54) and temporary funeral floral pieces (reference Rule #64).
50	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
50	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
50	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
50	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
50	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
50	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
50	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
50	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
50	no changes
50	OK
50	benches should NOT have to be approved by the cemetery administrator. otherwise i have no problem with this rule.
50	Â¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [Â ¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
50	Â¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! Â¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? Â¿DÃ³nde estÃ¡ el consenso? [Â Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
50	The public walk areas that are used to gain access to burial areas should not be blocked by chairs or benches. It is especially important to maintain an open walk area for safety and to provide access for those that are elderly or handicapped.
50	Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.
50	Agree.
50	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ¡- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
50	I strongly agree that benches or other seating should be allowed.
50	I agree benches should be allowed since there is no other seating.
50	Fair enough
50	I would like to see that wind chimes, bird houses and the like be allowed in trees, as long as they are placed high enough to prevent employees and visitors from being hit on the head, or elsewhere.
50	Fine.
50	I agree with someone that said that benches should be purchased. Wrought iron (or another medium) but matching (!) benches should be placed throughout... or maybe concrete benches in certain distinct areas. This should be paid for by the park management company (or city)
50	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]

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50	I agree with this. But as long as the floral pieces (silk, plastic type) still look fresh then they should remain. If torn or messy looking then they should be removed.
50	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ-espaldas(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ-ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ-ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ-ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
50	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃºn en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ¡n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³l subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ©cades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
50	Chairs and benches should be approved by default, and only not allowed if they are deemed unsafe or prevent access to a different plot.
50	Any rule requiring the approval of the Cemetery Administrator must provide that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and, if the Cemetery Director denies the request, he or she must provide the requestor the reasons for the denial in writing. Otherwise, you can end up with the requests being denied arbitrarily or unfairly or the level of granting such requests changing with each new Cemetery Director. Also, is the Master Plan looking at the city placing benches as well? These cemeteries are city parks and benches should be part of the provided amenities. If the city provided adequate benches, many families would not see the need to do so. (I also wonder whether the lack of benches may raise some sort of ADA compliance issue.)
50	the Memorialization space should be the same as the burial space. So no need for this. Chairs and benches that are located outside of someone's burial space, but are not infringing on other burial spaces which have been sold to owners are all fine. If it's open space next door and someone has a bench there to sit and contemplate, that is appropriate use of a cemetery.
51	Owners must maintain and care for any plants located within the Memorialization Space, including weeding, trimming or pruning, and promptly remove any dead or dying plants or any portions of plants that spread outside of the Memorialization Space.
Rule #	Comment
51	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
51	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
51	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
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51	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
51	There should be a communication to the owner, designee or loved one of the proposed removing of items. Also in the event that the issue was created by natural disaster or other means how will this be addressed?

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51	<p>NO to these CoA rules.</p> <p>Consider rules of city like Boulder CO...https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website)</p> <p>Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations</p> <p>The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.)</p> <p>Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.)</p> <p>For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.)</p> <p>Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.)</p> <p>Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph.</p> <p>You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.</p>
51	<p>NO TO THESE RULES.</p> <p>The RULES should reflect the statement:</p> <p>Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community.</p> <p>Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)</p>
51	<p>again the Memorial Space should allow for a tree that may hang over another grave, or that would grow taller than the limit.</p>
51	<p>Flimsy plastic items and soggy stuffed animals are the worst offenders, and should be barred, although I don't know how to word that exactly.</p>
51	<p>each memorialization space should be the entire land owned by the stakeholder (3x8?).</p>
51	<p>¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]</p>
51	<p>¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]</p>
51	<p>Memorabilia and objects are too broad of terms to use when referring to what may be placed on a plot. This needs to have more limits. Some items should be in memorials at homes rather than in the public cemetery.</p>
51	<p>Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis.</p>
51	<p>RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.</p>
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51	<p>NO to proposed RULE.</p> <p>Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name?</p> <p>Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name.</p> <p>Austin Memorial PARK cemetery.....</p> <p>Evergreen Cemetery.....</p> <p>Oakwood Cemetery Annex</p>
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51	no changes.
51	Except for trees that may hang over. I think trees would enhance the neighboring Spaces.
51	I agree with this. with the stipulation that the memorialization space should be the entire 3x8 (?) space owned by the family.
51	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
51	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿nde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
51	What will happen should the owner fail to maintain their area???
51	Agree.
51	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÍ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
51	No change
51	I want to be contacted before anything is removed from my property and should be allowed to plant on the entire gravesite. I have always maintained my 4 year old son's
51	Yes, owners should maintain the plants. This is not a problem.
51	Fair enough
51	There will need to be the understanding that perennial plants undergo a cycle during the growing season and that there might be a period of time, during seed development, that the plant is not in bloom. As long as there is seasonal maintenance, this is fine.
51	Owners or their agents.
51	Since we are not allowed to plant....it would be great to be able to plant shrubs of a certain height on either side of the headstones.
51	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
51	Yes I agree with this. Although we try to keep the grass from growing over my Dad's marker. We even put beautiful small white rocks around my Dad's marker to keep the grass from growing over but they were removed. We are trying to figure a way for the grass not to grow over the marble frame of his marker at this time.
51	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÍ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razón) sagrada y se deberán tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacéspedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberán prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios históricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades históricas estatales. Siga poniéndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. ¿No por qué tener un sitio web en español como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacésped Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow Yes ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Yes Not out why having a website in español as speakup-azusa?]
51	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÍ lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante décadas. Hay un entendimiento común en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estatales que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas están de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuirán mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÍ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during decades. There is a common understanding in the law that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is not agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules will not Decrease maintenance substantially.]
51	I feel that there needs to be different language regarding removal of plants that spread outside the Memorialization Space (especially given the proposed small dimensions of that space). It would not be aesthetically pleasing to hedge trim certain plants in the proposed fashion, but I do agree with the need to allow for maintenance personnel to prevent invasive or weedy spread of plants from the private property of the plots to common areas.
51	Again, the city needs to encourage xeriscape gardens as much as possible. I suggest the following: All plantings must be drought- and freeze-resistant, native or adapted, low- or no-maintenance, and be selected from plants recommended by the City of Austin's Grow Green Native and Adapted Landscape Plants guide. Plants with thorns or spines, invasive or non-adapted plants, or plants that can spread through a rhizome or root system outside of the grave site are not permitted. Space owner or holder must maintain the garden, including weeding, trimming or pruning, and promptly removing any dead or dying plants or any plants spreading outside of the garden
52	Owners are responsible for watering any plants they place within the Memorialization Space. They may water by hand only and they may leave privately owned hoses at water spigots within the cemetery. Owners shall coil these hoses at the spigot when not in use.
52	no personal hoses should be left onsite. They are a trip hazard. you have to move it when you mow. do all of your hose bibs have the required backflow preventers? No other cemetery allows the public to come use the city's water free of charge If you want to come out and water bring your hose then take it home. Hoses found onsite un attended will be disposed of

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52	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
52	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
52	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
52	¿No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
52	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
52	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... <u>Oakwood Cemetery Annex</u>
52	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
52	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
52	This is reasonable. But I do not think the uncoiled hoses should be discarded. Sometimes it is not the Owner who last used the hose. Is this not included in the maintenance provided by the cemetery?
52	this is ok.
52	Are privately owned hoses, which are left on the cemetery grounds, available freely for use by non-owners? How many hoses per spigot?
52	¿NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [No to all these rules of TO!]
52	¿Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
52	Owners should be able to water with personal sprinkler/hose as long as within requirements of the City of Austin current watering rules and are in attendance during such time.
52	Agree.
52	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÍ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas.
52	I think watering hoses and sprinkler cans should be allowed at individual plots to make plant maintenance easier.
52	none
52	fair enough
52	I agree.
52	That sounds reasonable, negating previous comment of hoses placed discretely on the plot.
52	No, I water by hand; we bring our hose each time. You could have thirty or more coiled hoses at a time!
52	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas.[The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
52	I agree with this one hundred percent.

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52	<p>Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÁ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÁ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÁ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÁ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÁ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes Las nuevas normas no disminuciÁ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÁ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÁ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]</p>
52	<p>This does not allow for the ecologically sound, waterwise practice of drip irrigation.</p>
52	<p>And Proposed Rule 52 prohibits balloons, among a list of other things such as glass, paper, and plush or stuffed animals. I cannot think of one reason why anyone would want rules that prohibit a family from placing a balloon or stuffed animal on a loved one’s grave on his or her birthday. Rule 52 doesn’t say, as I think might be reasonable, that a balloon cannot remain on a grave site for over some period of time such as 30 days. But Proposed Rule 52 starkly provides these items “are not permitted anywhere on cemetery property and shall be immediately removed by cemetery personnel.” Is this really how we want Austin cemeteries to be operated? The photograph below of a birthday balloon was taken recently in Section 6 and the moving tribute to XXX with stuffed dolls and animals is in the nursery area of Section 11 in Austin Memorial Cemetery. Stuffed dolls and animals, as well as glass sculptures, are prevalent in the nursery area of Section 11. These types of tributes not only honor the deceased, they are a way that families express their grief about the loss of a family member. To adopt a rigid rule to prohibit these types of memorabilia and tributes would in my opinion simply be callous and unconscionable. I think the bottom line is that we need to seriously reassess and change Proposed Rule 52.</p>
53	<p>The following materials or objects are not permitted anywhere on cemetery property and shall be immediately removed by cemetery personnel :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plush or stuffed animals - Glass - Paper - Cardboard - Balloons - Styrofoam - Clothing or other non-water resistant fabric - Items of an offensive or profane nature - Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs - Tobacco Products - Weapons (except as permitted by Rule #60) - Any item that constitutes a safety hazard based upon the professional judgment of the Cemetery Administrator
Rule #	Comment
53	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED.DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
53	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
53	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
53	Â¿No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]

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53	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
53	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
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53	no changes.
53	I think that these items are meant to be in the Memorial Spaces only temporarily. I think the Cemetery Administrator should not remove them "immediately". But wait until they truly disintegrate, not after just a bit of deterioration. These are important parts of the Memorial Space. What is a weapon? A sling-shot? I think that any item should be allowed in the Space, except those that pose a safety hazard.
53	NO NO NO. stuffed animals, glass, paper, cardboard, balloons, other non-water resistant fabric SHOULD NOT BE PROHIBITED. they are gifts of love & personalization & attention & have deep heartfelt value for the families that place them in their spaces. the rest of this rule is ok. although again, i shudder at the power of the cemetery administrator. another reason for having a cemetery board to review his/her decisions before they are carried out.
53	Poorly worded. Bad English.
53	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
53	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿nde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
53	Rocks placed around public areas should be added to the list above.
53	Agree on drugs, alcohol, weapons, tobacco, styrofoam. DISAGREE on Clothing and stuffed animals. If properly secured and replaced when worn and faded these items should be allowed.
53	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... Sã- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
53	No change
53	As long as the items are not a safety hazard , I should be able to place anything on my property.
53	What is the problem with plush or stuffed animals? If they must be removed, must it be immediate?
53	Disagree. Let families use their memorialization spaces as they choose or find appropriate.
53	I would like an allowance for small glass or ceramics, as long as they are not broken and are firmly in the grave. Otherwise, I agree.
53	Some of these items could be allowed on a temporary basis like post funeral floral displays.
53	Yes, please no windchimes, no pinwheels, no toys, no stuffed animals---permanent flowers, permanent greenery. Placement at holidays or seasonal of flowers (in accordance to the season), flags on Memorial Day, Veterans Day. Families should have to remove the flags at the end of that month.
53	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
53	I agree with this except may the type of balloons that are small with the stick attached to them that say I love you. Small enough that the can fit into the planter of flowers with the flags. The type that don't deflate but are small.
53	Are these new restrictions necessary? I do understand that "you" say that these rules have always been on the books, but when rules are not enforced for as long as these, they need to go away! Fewer rules and regulations are what is called for, not more.

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53	I would limit banned substances to illegal drugs, weapons, and safety hazards.
54	Dead plants, deteriorated items, and non-permitted material and objects shall be removed from cemetery property on the first Tuesday of each month.
Rule #	Comment
54	Needs to be picked up daily as you see deteriorating items not only on the first Tuesday of each month
54	word this for the first week of the month. You have 5 cemeteries you can not process all five in one day when you list "Tuesday" you set a bar that someone could hold you too. Refer the rule to a policy that suggest a schedule but acknowledge that weather and holidays will upset the schedule
54	I thought non-permitted items were picked up immediately?
54	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
54	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED.Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
54	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
54	Â¿No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
54	Before removing deteriorated items and non-permitted material, the owner must be notified in writing and given the opportunity to remove these items.
54	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
54	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex

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54	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
54	no changes.
54	The Cemetery Admin. should be trying to get in touch with the Owner of the Space. I think he or she will need more than a month to give this a try. If a note is left at the Space for the Owner to find, it may not be found in one month. I think the time period should be lengthened. Unless the item is unsafe.
54	There's nothing wrong with the rule, but there's no way to enforce it unless the cemetery caretakers do a lot more than they are doing now.
54	i do NOT believe that deteriorated items and dead plants should removed except perhaps every 4 months. give the families a chance to act. once a quarter should be enough.
54	By whom?
54	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
54	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [I Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
54	This conflicts with the rule in Question #11, which says that non-permitted objects will be removed immediately. I have no preference--just noting the inconsistency.
54	Agree.
54	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÍ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
54	No change
54	I should be contacted before anything is removed from my property.
54	Disagree - give the families a warning first of all before removing nything from a memorialization space.
54	I think the schedule should be flexible, depending upon the type of plants. See answer #10.
54	Yes, with the proper notification mentioned in previous questions.
54	Not sure how this is worded... why first Tuesday? Dead plants should be removed by the family.
54	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
54	I agree with this.
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54	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. S ³ lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante d ³ casadas. Hay un entendimiento com ³ n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas est ³ ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas est ³ n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuci ³ n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. S ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during d ³ decades. There is a common understanding in the law n ³ that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is ³ cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
54	Who defines dead plants? Some plants dieback during certain seasons, but will return in good health.
55	Visitors or workers shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, unless it becomes necessary to walk across other spaces or burial spaces to gain access to a space.
Rule #	Comment
55	
56	Automobiles, trucks and other vehicles shall not be driven through the cemetery grounds at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour. Unauthorized vehicles may not be driven or parked off the designated roadways or parking areas.
Rule #	Comment
56	
57	Pets shall not be allowed in the cemetery per City of Austin Ordinance §711.009.
Rule #	Comment
57	this is a reference to the Texas statutes not the city code "Sec. 711.009. AUTHORITY OF CEMETERY KEEPER. (a) The superintendent, sexton, or other person in charge of a cemetery has the same powers, duties, and immunities granted by law to:(1) a police officer in the municipality in which the cemetery is located; or(2) a constable or sheriff of the county in which the cemetery is located if the cemetery is outside a municipality.(b) A person who is granted authority under Subsection (a) shall maintain order and enforce the cemetery organization's rules, state law, and municipal ordinances in the cemetery over which that person has charge and as near the cemetery as necessary to protect cemetery property.(c) This section applies only to a cemetery located in a municipality with a population of 40,000 or more or in a county with a population of 290,000 or more." you need to have training for ALL staff on service animals as to how to address patrons who may abuse the law.
58	Profane or offensive language, conduct, or materials shall not be permitted on cemetery property. Boisterous language or any actions that disturb the quiet and good order of the cemetery shall not be permitted.
Rule #	Comment
58	
59	All persons are strictly forbidden to break or injure any tree or shrub, or mar any landmark, marker or memorial, or in any way deface the grounds of the cemetery.
Rule #	Comment
59	
60	No weapons of any kind shall be permitted within the Cemetery (except firearms borne by peace officers or military guards of honor).
Rule #	Comment
60	you have the confederate groups that bring Cannon and muskets for some of their ceremonies. Require that all honor guards that will be onsite file a notice with the cemetery office.
61	Permanent signs or plaques may be installed only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator.
Rule #	Comment
61	the use of the word Permanente tells me its ok to place a TEMP sign, All signage in the cemetery must have written approval by the cemetery office this will cover SAC kiosk and temp tourism markers
61	#61 "permanent signs or plaques may be installed only with he permission of the cemetery administrator". this is another instance where a cemetery board should be available to review the administrators ruling. i can imagine many permanent signs which should be allowed.
62	The City of Austin is not responsible for vandalism or theft of any memorial or other personal property.
Rule #	Comment
62	

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63	Chairs and benches may be placed at the foot of a burial space only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator. The length of the bench must be 10 inches (10") shorter than the width of the burial space. Approved chairs and benches shall be firmly anchored in the approved location and comprised only of the following materials: cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone.
Rule #	Comment
63	Add wooden benches - also add that party will be required to remove if becomes hazardous or unsightly.
63	No concrete benches
63	Charge a fee for this. Encourage a loan a chair program and not the installation of benches and chairs that will require maintenance in the future and increase your maintenance cost.
63	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
63	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
63	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
63	¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
63	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
63	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
63	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
63	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
63	I have a very strong, very weather resistant, bench. It is made of metal (I don't think it is cast iron.) and a synthetic material. It is heavy enough to keep it from blowing in the wind, and it will withstand the weather. It will not deteriorate a bit. I think it is unreasonable to list the only acceptable materials for a bench. You should list the qualities the material should have, like heavy or weater resistant.
63	NO. there is no reason for the benches to be placed only at the end of the plots. grave dimension of 3 feet by 8 would allow only a 3' bench. benches should be allowed along the SIDE of the plot as well. NO to only cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone. we have a steel bench, decommissioned, at our family plot. it resides at the side of our property (ON OUR PURCHASED LAND). it is painted a bright blue & will last forever. it is a decommissioned city of austin park bench purchased in about 1970. it will last forever. families should be able to provide benches which please them and that they can afford. no matter what the material, the list you provide would insure a boring cemetery!
63	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [No to all these rules of TO!]
63	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
63	The public walk areas that are used to gain access to burial plots should not be blocked by chairs or benches. It is especially important to maintain an open walk area for safety and to provide access for those that are elderly or handicapped.
63	Consideration should be given to instances when a family has multiple spaces, but not all are being used for burial...and the family maintains the area on a weekly basis. In my case, I have had a specially made bench at the side of my sons grave for 12 years...it sits on another space that I own not used for burial. I also maintain the area myself on a weekly basis.

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63	Agree.
63	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
63	No change
63	none
63	...comprised only of the following materials: wood, cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone.
63	fair enough
63	I don't agree. Benches will not fit on a single grave; this would be appropriate only if there were multiple graves owned by one family. I think benches should be permitted on land owned by family members.
63	Fine.
63	No, too much variation. I will not ever forget the sofa (that was there for the family who had not finished their grieving.) It was there for way too long as was the swing with the frame, the columns, the cherubs.
63	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
63	As long as it does not interfere with other burial sites and hampers other families from visiting their loved ones I see no problem with this.
63	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â © Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
63	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ©cades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
63	Wood should be allowed as a material.
63	One issue is that from my understanding of this the rule, the bench will actually be placed ON the grave itself. Many families are going to be uncomfortable with the idea of sitting on top of the resting place of their loved one, or having strangers sit there. Why can't the small bench be placed directly at the foot of the grave, instead of on top of the grave? It isn't going to trespass on any other gravesite or interfere with traffic. Second, depending on the width of the grave, it might not be possible to readily find a bench small enough to fit those dimensions. Someone needs to research what would be the smallest possible width and whether there are any benches manufactured that will meet both that width and materials requirements. Finally, if a person owns adjoining plots and one or more of those plots is not being used for a gravesite, the owner should be allowed to place a larger bench on the empty space.

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63	<p>Rule 63 appears on the surface to permit benches, but the rule actually appears to eliminate the vast majority of benches in Section 6. Why? The Comments to this rule explicitly state that no existing benches will be “grandfathered” to permit any existing benches that are not in compliance with this rule. The rule then specifies that benches are to “be placed at the foot of a burial space only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator. So first, each Owner has to seek the permission of the Administrator to keep the existing bench he chose and paid for on his burial lot or plot. If the Administrator gives his permission, the bench has to be placed at the foot of the burial space and the length of the bench must be 10 inches shorter than the width of the burial space. Each burial lot or plot in Section 6 is 40 inches wide. That means benches cannot exceed 30 inches— or 2 ½ feet wide. That is not a bench—it’s a chair. And approved chairs must also be placed at the foot of a burial space.</p> <p>One of the serious problems with this “bench at the foot of a lot or plot” is that many of the existing benches at Austin Memorial Park are at the side of an Owner’s lot or plot. And that is not merely a preference. I own five lots or plots and two of them were purchased for the sole purpose that I would have space to install a bench at the side of my other three lots of plots. My bench is 80” long. I paid in excess of \$5,000 for those two lots or plots and if I were to move that bench to face westward at the foot of my other lots, which I don’t think I could even legally do under the proposed rules, that means the City got \$5,000 and now in the position of saying ‘thank you for buying those lots which you only purchased to install a bench. I am sure there are other Owners in Section 6 of Austin Memorial Park that did the same. The reason I was given for this change is it would be easier for the staff to mow the lawn in Section 6, That is not a valid reason because the cemetery has been mowed for well over a decade with benches not requiring benches to be at the foot of a burial space, and the cemetery is for the families to have a meditative place to honor their loved ones who have died. The cemetery is primarily for families, not for the marginal convenience of mowing. And besides, before any rule is adopted based on mowing grass—and particularly St. Augustine grass that is over much of Section 6—there is this phenomenon called global warming and climate change. The changing climate and droughts will likely alter the landscape of Section 6 in the coming decades, if not near future.</p> <p>A rough survey I did of Section 6 revealed there are way in excess of a hundred benches presently in Section 6, and using a a tape measure on benches in a sample area of Section 6 resulted in a guesstimate that less than 15% of the existing benches are less than 30 inches—the majority were 50 inches or more.</p>
63	<p>Next, this rule provides that benches and chairs can be “comprised only of the following materials: cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone.” A very large percentage of the benches in Section 6—and some of the most creative and beautiful—do not satisfy that requirement and would be removed if Proposed Rule 63 were to be adopted in its present form. Many of the benches a mix of wood and metal; some are only wood; others are metal that is not “cast iron.” Some appear to be cast iron. Finally, the “approved” (by the Administrator) chairs and benches “shall be firmly anchored in the approved location.” I did not see one bench that would satisfy a requirement that it be “firmly anchored.” In fact, most of the benches I examined are sufficiently heavy that their weight alone is the anchor. I will attach below photographs of some of the benches that would be prohibited in Section 6 under the proposed rules as presently drafted.</p> <p>None of these benches are dilapidated, falling down or about to blow away because they are not anchored.</p> <p>All of the existing benches in Section 6 should be “grandfathered.” The City sold lots and allowed these to be purchased and installed by Owners on their plots or lots, and many of us purchased lots in Austin Memorial Park just because that area allowed unique and personalized memorials to our loved ones.</p>
63	<p>Chairs and benches do not need to be limited to the foot of the burial space. I’m not convinced that every chair or bench needs the approval of the Cemetery Administrator, either. And since benches don’t need to be in one particular alignment with respect to the burial area, it doesn’t need to be a set width. There are many benches which look great and add to the Cemetery environment. Some are wood. All of the metal isn’t cast iron.</p> <p>Why mention two types of stone if you then mention “other types of stone”? The rule could say “Benches will not remain on the property if they have fallen into such disrepair as to be a hazard.” And “benches should not be allowed on someone else’s owned plot property if they complain”. Otherwise, they enhance the contemplative atmosphere of a Cemetery. If they are located on land that is currently unsold or not bothering the current plot owner who may have purchase for future use, then fine. I think the issue we are dealing with in these rules is that they are being written with the mindset that the purpose of rule making is to allow for easier mowing and to reduce maintenance costs. There is not a problem with that; let’s just talk about how to maintain the property and make it look good with an operating budget that works. But the purpose of a cemetery is to maximize the contemplative freedom of human expression regarding loss. If that was not the case, then we all would be totally comfortable with a mass grave for all the bodies. And we’d just do our contemplation of loss and love and honor elsewhere. Since that’s not the case, a memorial park with benches is great, and it encourages visitation and gathering.</p>
64	Funeral designs or floral pieces will be removed from burial spaces within one week of funeral service.
Rule #	Comment
64	Good - create a recycling program for plastics, metal and organic material to be composted
64	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
64	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
64	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
64	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
64	I would totally delete this rule.

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64	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
64	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
64	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. <u>Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)</u>
64	I think one week is an unreasonably short time. I think that it is not unsightly to find wilted or dried flowers on a loved one's grave. If it is safe, it should be allowed.
64	ok
64	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
64	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [¡ Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
64	Reminder of this rule should be given when the final burial arrangements are made.
64	Agree.
64	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÍ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
64	No change
64	none
64	...within two weeks of funeral service.
64	Why? Doesn't this fall under question #10? If the design or piece is still in good shape, why can't it remain until it falls under the purview of #10 rules?
64	no - let the families remove funeral designs or floral pieces.
64	I think a month would be more appropriate.
64	Unless a personal request is reasonable.
64	10 days maximum. Is the family responsible or can the landscape management company able to do this ---if dead, they should remove it before. Is there someone who knows about plants and watering, etc., who works for the cemetery?
64	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
64	Yes especially the fresh flowers but again please inform families prior to burial in case they want to take home with them and not see them trashed.

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65	<p>Trees may be planted with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator and in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. Other plants may be planted within the Memorialization Space in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. The owner is responsible for watering vegetation he or she places within the Memorialization Space.</p>
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65	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
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65	The master plan should require that owners compromise in their use of the tree space. All owners should have the opportunity to enjoy the space above.

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65	the memorialization space should be the entire burial plot owned by the stakeholder.3x8 (?) if a stakeholder wants to plant small bushes or annuals or perennials within that space there should be no blockage to that. only TREES & bushes taller than 3' should have to be approved. (ugh, by the cemetery administrator. again, i want a cemetery board that he/she has to answer to so that he/she is not a czar)
65	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
65	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? ¿DÃ©nde estÃ© el consenso? [I Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
65	The Cemetery Administrator should arrange for the planting of all trees. Trees may be purchased by individuals but the actual planting should be arranged by the Administrator. This insures that the rules are followed and other plots/momuments are not damaged by planting or growth of tree roots. (Numerous monuments are tilting in this cemeters because of the growth of tree roots creating a dangerous safety hazard should they topple over on an individual or a child).
65	Agree. Hopefully the area planted would not impede movement or other trees/shrubs.
65	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ­ a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas.
65	No change. I'm glad that the rules will allow planting of trees with permission.
65	I should be able to plant what I want on my property.
65within the Memorialization Space which shall coincide with the bounds of the Burial Space, in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan.
65	fair enough
65	The City should simply require that owners use the Grow Green Guide and native plants for the gardens. I agree that owners should get permission for planting trees.
65	Fine.
65	Are we able to plant trees?
65	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
65	It does depend on the site of the trees again not to hamper other sites but if it enhances the area and administrators agree with choice then it is a good idea but person who plants must be aware they have to do the up keep so tree does not die.
65	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ­ a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ­an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ­an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website in espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
65	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ­lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ­ ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ©cadas. There is a common understanding in the law n ^o that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
65	How and when are gravesite owners going to know what plantings the Master Plan will allow? Is the Master plan going to really micromanage what can be planted on each individual gravesite? My response to #10 better addresses the issue. Also, in addition to trees, the rules should be expanded to permit the planting of hardy native drought-resistant small trees or large shrubs, such as mountain laurel, yaupon holly, crape myrtle, and red yucca.
65	The Memorialization Space is the same as the Burial Space, with no sub-zoning. How does the City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan affect what plants can be planted where?
66	If any trees or shrubs impede access to adjacent spaces or create a safety hazard, cemetery personnel may prune or remove them in whole or in part as determined necessary by the Cemetery Administrator. The Cemetery Administrator shall consult with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department Forestry Division concerning tree pruning and removal.
Rule #	Comment

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66	as part of the professional development of your grounds keeping staff get some staff cross trained with PARD forestry during the dormant mowing season and get some training material for in house training.
66	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
66	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
66	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
66	¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
66	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
66	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
66	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
66	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. <u>Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)</u>
66	The cemetery should put neighboring space owners in touch with each other, so that some compromise can be made. The Cemetery Administrator should not be able to trim a tree back or remove it with out notifying all the owners that the tree affects. Care should be taken to insure the health of the tree.
66	ok
66	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [No to all these rules of TO!]
66	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
66	Agree.
66	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÍ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
66	No change
66	I should be notified first .
66	Please don't over-prune. Too many people do this.
66	fir enough -= but always give families a warning and a "cut off" date requiring them to take care of the issue.
66	Agreed.
66	Fine.
66	Once again, I didn't know shrubs or trees could be planted... trees that grow big? Peach trees, Pear trees, flowering trees?
66	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
66	Families need to be notified. The spot we chose for my Dad has a beautiful flower shrub that has grown and produces shade for his and several other sites. I am against this as far as the removal of the entire tree/shrub. That would be awful to remove it especially if the families picked that site and paid for it expecting shade in the hot summer months. Plus the birds are beautiful to see that utilize them.

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66	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÁ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÁ³n) sagrada y se deberÁ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÁ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÁ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÁ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÁ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÁ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÁ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÁ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â © Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
66	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÁ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÁ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÁ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÁ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÁ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÁ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÁ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÁ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
67	Personnel employed by the cemeteries are not permitted to solicit or accept money or other compensation from any person or persons for maintenance performed within the Cemetery.
Rule #	Comment
67	
68	All inquiries or complaints shall be submitted to the main Cemetery office.
Rule #	Comment
68	these need to be in writing. Either by a card that is provided or by email. Staff should all have comment cards in their trucks or on utility cards. You are developing relationships and future sales. This also gives you a metric for how you are doing. these can be subject to open records request !
69	The grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the deceased and the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton inquiry, disturbance, and disregard of the rules.
Rule #	Comment
69	goes to 711.009 and the authority of a cemetery keeper. Most staff do not want to be a Cem cop. APD will make this a low priority call. A policy on how to best document incidents without being confrontational or escalating a situation is needed training for all staff.
70	When a space is out of compliance with these rules, cemetery personnel shall attempt to contact owners to provide an opportunity for the violation to be corrected within 30 days of attempted notice. If cemetery personnel have contact information for the owner available within their contact management systems, they shall make a reasonable effort to find such information and place a notice on the space to attempt to contact the owner using such contact information. If cemetery personnel do not possess contact information for the owner, they shall place notice on the space. If the space holder fails to correct the violation within 30 days of attempted notice, cemetery personnel shall have the right to bring the space into compliance
Rule #	Comment
70	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
70	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED.Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case.Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
70	Â¿No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
70	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..

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70	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
70	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
70	I think 30 days is too short, unless there is a safety hazard. I sometimes fail to visit the Memorial Spaces for much more than 30 days. I would hate to find that a tree or bench has been removed when I come to visit the space. This is important.
70	ok with the caveat that many of the rules i have objected to & i want those objections taken into consideration.
70	Too much verbiage! What's a "contact management system?"
70	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
70	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
70	Agree.
70	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... Sí- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
70	No change
70	I should be able to plant what I want on my property .
70	Up to owners and the cemetery administrators to be up to speed with one another in terms of efficient records.
70	Agree except that there should be an appeal process in place for owners.
70	Fine. This is a good reason for Sn owner to have an advocate if they are indisposed.
70	Rules need to be clear, easy to read, concise and everyone subject to the same rules. Remember, the nosegay was removed but the grieving family got to keep the couch with the zebra cover and the porch swing remained.
70	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
70	As long as families are notified in writing prior to any action taken. Again please inform family of this rule prior to burial. Person who owns burial site may have died and other family members need to know the rules of how to be contacted.
70	NO a reglas de la ciudad. Sí- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razón) sagrada y se deberán tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacésped(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberán prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios históricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades históricas estatales. Siga poniéndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. ¿No por qué tener un sitio web en español como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacésped © Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. © Not out why having a website en español as speakup-azusa?]

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70	<p>Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. S³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante d³casas. Hay un entendimiento com³n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas est³ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas est³n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuci³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. S³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during d³ decades. There is a common understanding in the law n³ that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is³ cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n³ agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves.</p> <p>The new rules no³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]</p>
71	<p>If an owner perceives that these rules impede religious or cultural practices related to interring or memorializing the deceased, the owner may advise the Cemetery Administrator of the perceived impediment and may submit a written request for a variance from these rules. The Cemetery Administrator shall consider this request and make a determination based upon his professional judgment.</p>
Rule #	Comment
71	If variances are an option then the criteria for obtaining the same should be outlined in the rules. Also, limitations as to the time to respond to such request should be outlined.
71	the words " professional judgment" opens your education/ experience up to question. Its better to have the administrator weigh in and have a subset of the PAB rule on action. This insulates the administrator.
71	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
71	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED.Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case.Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
71	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
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71	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... <u>Oakwood Cemetery Annex</u>
71	There needs to be a defined process such as a 10 business day response to either except or deny. And an opportunity for appeals process. Also define professional judgment
71	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
71	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. <u>Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)</u>
71	A person's religious or cultural practices should only be impeded for reasons of safety to the community.

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71	ok. CULTURAL practices include heart felt individual memorial offerings deemed important, by the family, to their loved ones. if a written request is the way to make this ok then the administrator should have to go before a cemetery board for consultation so that he/she is not 'the czar' to determine
71	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
71	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Quá es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso?
71	Agree.
71	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÁ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas.
71	No change
71	Grief is personal and I should be able to do what I want on my property as long as it is not a safety hazard.
71	...The Cemetery Administrator shall consider this request and make a determination based upon his professional judgment which may then be appealed within 30 days by an owner by written request to the City Council.
71	Totally agree.
71	Agreed, as long as there is an appeal process in place.
71	Fine.
71	Yes, I am unfamiliar with certain religious practices. The placing of the rock on the headstone is very nice. The family could remove them at certain intervals if there were many. I don't compare rocks and plastic toys and boats as the same.
71	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
71	The way a family chooses to honor their loved ones during the holidays should not be a problem as long as there is not a disrespect of others who are there to mourn and remember. You certainly should not have a party at the grave site when others have just lost a loved one and are crying. No drinking beer etc. That is not the place.
71	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÁ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razón) sagrada y se deberán tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacéspedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberán prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios históricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades históricas estatales. Siga poniéndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguieren que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. ¿No por qué tener un sitio web en español como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacésped Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Not out why having a website in español as speakup-azusa?]
71	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÁlo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante décadas. Hay un entendimiento común en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estatales que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas están de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuirán mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÁ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during decades. There is a common understanding in the law that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no Decrease maintenance substantially.]
71	This rule is very likely unconstitutional. The courts have made it very clear that a government, in enforcing any rules or ordinances, must make reasonable accommodation to a citizen's religious beliefs. This rule leaves it all up to the "professional judgment" of the Cemetery Administrator (whom, I note, is referred to as "he"). At the very least, this rule must provide that the Cemetery Administrator will in good faith seek to reasonably accommodate the owner's religious or cultural practice as required under state and federal law.
71	The only two bases of variance is religious or cultural practices? There should be a way to ask for a variance for some other reason outside of the two identified. Why can't one just ask for a variance which can be approved based on the professional judgment of the Administrator?
72	Care shall be furnished for all cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Austin.
Rule #	Comment
72	there are other cemeteries owned by the city beyond the 5 you care for, do not open yourself up to take the responsibility for "all" cemeteries.
73	Cemetery personnel shall water vegetation according to City of Austin specifications and/or restrictions.
Rule #	Comment
73	change to "turf areas & Trees" you are allowing persons to plant flowers and bushes, you do not want responsibility for those
73	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED.DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.

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73	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED.Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
73	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
73	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
73	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
73	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
73	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.
73	NO TO THESE RULES. The RULES should reflect the statement: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is a historical treasure now, and it will carry forward the history of this community. Statement from "A History of Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Texas Historic Cemetery" (City website)
73	Yes.
73	ok
73	Â¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [Â ¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
73	Â¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! Â¿QuÃ© es 'el consenso'? Â¿DÃ³nde estÃ¡ el consenso? [Â Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
73	The Cemetery should be exempted from watering restrictions to maintain the dignity of the memorials in the cemetery.
73	Agree.
73	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
73	No change
73	none
73	yes
73	Agree
73	Fine.
73	I think we have to do that with no choice. I do think we should continue personal hand-held watering. I think the spigots and handles should be in good condition at every park. Volunteer watering should be allowed. I would think that tree replacement at Oakwood would be a priority before it looks like a dustbowl. It could be fabulous. A real draw. It is full of history.
73	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders.]
73	Yes keep the place watered for the beauty and landscape. You want to think your loved ones are buried at a peaceful, lovely park like area. Certainly not a desert or dead grass area as that would be awful and would look too much like death instead of a heavenly feel and or serene claimness.
73	Please water sufficiently to keep trees and shrubs healthy and encourage drought-resistant plantings in accordance with the COA and A&M publications.

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73	<p>NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÁ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÁ³n) sagrada y se deberÁ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÁ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÁ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÁ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÁ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÁ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÁ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÁ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â© Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]</p>
73	<p>Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÁ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÁ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÁ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÁ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÁ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÁ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÁ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÁ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]</p>
73	<p>I just want to point out this is the reason that PARD has to give up its obsession with grass. Austin is in a severe drought and is going to continue to be in a drought, possibly for many years. Already, in Austin Memorial Park, they can only water once a week. Because of recent rains it looks pretty green right now, but if you look closely, you will still not only see many bald areas, but that much of the green is actually weeds. By later this summer, the plants will be dead and the soil dry and bare. There is not a lush green lawn there now, and unless PARD is planning on hauling in new top soil, grass, and irrigation systems (and on ignoring watering restrictions), there is not going to be one in the future. PARD needs to give up its obsession with grass and mowing, which is wasteful of fuel and water and is only hurting the environment. Instead, PARD should look to creative measures to keep at least part of the cemetery green, such as xeriscaping and encouraging the planting of water-wise native drought-resistant gardens on gravesites. It is time to face reality--our cemeteries are never going to resemble the rolling green lawns of Arlington Cemetery or the Pebble Beach Golf Course. Our climate is too hot and dry, and is only going to get hotter and drier. It is time to give up on imported grass and look at some beautiful xeriscaping instead. Nicely arranged rocks and native plants would look a lot better than the current bare earth and dying weeds, and would require a lot less water and maintenance.</p>
74	<p>The City of Austin reserves the right to correct errors made by staff that is associated with interments or conveyance of property. In the event such error shall involve interment, the City reserves the right to remove and re-inter the remains to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. Should an error develop in the conveyance of property, the City may correct such error by conveying property of equal value in a similar location insofar as possible.</p>
Rule #	Comment
74	
75	<p>The right to revise and/or add to Cemeteries (a section or sections) from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of or any part thereof or remove or regrade roads, drives and walks is expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for water sprinkling systems and drainage, is also expressly reserved, as is the right to use cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparation for interment, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of passage to and from other spaces.</p>
Rule #	Comment
75	
76	<p>No easement is granted to any owner in any road, drive or walk within the cemeteries, but such road, drive or walk may be used as a means of access to the cemeteries and its buildings as long as the City of Austin devotes such road, drive or walk to that purpose.</p>
Rule #	Comment
76	
77	<p>The City of Austin disclaims responsibility to owners, their personal representatives or successors in interest for the loss or damage to cemetery spaces or memorials by any cause, natural or otherwise, direct or indirect, beyond reasonable control of the City of Austin.</p>
Rule #	Comment
77	
78	<p>The statement of any employee of the cemeteries shall not be binding upon the City of Austin except as such statement agrees with the document conveying the right of interment and these rules and regulations.</p>

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Rule #	Comment
78	
79	The City of Austin reserves the right at any time and from time to time to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind, or add to these rules and regulations or any part thereof to adopt any new rule or regulation or any temporary exception with respect to said cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.
Rule #	Comment
79	
80	In all matters not specifically covered by these rules and regulations, the City of Austin reserves the right to do anything which in its judgment is deemed reasonable pertaining to the cemeteries and such determination shall be binding upon the space owner and all parties concerned.
Rule #	Comment
80	this is the catch all rule-
Feedback and Comments	
Rule #	Comment
add	tourism - while SAC still needs a MOU, we get permission to conduct tours and have meeting onsite. We are a 501c3 that raised \$\$ for COA cemetery projects. You need verbiage that disallows "unauthorized" tours for profit, filming of "unauthorized" music videos / movies.
General	There should be less "discretion" provided to Cemetery Administrator - there should be clearly outlined guidelines as to how a determination will be made.
General	Objects that could break/cut/harm someone upon impact --such as ceramic pots, clay pots --present a danger. These types of temporary materials should be restricted to a reasonable time after ceremony (say 1 week) vs those that are considered more "permanent" and ongoing (see #35 on permanent types of stone).
General	It is important to distinguish celebration, ritual, and ceremony (cultural expression) from safety to others, including or those who are disabled, whether obvious or those "hidden" disabilities. American with Disabilities Act is determined at the national level, with clear definitions regarding things such as accessibility, safety, and access.
NEW	Cemetery hours of operation: Change to: Sunrise to Sunset. Every other city cemetery rules allows for visitation at least to Sunset.
Other	RULES ARE TOO DETAILED. DISAGREE WITH THE DETAIL USED.
Other	DISAGREE WITH RULES AS STATED. Hard and fast rules are not good.. Need to be flexible and judged case by case. Listen to the STAKEHOLDERS.
Other	Eliminar esta regla y sustituir con una sencilla regla escrita por los interesados. [Delete this rule and replace with a simple rule written by stakeholders.]
Other	Â¡No a esta regla(gobierno)! Escuche a Padres, Madres y no tenga abogados de la ciudad, consejo dictan reglas. [Â No to this rule (government)! Listen to Parents and lawyers do not have the city council rules dictate.]
Other	NO to this/these RULES. Use the K.I.S.S. RULE/PRINCIPLES K. I. S. S. What is Keep It Simple Stupid Principle (KISS Principle ... www.techopedia.com/.../keep-it-simple-stupid-principle-kiss-principle The "keep it simple stupid" (KISS) principle is a design rule that states that systems perform best when they have simple designs rather than complex ones. KISS ... KISS principle https://www.princeton.edu/.../KISS_principle.html Princeton University KISS is an acronym for the design principle "Keep it simple, Stupid!". ... The KISS principle states that simplicity should be a key goal in design, and that ... LISTEN to he STAKEHOLDERS..
Other	NO to proposed RULE. Why does Austin Memorial Cemetery have "PARK" in the name? Others like Evergreen, Oakwood do NOT have "PARK" in their name. Austin Memorial PARK cemetery..... Evergreen Cemetery..... Oakwood Cemetery Annex
Other	NO to these CoA rules. Consider rules of city like Boulder CO... https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/columbia-cemetery-rules-permits (quoting from their website) Cemetery Visitor Rules and Regulations The Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk (BRC 8-7-3.) Pets must be leashed, and all excrement must be picked up and properly disposed of (BRC 6-1-16, 6-1-18.) For visitor safety and resource protection, it is unlawful to lean against, push, pull, shove, kick, climb on, or strike any grave marker (BRC 8-7-9.) Projectiles (balls, boomerangs, frisbees, paint balls, model airplanes) are prohibited (BRC 8-7-5.) Gravestone rubbing can damage grave markers and is prohibited (BRC 8-7-8.) Instead, use a mirror to direct sunlight onto the face of the marker to read the information on the stone. Preserve the epitaphs and artwork by taking a photograph. You are responsible for knowing and obeying all City of Boulder Revised Code Cemetery regulations.

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Other	Why not simplify everything and do all like Cook-Walden Capital Park -- you can put whatever you want but it's removed in 3 months and if usable taken to their selection room for use by others, except benches that have to be appr.vy by them. This allows a clean slate for cleaning up yet still allows those that regularly visit graves to decorate so there is no mess ever. Take a look at the neatness there. It takes the responsibility from the city to maintain order and places it upon the deceased's family which is a better use of our tax dollars.
Other	#43 'the cemetery administrator reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions & foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries'. YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! NO ONE SHOULD HAVE THIS KIND OF POWER. again, only with review by a cemetery board to oversee the supervisor should this be allowed! #61 "permanent signs or plaques may be installed only with the permission of the cemetery administrator". this is another instance where a cemetery board should be available to review the administrator's ruling. i can imagine many permanent signs which should be allowed.
Other	¡NO a todas estas reglas de CoA! [¡NO to all these rules of TO!]
Other	¡Discrepe con esta regla(gobierno)! ¿Qué es 'el consenso'? ¿Dónde está el consenso? [Disagree with this rule (government)! © What key is 'consensus'? Do you Where to this consensus?]
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Other	No candles!!!

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Other	All tombstones and markers should be handled as if they were the property of the maintenance people, ie their mother, with respect and extreme care.
Other	NO a las reglas de ' PARD/CoA'... SÃ- a 'stakeholders' votadas las reglas. [NO to the rules of 'PARD / CoA' ... Yes to 'stakeholders' voted the rules.]
Other	n/a
Other	La ciudad de Austin ha relajado las reglas propuestas contra mementos y jardines graveside, pero..... elimina reglas y escucha a los accionistas. [The city of Austin has relaxed the proposed rules against graveside mementos and gardens, but eliminates rules and listen to shareholders]
Other	NO a reglas de la ciudad. SÃ- a ideas del accionista. Los cementerios son la tierra(razÃ³n) sagrada y se deberÃ-an tratar con el respeto. Usando cortacÃ©spedes(segadoras) que montan a caballo, los tractores del agujero trasero o carros se deberÃ-an prohibir conducir sobre la tumba de nuestro de amor. Deje a nuestro de amor R.I.P. Deje a los grupos como la ayuda de PODER conservar estos sitios histÃ³ricos en Austin. Trabajo con sociedades histÃ³ricas estatales. Siga poniÃ©ndose las ideas de los accionistas... no NO consiguen que trabajadores/administradores/consejos de la ciudad escriban reglas. Â¿No por quÃ© tener un sitio web en espaÃ±ol como speakup-azusa? [NO to city rules. Yes-to ideas shareholder. The cemeteries are land (reason out) required should be sacred and treated with respect. Using cortacÃ© Houses (lawn) to ride horses, tractors or cars butt hole required should ban driving on the grave of our love. Let our love R.I.P. Let groups like helping POWER preserve these rich historic sites in Austin. Working with state historic societies rich. Follow © Ndose ideas put to shareholders ... NO not get that workers / administrators / city councils write rules. Â © Not out why having a website en espaÃ±ol as speakup-azusa?]
Other	Por favor, recuerde: Los terrenos son propiedad en su totalidad por miembros de la familia. SÃ³lo estamos pidiendo subsidio a la vez honrar nuestros seres queridos en tierras que tenemos. Hay fosas comunes que han tenido jardines y monumentos durante dÃ©cadas. Hay un entendimiento comÃ©n en la ley que son implementadas en las normas y pactos nulos e inaplicables en el tiempo. Todo lo que pedimos es que este cementerio y sus fosas comunes considerados de la misma manera que el nuevo cementerio normas estÃ©ticas que encapsulan el desarrollado a lo largo del tiempo. Las personas estÃ©n de acuerdo en que razonable nada peligroso en fosas comunes. Las nuevas normas no disminuciÃ³n mantenimiento de manera sustancial. [Please remember: The lots are owned entirely by family members. SÃ³ subsidy are asking him to honor our loved ones again in lands we have. There are mass graves that have gardens and monuments during dÃ© decades. There is a common understanding in the law n º that are implemented in the rules and agreements void and unenforceable in time. All we ask is that this cemetery and their graves considered in the same way that the new rules is © cemetery policies that encapsulate developed over time. People is n agree that reasonable nothing dangerous in mass graves. The new rules no ³ n Decrease maintenance substantially.]
Other	It has been mentioned during this public process that ease of maneuverability for the grass mowers and tractors is an important consideration as slower mowers increase cost. Because of this, some of the rules are specifically designed to support faster, and therefore more cost effective, mowing. To date, the cemeteries have typically been planted in St. Augustine turf with considerable irrigation water sprayed over a large acreage to keep St. Augustine grass alive. However, in the next 10 years and beyond, climate change and drought may make this type of landscaping strategy very difficult to keep alive and too costly to afford. Keeping the rules open to allow for a landscaping approach that is perennial, xeric and low maintenance may be the only way to preserve the appearance of the cemetery while reducing water use and decreasing the amount of mowing. Therefore rules should not be established that prevent installation of low-water groundcover, plantings, coverings or dealing with the location of benches.
Other	One of the serious problems inherent in the Draft of Proposed Rules is that these modified rules seek to impose one set of rigid rules upon all plots in all five of the cemeteries currently operated by the City of Austin when, in fact, there are different issues, circumstances and needs between cemeteries and even within a cemetery. For example, the Oakwood Cemetery no longer sells plots and no internments have occurred there for years. Oakwood and certain other cemeteries have received little attention from the City for years, are in disrepair and need special work, resources, and protection. The Austin Memorial Park Cemetery actively sells burial plots and has frequent interments. Important to any consideration of these Proposed Rules is that Austin Memorial Park Cemetery has one unique section of the cemetery [designated as Section 6] that has been permitted to develop for two decades in a manner without applying or enforcing some of the current rules adopted in the 1970s. This has allowed families to purchase lots or plots in Section 6 and personalize their burial plots to honor the memories of their loved ones by installing unique memorials, benches, wind chimes, landscaping and decorations. This created a unique meditative environment and a sense of community where families come to remember and honor their loved ones and create a situation where private funeral homes with cemeteries in the Austin area have come out to video Section 6 in order to understand why families where choosing that particular area of Austin Memorial Park rather than a privately owned cemetery along I-35. The problem is that the proposed rules as presently drafted will force families who have collectively spent hundreds of thousands of dollars for lots or plots in Section 6, for unique monuments, benches and memorial decorations to strip out the personalized features so as to make that Section 6 look like all other areas of the cemetery. Proposed Rules 63, 52, and 34 are the primary rules that unless modified would irrevocably eliminate the unique and special character of Section 6 of Austin Memorial Park.

City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
Public Input Received on Draft Two Revised / Proposed Rules Regulations (As of 7/2/14)

Rule #	Comment
36	Should any memorial become a hazard to the safety of persons within the cemetery, the Cemetery Administrator has the right to correct the condition or remove the memorial. If the Cemetery Administrator determines that a memorial must be removed, he or she shall attempt to contact the owner to advise him or her of the required removal and the associated expense. If cemetery personnel have contact information for the owner available within their contact management systems, they shall attempt to contact the owner using such contact information. If cemetery personnel do not possess contact information for the owner, they shall make a reasonable attempt to find such information and they will place notice on the space. The Cemetery Administrator shall consult as required with the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission concerning alterations to, or removal of, memorials. The expense associated with removing or repairing memorials may be charged to the owner.
36	I read the draft of the rules, and have only one suggestion. In item 36, it is mentioned that the City of Austin Historical Society should be consulted before certain things are done. Is it not true that the State Historical Society also should be consulted before significant changes are made?
Rule #	Comment
43	The Cemetery Administrator reserves the right to approve the size, craftsmanship, quality, inscriptions, and foundations of memorials placed or to be placed in the cemeteries.
43	Why do inscriptions must be approved - can we just limit by saying no profanities, offensive language, etc.
Rule #	Comment
46	The Memorialization Space is for the purpose of memorializing loved ones, is located within the space (as defined in Rule # 6), and shall not exceed the following dimensions: - 36 inches (36") in length from the top of the space- The width of the space less 10 inches (10"), specifically 5 inches (5") on each side- 48 inches (48") in heightFor spaces designed specifically for cremains, the Memorialization Space shall not exceed the following dimensions:- 16 inches (16") in length from the top of the space- The width of the space less 10 inches (10"), specifically 5 inches (5") on each side. Multiple adjoining spaces owned by the same owner may be combined and shall maintain the width limit in aggregate.- 24 inches (24") in height
46	Memorialization space should not be higher than what is allowed for memorials (42") should be restricted to something more reasonable in the 24-32" range
Rule #	Comment
47	Owners may place plants, memorabilia, and other objects within the boundaries of their Memorialization Space. All items must be firmly anchored to secure and prevent the item or any parts of that item from leaning, falling over, breaking or blowing outside of the confines of the space. The Cemetery reserves the right to move or remove items that fall outside the Memorialization Space.
47	Rule # 47 - should be required to notify owner PRIOR TO removal and allow time for owner to remedy
Rule #	Comment
50	The only items that may be placed outside of the Memorialization Space are chairs or benches with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator (reference Rule #63) and temporary funeral floral pieces (reference Rule #64).
50	Take out discretion to approve benches - benches should be allowed to be installed and must meet the requirements outlined in rule #63 (with the addition of wood as an approved material)
Rule #	Comment
61	Signs or plaques may be installed only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator.
61	Should not allow Cemetery Administrator so much discretion. Set out requirements the plaque must meet in order to be approved.
Rule #	Comment
63	Chairs and benches may be placed at the foot of a space only with the permission of the Cemetery Administrator. The length of the bench seat must be 10 inches (10") shorter than the width of the space; owners of multiple adjoining spaces may seek approval for benches of greater length. Approved chairs and benches shall be firmly anchored in an approved foundation and location and comprised only of the following materials: cast iron, concrete, granite, marble, or other type of stone. Chairs and benches are not permitted on spaces specifically designed for the interment of cremains.
63	Should read similar to memorials as in if an owner owns adjoining lots they can center over or use additional space. Should not be discretionary for the Cemetery Administrator
63	Rule 63 should include wooden benches as the allowed types of materials
63	Rule # 63 - wooden benches should be permitted
63	Benches should be allowed in adjoining spaces not just at the foot of grave site

City of Austin Parks Recreation Department - Cemeteries
Public Input Received on Draft Two Revised / Proposed Rules Regulations (As of 7/2/14)

Rule #	Comment
65	Trees may be planted with the approval of the Cemetery Administrator and in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. Other plants may be planted within the Memorialization Space in accordance with the approved City of Austin Cemeteries Master Plan. The owner is responsible for watering vegetation he or she places within the Memorialization Space.
65	No discretion for Cemetery Administrator to determine whether someone can plant item - should set out what the requirements must be meet and that Administrator must be notified prior to planting
Rule #	Comment
General	General Comment
General	Wood benches should be allowed
General	Generally: Grandfathering existing benches and other violations
General	Bi-weekly clean up
General	Where is memorialization space in relation to cremains? What are the height/space restrictions
General	Wood benches should be allowed
General	I have done extensive "Google" research of "cemetery ornamentation" and found a # of hits. Very few in the USA all any items at all on grave sites;- The rules are very clear - items will be removed.
General	I don't like the new rules including a memorialization area. Memorialization should be in our thoughts or at home not in shrines left on a grave
General	How can you change the rules of a cemetery that plots are sold to the public years ago? You need the signature of all sold plots, before they can be held to the new rules
General	As I read the proposed draft of rules, the above would fall within the rules BUT should be unacceptable. This homemade plaster of paris headstone was installed some time after 1/24/14. It has already lost some of the 1" tiles. This memorial does not meet the criteria of marble, granite or other permanent type stone. If it is moved into your designated memorialization space, I believe it violates the intent of the rules of permanent memorials. There are solar lights, which should be banned. Whind chimes should be banned. Not all love the noise. Many love the complete solitude and are very irritated by the constant "noise" from wind chimes. In regard to the 48" height rule, I strongly believe that is absolutely too high. Very few permanent monuments are that tall. 24" should be the maximum height. I feel strongly that there should be a "2 objects" per space minimum. It seems to me that if the previous guidelines had been consistently and fairly enforced, you would not now be in the position for have to revise the rules. Once done, enforcement will be key and expected by the owner. XXX, owner Austin Memorial Park
General	I reviewed the updated document and feel that, while a few sensible recommendations were disregarded, the changes seem reasonably balanced related to plot owners' rights & responsibilities. There seems to be enough discretion left to the cemetery administrator to solve issues using professional judgment, which is a relief, given our current administrator. The danger, of course, is what happens if we get a new administrator with an "anything goes" attitude, which is what got us into this entire upheaval about rules and regulations to begin with. Another concern due to its potential for abuse is granting a variance for rules that "impede religious or cultural practices." Again, our safeguard is that such decisions are left to the administrator's professional judgment.
General	I knew that Intercare was no longer running the cemeteries but did not know that PARD was undertaking it as an on-going process. I was a bit disappointed that the rules did not mention a restriction such that stuffed animals and other items that get nasty when they are wet are prohibited.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING
PROPOSED CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS
Wednesday, June 18, 2014

* * * * *

The above-entitled meeting was held, on the record, from 6:24 to 7:55 p.m., at Zilker Botanical Garden Auditorium, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78746, and the following proceedings were reported by RABIN' MONROE, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, Travis County.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

SMITH/ASSOCIATES STAFF

TIM SUELTFUSS, Facilitator
LEAH SOTTLE, Timekeeper
SHAE FREEMAN-HICKS
AMANDA GANGAWER

CEMETERY STAFF

GILBERT HERNANDEZ
PATRICIA JACOBSON
VICTOR OLIVARES
KIM MCKNIGHT

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Opening remarks from 6:15 to 6:24 p.m.)

(Public comment at 6:24 p.m. as follows:)

SHARON WEINTRAUB: First I'd like to point out that nowhere in the second revised rules was it ever mentioned that there will be no grandfathering of existing plots. This was mentioned at the June 5th meeting, but nothing was concluded [sic] in the Speak Out [sic] Austin survey itself. The very fact that there was no mention that existing memorials would not be grandfathered and would come under these rules throws the whole survey into question, as well as its validity. The people of Austin did not have a right or a chance to speak up on that.

Second, I will again state that I believe retroactive reinforcement of the rules is . . . illegal. These are proprietary. They are not a police power. They are not part of the City ordinances. This is similar to an -- a homeowners association having bylaws they have not enforced. If the bylaws are not enforced, and there is open and notorious violation of them, a new homeowners group cannot come in and say, "Okay, everybody. We were letting you build 8-foot fences, but . . . our bylaws say only 6-foot fences, so you gotta tear them all down." Once it's waived, it is

1 unenforceable.

2 Also, it's my understanding we pay for
3 those plots, we own them. And considering the amount of
4 money we pay for those plots and the size, it's probably
5 some of the most expensive square footage in Austin. If
6 the City's gonna come in after all this time and insist
7 that it has a right to remove things from that property
8 or place things on that property, I think that comes
9 under a taking of private property for public use, and I
10 think there might be compensation and other
11 constitutional issues.

12 And while I'm going through some of the
13 legal issues, there is a part in there where it says
14 that if anybody feels that a religious tradition is not
15 being allowed to be practiced in the cemetery, they have
16 to go to I believe it's the cemetery administrator, and
17 the cemetery administrator then makes the decision
18 whether or not to allow that. That is unconstitutional
19 under both the Texas Constitution, the Federal
20 Constitution, and Federal law. A government body has to
21 reasonably accommodate any religious beliefs. And just
22 simply giving the cemetery administrator that power will
23 bring you all sorts of legal issues.

24 And I would also like to point out that
25 anywhere in here where it says the cemetery

1 administrator has the right to make a decision or
2 approve a request, it should say that it should not be
3 unreasonably denied. Because otherwise, it will just
4 simply be arbitrary, it will be unfair, and every time a
5 new cemetery administrator comes in, the way the rules
6 are gonna be enforced are going to change.

7 What is my time?

8 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you, ma'am. And
9 certainly please do sign up for more time, if you like.

10 Ms. Weintraub, I just noted a few things.
11 It sounds like one of the concerns you had were: The
12 plots that do not conform to these rules should be
13 grandfathered in was one thing I heard.

14 SHARON WEINTRAUB: Yeah.

15 TIM SUELTFUSS: Concerns that these
16 rules constituted taking. And concern about the amount
17 of power and discretion awarded to the --

18 SHARON WEINTRAUB: Right.

19 TIM SUELTFUSS: -- cemetery
20 administrator.

21 SHARON WEINTRAUB: Yes. And -- well, the
22 main thing is you're trying to retroactively enforce
23 something that was not enforced. The City no longer has
24 power --

25 TIM SUELTFUSS: Okay.

1 SHARON WEINTRAUB: -- to do that.

2 TIM SUELTFUSS: All right. Okay. And
3 again, please do -- we have certainly all the time we
4 need available until 8:00 p.m., I believe. So feel free
5 to continue to sign up.

6 Ms. Mills, I believe you were next.

7 MEREDITH MILLS: I won't take much time.
8 The primary issues that I have is that wooden benches
9 aren't allowed. I believe last -- or two weeks ago at
10 the last meeting the reasons stated were that it is not
11 a sturdy material or something like that. I -- I . . .
12 think that's false. I'm -- I'm really not understanding
13 why wooden benches wouldn't be allowed when the City
14 constructs things out of wood all the time that are left
15 out to be rained on and still considered sturdy
16 and . . . are -- are all throughout the city. So . . .
17 I'm just not understanding that argument.

18 The other part that I would second . . .
19 would be the discretion that's allowed to the cemetery
20 administrator. As far as the approving the inscriptions
21 and the approval of other things, it should more . . .
22 it should read something more like, "If you meet these
23 requirements, the City [sic] administrator shall approve
24 this plaque or this inscription or the planting of this
25 tree."

1 I understand that we're still working on
2 the master -- the cemetery master plan, and it's gonna
3 outline some things that the City envisions for the
4 cemeteries to look like. But I think that putting that
5 as a requirement that it be in compliance with that plan
6 is enough of a requirement. That way it takes out some
7 of the discretion that a lot of people have concern
8 with. So. . . .

9 That's it.

10 TIM SUELTFUSS: Great. Thank you.

11 So just a couple of things that I heard
12 Ms. Mills mention. That wooden benches should be
13 allowed. You consider them very sturdy material, and
14 used in other locations. Seconding the concern about
15 too much discretion being afforded to the cemetery
16 administrator. And I think I heard you say the -- the
17 rules themselves should in some ways constrain that
18 discretion on areas where subjectivity is -- is needed.

19 MEREDITH MILLS: Especially without the --
20 I mean, within the rules it talks about requirements
21 that must be met or "you can't do this," "you can't do
22 that." Well, if a rule already says you can't have
23 profanity or obscene language, why does he have to
24 approve the inscription, as long as it doesn't contain
25 that.

1 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Okay.

2 MEREDITH MILLS: So little things like
3 that.

4 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Great.

5 MEREDITH MILLS: Where the rules already
6 touch base or already says that it has to be in
7 compliance with something else, there shouldn't be
8 discretion.

9 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: I see.

10 MEREDITH MILLS: I forgot to say
11 grandfathering in. I . . . I would like to grandfather
12 in current benches and other --

13 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: So seconding of the
14 desire to grandfather in current plots, as well. Okay.

15 MEREDITH MILLS: Yeah. Plots or
16 conditions that aren't hazardous --

17 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Exactly. I see.

18 MEREDITH MILLS: -- I would say.

19 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Thank you.

20 Shae, who do we have next?

21 SHAE FREEMAN-HICKS: Mr. Eiland.

22 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Mr. Eiland, floor is
23 yours. Thank you.

24 STEVE EILAND: I'm gonna follow up really
25 what Miss Weinstat [sic] was talking about. My dad was

1 a surveyor, land surveyor, so I'm real familiar with
2 survey plats; everything that goes along with 'em.
3 And . . . Section 12 and Section 14 were re- -- were --
4 were filed in about 2007. And it says on both plats:
5 "Deed re- -- or restrictions: None." No mention of
6 rules, of nothing.

7 When -- when you have rules, they should
8 be filed with the plat when the plat is filed. If
9 you're gonna have a . . . gonna change the rules of --
10 of existing plat, let's say Austin Memorial Park, it
11 really could go for any of 'em, to -- when a subdivision
12 is done, and they come -- a homeowner comes in and wanna
13 do -- they have to get the sub- -- they have to get the
14 permission of the exis- -- of every existing . . .
15 landowner. If they do not get their permission, they
16 are not subject to the new rules. Only those that sign
17 off are subject to the new rules when you wanna change
18 restrictions in a subdivision.

19 And a cemetery is the same thing as a
20 subdivision. Because we buy this -- this plot is
21 bought. It is owned by the public. I mean by the
22 person, not by the public. So I don't see how you can
23 have new rules on existing cemeteries. Without the
24 permission of everyone who's ever bought a plot. And if
25 they don't sign off, they're not subject to the rules.

1 And the rules should be filed in the
2 County Clerk's Office under "Cemetery Memorial Park:
3 Restrictions," not in some . . . City office that says
4 "This is a -- these are the rules." It should be --
5 public should be able to see these rules all the time.
6 Whether I give you a copy or not, I should tell you, "It
7 is filed under the --"

8 So I -- I'm -- I'm with you. I don't see
9 how they can enforce rules on existing plot owners.

10 Then when you get into the area of where
11 you have a cemetery like -- well, Austin Memorial Park,
12 we have two sets of rules: One for the existing owners,
13 and one for the new ones. That is very confusing to the
14 operator of it, 'cause he needs to know legally what's
15 what for each plot. And that can be very confusing.

16 It says in here that you can't have a
17 gravestone over -- of 42 inches. Okay? Mayor Roy
18 Butler's is probably about 5 foot tall. At . . . and --
19 and . . . so you're gonna . . . you can't get those
20 people to remove their headstones and conform to these
21 rules unless you do it for everybody.

22 Austin . . . Oak Creek -- no, what's what?
23 Oakwood. You got monuments all over the place there.
24 Okay? Large. And they don't conform to any of these
25 rules right here. 'Cause I have a real hard time with

1 these rules being enforced . . . when the subdivision
2 has already -- other sections at Memorial Park that are
3 new, throw these rules on there and see if you can sell
4 the plots. But . . . having two sets of rules is gonna
5 be very . . . it's gonna be a problem.

6 TIM SUELTFUSS: Well, sir, I can feel
7 that there's more there, so please do sign up, 'cause I
8 know that you have . . . really thought through this
9 issue and been a very active part of this process, so I
10 appreciate it.

11 A couple of things I noted from Mr. Eiland
12 was that . . . you know, your comment that in Section 12
13 and 14 the plats show no deed restrictions. And in your
14 opinion, that any new restrictions should apply only if
15 the owners agree. And also that some of the existing
16 memorials exceed the dimensions indicated in the
17 proposed rules.

18 So thank you for your comment. I know you
19 have some more to . . . to comment on.

20 Ms. Weintraub, we'll go to you next.

21 And then also if anyone would like to sign
22 up to speak, feel free to stop by Shae's office over
23 there, or just wave your hand in the air.

24 So back to you. Thank you, ma'am.

25 SHARON WEINTRAUB: Well, while we're

1 speaking about grandfathering, it's already apparent
2 that the City is going to grandfather in all
3 nonconforming headstones.

4 My niece died in 2006. When we buried my
5 father next to her, in 2012, we were told by Stasswender
6 that his gravestone would have to be a little smaller
7 and a little shorter, because the City was making sure
8 that all the headstones now conformed with their rules
9 and regulations. But the City's not going to make us go
10 and take out all the nonconforming headstones. So if
11 the City's going to be willing to grand- -- to
12 grandfather in nonconforming headstones, they should
13 also be willing to grandfather in all other
14 nonconforming memorials.

15 I also wanna mention that my brother,
16 Steven Weintraub, and his wife, Tina Huckabee, who are
17 actually the people who instigated this whole process,
18 could not be here tonight because of other issues. And
19 I find it cruelly ironic that the two people who have
20 waited for over six months to take part in this process
21 cannot do so now.

22 I'm looking at the memorial space, and
23 frankly the whole thing looks to me like, you know, the
24 old . . . a camel is a horse designed by committee. I
25 mean, it might be workable for new graves, but I'm not

1 seeing how it's actually going to make maintenance
2 easier or cut back on maintenance. You're going to have
3 a top section with memorials, maybe a bottom section
4 with a bench, and then you're gonna have a swath
5 in-between. So the City's going to have to sod that,
6 they're gonna have to plant grass there, they're going
7 to have to mow, and somehow work between the memorial
8 and the bench without damaging anything?

9 I think would just simply be better to
10 give people the option of . . . blocking off the whole
11 grave and then taking care of it themselves. Than
12 trying to . . . as I say, sort of this compromise that's
13 not gonna please anybody.

14 I'd also like to mention not
15 grandfathering in graves. For example, my -- my
16 sister-in-law is a master gardener. She's a xeriscaper.
17 My niece's grave has beautiful, native,
18 drought-resistant flowers on it. Right now the cone
19 flower's in full bloom. It's surrounded by hand-cut
20 limestone bricks. Tearing those out -- they've been
21 there since 2006. And a lotta those memorials have been
22 there much earlier. Tearing those out, you're going to
23 force people to desecrate the graves. You're going to
24 damage those graves.

25 Is the City going to spend the time and

1 effort to immediately truck in dirt and truck in more
2 sod, and are they going to be willing to water that
3 grass in the middle of a drought when there's already
4 water restrictions limiting them to once a week? I
5 don't think so. I think what would happen is they're
6 gonna make people tear up those graves, and then they're
7 going to have to sit and watch them all summer while
8 they crack, the dirt -- the topsoil blows away, the soil
9 collapses.

10 Am I --

11 Okay.

12 TIM SUELTFUSS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

13 So just a couple things I noted from
14 Ms. Weintraub's comments were that the -- if the City
15 is -- I believe a comment of hers, if the City is
16 grandfathering in nonconforming memorials, then they
17 should grandfather in other items that do not conform to
18 these proposed rules. Ms. Weintraub also mentioned that
19 the memorialization space might work for new spaces, but
20 would cause maintenance difficulties, as well.

21 And also the comment that in your opinion
22 tearing out vegetation that does not conform to these
23 would desecrate those graves, as well?

24 SHARON WEINTRAUB: And also, it -- either
25 the City's going to have to put forth a tremendous

1 amount of manpower and expense to immediately correct
2 those, because otherwise you're just going to have the
3 graves sinking; you're going to have the topsoil blowing
4 away; you're going to have erosion.

5 TIM SUELTFUSS: Okay.

6 SHARON WEINTRAUB: And you're going to
7 have people coming every week to watch a grave
8 deteriorating while they can't do a thing to stop it.

9 TIM SUELTFUSS: I see. Okay. Thank
10 you, ma'am.

11 Mr. Amon Burton is next on our list.

12 And sir, I think Mr. Eiland had signed up
13 after you, so I might make -- ask for you to run about
14 three minutes, then we'll sign you back up next.

15 AMON BURTON: Sure, sure.

16 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you.

17 AMON BURTON: I can't speak to all the
18 things -- I sent in over ten pages of single-spaced
19 comments on the proposed rules. They need serious work.
20 Definitions are messed up. There's no clear definition
21 of "lot." It refers to multiple names of -- of "lots,"
22 "niches," "burial space," "full space," "full-size
23 burial space." There are definitions that are not
24 included in any definition section. And some of 'em
25 need to get -- we need to get rid of 'em.

1 This has already been mentioned, memorial
2 space, which is just a very defined area that limits
3 where you can put items. I see no -- no reason for that
4 definition to be in here at all.

5 The -- there are provisions, and you all
6 have mentioned, about grandfathering, that involve . . .
7 the maintenance involving the benches, to move 'em to
8 the back. I'll tell you, for example, some of us have
9 done this, is there was not room for a bench to go to
10 the -- to the foot of the space, burial spaces, that we
11 had, so we bought and paid over \$5,000 to get two spaces
12 on the -- on the side of ours so that we could have a
13 bench. And now the proposal is that we would have to
14 remove that. And so I've already spent over \$5,000 for
15 those lots that I bought solely for the purpose of a
16 bench. And I'm sure other people the same thing has
17 happened.

18 The . . . the -- their definition of or
19 comments about monuments can't be wider than 18 inches.
20 Obviously most of them are. It's because people own
21 more than one lot. There are just technical problems in
22 these rules.

23 And I'm . . . the area of Section 6, which
24 has so many nonconforming provisions, I mentioned the
25 provision of a young boy named -- four-year-old

1 Willingham in my comments, who has a little sandbox
2 attached to their memorial. And I said: I wanna know
3 who in the City is going to go and call those people and
4 tell them after 13 years that has to be removed. And
5 I've seen children playing there.

6 You go into the nursery area, they're --
7 they're . . . stuffed animals and dolls there.
8 Expecting to remove all those? Just for the convenience
9 of the maintenance people? For families who have
10 infants or young children that have been buried.

11 But the final thing I wanted to say is
12 that it's the process. I've asked the question last
13 week of what is the process for this revision. And I
14 ask: How is the public going to be involved in the
15 actual drafting of the rules? Of the revision to the
16 rules. And I -- and I hope Tim or someone will give me
17 an answer to that tonight, because members of the public
18 should be able to attend the sessions for reviewing the
19 revisions, for participating in the revisions. If this
20 is a public process, the public needs to participate in
21 the drafting of the rules.

22 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Great. Thank you, sir.

23 So Mr. Burton, just a few things that I
24 had jotted down as you were talking, what I heard from
25 you, were: The definition in the proposed rules are

1 unclear. That the memorialization space is too limited.
2 That benches should not be limited to simply the foot of
3 the space. You pointed out that monuments -- existing
4 monuments are wider than the 18 inches specified here.
5 You pointed out Section 6 has many nonconforming
6 provisions, and asked who is going to remove those
7 items, especially, in your opinion, that's just for the
8 convenience of maintenance activities.

9 AMON BURTON: And I don't believe they
10 should be removed.

11 TIM SUELTFUSS: Exactly. Yes, sir.

12 And -- and asking the question of how the
13 public would be involved in the development of the rules
14 themselves.

15 So thank you for your comments, sir.
16 And -- and . . . thank you for the comments you
17 submitted on -- via email exchanges and SpeakUpAustin,
18 too. Those are all very helpful.

19 Mr. Eiland, please come on back down.
20 Thank you.

21 STEVE EILAND: My son Heath died three
22 years ago. He was 16 years old. And I'm -- I'm really
23 representing parents who have lost their children. If
24 you go out and look at the cemeteries -- and I've --
25 I've walked every one of these cemeteries, and. . . .

1 Most of -- overdecorations, more flowers, are for
2 parents who have . . . who overdecorate for their kids
3 who are 35 and under, I'm gonna say. People who are 35
4 and under. Their parents still want to give to that --
5 their child. And they will place toys, they'll do
6 everything.

7 There's one close to Heath, the
8 mother . . . the baby was born in -- well, today was the
9 baby's birthday. They had "Happy Birthday." Was born
10 June 18th. It lived 9 -- 11 days. And that was 11
11 years ago, 2003. Now, they're still wanting to give to
12 that child that lived 11 days 11 years ago today. They
13 had Easter eggs sprinkled around the grave in
14 Eastertime.

15 Most of the overdecoration is by the
16 parents of children they have lost. And . . . it only
17 goes on for about 30 years. You go into the older
18 sections, and . . . you won't see that. Because it's --
19 it's -- time has passed. It's been 30/35 years. And
20 those graves are . . . very simple. Very simple.

21 And I don't think Austin cemetery problem
22 is overdecoration. I think the -- the problem with
23 Austin cemeteries is neglect. Neglect of the headstones
24 that have fallen down. There's 158 in -- in Austin
25 Memorial Park, believe it or not, that are down. And

1 those should be picked up -- speak of hazards, you have
2 a head -- you have a base and then you have a headstone.
3 The problem with the cemeteries is not too many flowers
4 or old flowers, even; the -- the problem with Oakwood is
5 that all that concrete . . . that they have -- they have
6 blocks. For each block, they're concreted and they're
7 raised. Well, the concrete is broken. The City needs
8 to go in there and do work on every one of those plots
9 so they can maintain 'em better.

10 There are so many headstones down at
11 Oakwood, it's . . . and -- and these are down old --
12 they're really supposed to take care of ones that are
13 leaning too much. And there are some that are off the
14 base, you can see 'em. They're still up, but they're
15 not where they're supposed to be.

16 And they're supposed to take care of that,
17 too. And they're not supposed to charge for that.
18 Their job is to fix the problem, and get it done.

19 Now, if Heath's headstone is done in the
20 next 30 years and it falls, I'll pay for it. No
21 problem. I'll do it before the City does it. Okay?
22 But the City's here to take care of people who aren't
23 there to maintain their . . . headstones years later.

24 And the . . . so . . . I'm
25 representing . . . parents who have lost their children.

1 Believe me, about -- I'll say 50 to 60 percent of the
2 overdecoration is on children. When I say "children,"
3 I'm saying 35 years and younger. That's where most of
4 it is. It's not on their grandparents or even their
5 parents. It's on children.

6 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you, sir. Few
7 things I heard from you in your comments just now,
8 Mr. Eiland, that . . . toys, you point out, are a way
9 that loved ones really can still give to the children
10 that they've lost. That the overdecoration is not the
11 problem in the cemeteries; you -- you point out that the
12 problem is neglect, and specifically headstones that
13 have fallen, for example at Oakwood. And you point out
14 that the City should pay for the repair of those
15 when . . . when family is no longer available.

16 Okay. Thank you for your comments.

17 Ms. Burton, your -- your name had been
18 there.

19 CAROL BURTON: Actually, I was gonna give
20 my time to Amon, but I think he said what he wanted to
21 say. So if I can please come up.

22 TIM SUELTFUSS: Yes, ma'am.

23 Then we'll go to Gail Foster after that.

24 CAROL BURTON: I certainly don't have
25 anything profound. And I thought the meeting started at

1 6:30 tonight, so we missed the first half of the
2 meeting. First part. Sorry about that.

3 But I just wanted to sort of . . . echo
4 what Ms. Weintraub said and -- and what Steve said,
5 about the . . . the individual quality of -- of . . .
6 the remembrances that people bring. We -- and also what
7 Amon said, about our buying land for the bench.
8 We . . . our -- our plot, our area, started with a
9 stillborn grandchild in 2008, I believe. 2006. I can't
10 remember. No. 2006, I think. And then he was joined
11 by our daughter-in-law, who died of breast cancer at the
12 age of 40, leaving a three-year-old. And we've recently
13 added my mother-in-law's ashes.

14 All of ours are cremains. And so we
15 bought . . . you know, full burial spots, and can do
16 four cremains in each. But we ended up buying a good
17 deal of property, because we wanted our bench to be on
18 some of it. We . . . we planted small bushes at the
19 corners. I tried to plant a small bush recently and was
20 asked not to, until these rules are -- are . . . are
21 codified. But it was only going to be a small bush.

22 And we've -- we've left -- we don't have
23 any actual real markers, stone markers. We've done very
24 eclectic, different things, and -- and I've planted
25 native plants. And -- and it's . . . very low

1 maintenance. But I do the maintenance. And as long
2 as -- as we're alive -- and I hope it's another 30
3 years -- what Steve -- we will do that. And when we're
4 no longer there to do that, then the City can remove
5 those things and plant grass and mow it.

6 But we chose Area 6 because it was so, so
7 eclectic, and there was so much love, individual
8 personalization shown there.

9 Steve's son has solar lights. We met
10 Steve and Becky because they were sitting on their
11 bench, and we were coming to sit on our bench. And I so
12 often meet people sitting on their benches. And the
13 benches are eclectic. They're -- they show individual
14 personality. I think that that's how it should be.

15 Again, you know, maybe I'm just talking
16 Area 6, but . . . I suspect other areas have individual
17 character that the people who are there chose it for
18 that, as well.

19 So . . . I just . . . hate the idea that
20 Austin is becoming a city with one stamp, one -- one
21 stamp for all. I was out at Area 6 one day and there
22 was a filmmaker, and I said, "What are you -- what are
23 you doing? Are you filming this for you? Or what are
24 you doing?"

25 He said, "I was hired by a funeral home to

1 come and photograph this area, film this area, because
2 they want -- they keep hearing that they -- the funeral
3 homes can't get business in their lots because people
4 want to be in Area 6." So he says, "That's why I'm
5 here, trying to see what makes Area 6 special." So.

6 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you. So thank you
7 again, Ms. Burton. You really pull out some of
8 the . . . just the . . . those individual qualities of
9 remembrances, I think you had mentioned, and the
10 eclectic nature of that area which drew you to it. Just
11 the personality of that specific area. Obviously it was
12 a -- very important to you, and continues to be very
13 important to you.

14 So . . . I -- I . . . noted also that --
15 that you had purchased additional property to place
16 benches and plant small bushes and so on, and I guess a
17 concern about whether that would be permitted within the
18 proposed rules. That you'd also planted native plants,
19 and that you do the maintenance, and if that were ever
20 to stop, then you would -- you would be comfortable
21 with -- with those items being removed.

22 But thank you for -- for those comments.

23 Yes, sir.

24 MIKE POWERS: To which cemetery was she
25 referring?

1 AMON BURTON: Austin Memorial.

2 TIM SUELTFUSS: Yes, sir. Thank you.

3 Gail Foster I believe is next.

4 GAIL FOSTER: I just recently lost my
5 husband, and hope I can get through this. And have just
6 recently purchased a space at Austin Memorial Park, next
7 to my grandparents and . . . just catty-corner to the
8 foot of my brother.

9 It's unfortunate to me that we're here
10 tonight, because the current rules have not been
11 enforced. And while I appreciate that there are people
12 who like the eclectic and the "Keep Austin Weird"
13 attitude, I am more of the opinion that things need to
14 be a little neater and tidier.

15 The plot just next to my brother was
16 purchased two weeks after my husband passed away, and
17 they have a flush-mount . . . memorial, but they have
18 come in and put a two-foot-tall plaster of Paris cross
19 with Magic Marker . . . writing on it, with little tiles
20 that have begun to fall off. There's solar lighting.
21 There's little spinners on it. There's all sorts of
22 things that do not appeal to me. And . . . those things
23 will all fit in the newly designed memorial, 36-inch
24 space. Solar lights, all -- all sorts of stuff.

25 But one thing that is really distressing

1 to me in these new rules . . . is that the permanent
2 memorials that have to be granite, marble, bronze, are
3 allowed to be 42 inches tall. The . . . memorials that
4 people can put in their space are allowed to be 48
5 inches tall. Now, who on the committee came up with
6 that craziness? I cannot conceive. That makes no sense
7 to me, that people can -- can bring in whatever kind
8 of . . . stuff that can be six inches taller than what
9 somebody pays thousands and thousands of dollars for.
10 There are so many things wrong with these rules. So
11 many things wrong.

12 TIM SUELTFUSS: So Ms. Foster, thank you
13 for your comments. I -- I just jotted down a few items.

14 You pointed out that the -- the current
15 rules have not been enforced, and feel that things need
16 to be neater and tighter [sic] than you see written in
17 the proposed rules that you have in front of you. You
18 mentioned that some of the nearby ornamentation and --
19 and that that's not appealing to you, necessarily, but
20 your concern is that that would be permitted within the
21 memorialization space. And it sounds like a specific
22 concern you have about the height of that
23 memorialization space, simply that that should not
24 exceed the height of the 42-inch memorials themselves.

25 Thank you.

1 Ms. Weintraub, I believe you were -- you
2 were next.

3 And again, if anyone else would like to
4 sign up to make some additional comments, please feel
5 free to do so.

6 Yes, ma'am.

7 SHARON WEINTRAUB: I would just like to
8 point out I don't think anybody here has problems with
9 limitations on the types of materials that can be placed
10 on the memorial sites. I mean, in fact, I am the one, I
11 admit it, I came up with the 48 inches, when back in
12 February of last year, because I was concerned that
13 things were not moving on -- I mean February this year,
14 when I was concerned that things were not moving on, I
15 just basically sat down and drafted my own very rough
16 proposal. I'm the one that came up with no paper, no
17 non-weather-proof, no glass. And just trying to come up
18 with measurements. I said not higher than 48. You
19 know. I don't -- I'm not -- I have no pride of
20 ownership in that. But . . . you know, I just came up
21 with it because I was trying to put something on the
22 table to talk about, because nothing was happening.

23 I would like to mention about the benches
24 here. I -- I -- people have already addressed one of my
25 concerns, is that people bought property, they've placed

1 benches on it, they should be allowed to leave them
2 there.

3 Under the current rules, it's -- under the
4 proposed rules, it's my understanding that you're
5 actually going to be placing the bench or chair within
6 the gravesite, on top of the gravesite. And I think a
7 lotta people are gonna have problems with that. They
8 wanna sit by their beloved one and contemplate or
9 commune with them; they don't want to sit on top of
10 them. And I don't think they want strangers sitting on
11 top of them.

12 I don't know why the bench can't be placed
13 directly at the foot instead of on top of the grave. I
14 mean, we are not planting people head to toe. There is
15 an easement there.

16 The other thing I want to address is . . .
17 there's no grass there. Yeah, I mean, it's green now,
18 'cause we've had some rain. But if you look at it
19 carefully, a lot of it's weeds, a lot of it is various
20 types of grass, and there's still a lot of bed -- bare
21 space. This is not Arlington Cemetery. This is not
22 Forest Lawn in Los Angeles. We do not have a rolling
23 green lawn there. We are not going to have a rolling
24 green lawn there. We are in severe drought. We're
25 gonna continue in severe drought probably for years.

1 Already they can only water once a week. It's time to
2 give up this obsession with lawns and grass and look to
3 xeriscaping.

4 We should allow people -- and that was in
5 my proposals -- to plant xeriscape gardens within the
6 boundaries of the Austin GoGreen program. I even
7 suggested barring certain plants of certain heights that
8 have spines, that have thorns, that will grow by root
9 systems or ribosomes. It would actually save the City
10 maintenance if you allowed people to plant xeriscaping.

11 And I would recommend instead of even
12 concerning about the grass, the City look at xeriscaping
13 the entire . . . cemetery. I think it would be a lot
14 more attractive to have nicely arranged rocks with red
15 yucca and mountain laurel and local drought-resistant
16 plants than the current bare patches, weeds, and
17 fire-ant mounds.

18 I also would like -- one more thing.

19 Oh. Okay.

20 Just one short thing. I notice nothing
21 addresses the ornaments or the wind chimes or anything
22 in the trees.

23 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you.

24 So Ms. Weintraub, I -- I had just jotted
25 down a few items that you had mentioned. I believe I

1 heard you say that no one really had problems, from your
2 standpoint, with the materials allowed in the
3 memorialization space. You pointed out that you had
4 come up with some of those initial recommendations about
5 items that should not be permitted. You did point out
6 that if people bought property, they should be allowed
7 to place benches there. And your comment was that those
8 benches should be allowed at the foot of the grave, not
9 on top of the grave.

10 SHARON WEINTRAUB: Right.

11 And I forgot to mention one thing. I
12 think -- this is a city park. There should be places
13 for people to sit. And I think there may be some
14 Americans with Disabilities compliance issues for the
15 very fact there is no place for people to sit in that
16 cemetery.

17 TIM SUELTFUSS: Okay. Thank you.

18 And your last point that I jotted down was
19 just to give up the obsessions with lawns and -- and
20 yards and use xeriscaping.

21 SHARON WEINTRAUB: It's never gonna look
22 like Pebble Beach Golf Course.

23 TIM SUELTFUSS: Well, thank you again
24 for your comments.

25 And I believe next we have Ms. Zoila Vega.

1 ZOILA VEGA: Shall we identify ourselves
2 as a speaker?

3 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: If you like. We'll also
4 be commenting there. But go ahead.

5 ZOILA VEGA: Okay. I'm Zoila Vega with
6 the Austin Heritage Tree Foundation. I have not read
7 the rules yet, but my concern is with the trees.

8 The trees need watering in the cemeteries.
9 The trees are dying by the hundreds. The irrigation is
10 cut off. The irrigation is for the grass, but a little
11 bit that goes for the grass goes for the trees. So I'm
12 okay with having xeriscaping, as long as the trees get
13 some kind of water.

14 The rule specifically that I was concerned
15 with that I read on one of the questions, I don't know
16 if it's included in this, is the -- there shouldn't be
17 any water hoses or sprinklers left on the ground at AMP,
18 or maybe the other cemeteries. And I'm against that,
19 because people need to be able to water their trees that
20 they own, that they plant there in their plots. Or help
21 with the other trees that need some watering.

22 So the hoses should be placed somewhere so
23 that they don't -- they're not a safety hazard for
24 people. But some people that are elderly cannot really
25 pick them up and put 'em somewhere, like hanging from a

1 post. So the rule needs to be flexible. And hoses and
2 sprinklers should be allowed on site.

3 And if anybody can help water more trees,
4 we would really appreciate it. Thank you.

5 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Thank you, ma'am.

6 So Ms. Vega, just jotted down a couple of
7 comments that you made. One was a concern about the
8 trees dying, and they need water, and that should
9 certainly be permitted. You also pointed out that hoses
10 should be allowed. Hoses and sprinklers. And that
11 there needs to be some flexibility in that rule.

12 So thank you for your comments.

13 ZOILA VEGA: Okay. Thank you.

14 TIM SUELTENFUSS: We next have
15 Ms. Patricia Jacobson. Let's come on down.

16 PATRICIA JACOBSON: Well, I hadn't really
17 planned on being up here, so . . . I don't have but just
18 a couple of notes jotted down. But after Miss Foster
19 spoke, I felt like I needed to . . . at least support
20 her, because I feel the same way she does.

21 I have a number of family members that are
22 buried at Austin Memorial Park, as well as at Oakwood,
23 and I also prefer the nicer, neater look to the
24 cemetery. And I don't know . . . of any other cemetery
25 that allows some of the decorating that goes on, and

1 like Ms. Foster, I . . . prefer the neater look.

2 I'm a seventh-generation Austinite. And
3 like I say, I have a ton of history here in Austin. And
4 I enjoy telling people that we have family members
5 buried at the -- at two different cemeteries here.

6 And although I work at the cemetery, for
7 the City of Austin, I'm frequently walking around,
8 cleaning things up that blow off of gravesites, you
9 know, things that people are well intentioned, with
10 their decorations. Someone mentioned Easter eggs that
11 are on graves. They unfortunately don't always come
12 back and clean them up. It's not intentional. It just
13 happens.

14 And we -- because I care about the
15 cemetery, and where my loved ones are buried, I go out
16 and walk the grounds on my breaks and my lunch hours --
17 sometimes I get there at 7:00 a.m. in the morning and
18 I'm driving around and I'm picking things up that just
19 get blown, abandoned, whatever.

20 So I'm here really kinda supporting
21 Ms. Foster. I didn't really wanna speak, because I do
22 work there, too, but I have family there, and I do care
23 about the cemeteries. So I just wanted y'all to know.

24 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you.

25 I think that's one of the hallmarks of

1 this topic, is that it -- it really is a matter of . . .
2 a lot of interest and concern and importance to all the
3 folks that are engaged in this. So I appreciate
4 everyone --

5 SHARON WEINTRAUB: And I don't think
6 anybody here has a problem with, as I say, limiting the
7 type of materials or requiring that things be anchored
8 in the memorial -- you know, in the gravesite so they
9 don't blow around or blow away. I don't think anybody
10 here has any objection to that.

11 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you.

12 Yeah, and so Ms. Jacobson, you just
13 mentioned that you prefer the nicer, neater look. And
14 you pointed out that sometimes even those
15 well-intentioned decorations can deteriorate and blow
16 and -- and -- and . . . leave the -- the -- the space
17 itself and need to be picked up, as well. Also just
18 mention the history that you have, seventh-generation
19 Austin native here, and. . . .

20 Again, just very important matter.

21 So next we have Mr. Mike Powers.

22 Yes, sir.

23 MIKE POWERS: This is my first time here.
24 And I wasn't even planning on speaking, but hearing the
25 other comments has motivated me to make a few statements

1 here.

2 My family has two plots at Oakwood, and we
3 also help with distant relatives, two other plots there,
4 as well. I'm a professional landscaper. I have a small
5 gardening and landscaping company here in Austin. And
6 so my relatives have asked me to do this for them.

7 We have tried to maintain a more rustic
8 appearance to the . . . two principal plots. Some
9 people might call it semi-wild. It's certainly
10 eclectic. But it -- mostly here to support what
11 Mrs. Weintraub said about . . . xeriscaping.

12 In my practice, I've been doing this
13 for -- I -- I'm a professional biologist. I managed
14 Wild Basin Nature Preserve for years. Since then, as I
15 said, I've got a small company of my own to do
16 landscaping. And I'm a firm believer in using native
17 plants. It will reduce water needs to about . . . 10 to
18 20 percent of what our standard ideas/concepts about
19 lawns and so forth at our homes or in the cemetery.

20 Last week I went out and did some work on
21 those plots, and I have noticed there's great diversity
22 in our plot, because I keep it in a sort of a semi-wild
23 state, with only natives, as far as I can. And I -- but
24 this time I actually surveyed them. I counted 17 native
25 species, different native species, in both the principal

1 plots, and only four nonnative species, and they were
2 all grasses, which I removed, because if we -- if I
3 don't, they will completely take over everything.

4 So . . . also in relation to the comment
5 about hoses, I always carry my own hose out there. It
6 only requires about a 20-foot section. I have a really
7 light plastic hose so it's easy for me to move and so
8 forth.

9 Our family's in the enviable position of
10 having me here and being able to tend to the plot. My
11 heart goes out to the families who no longer really have
12 any living members here. There's no one to care for
13 these plots.

14 And I know that this is a very complex
15 problem and -- which we're all dealing with, and I . . .
16 thank the City for trying to address this as well as
17 they can.

18 Thank you.

19 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you, sir.

20 Mr. Powers, I just jotted down that --
21 that you have family plots at Oakwood and -- and that
22 you really like that rustic, eclectic appearance to
23 those plots. Obviously supportive of xeriscaping and
24 the use of native plants. And just pointed out that you
25 always carry your own hose. And . . . just some of the

1 challenges that might exist for -- for those who do not
2 have family members present.

3 Okay. So next, Carol Burton, I believe.

4 CAROL BURTON: I just have to come back to
5 say that I'm one who definitely opposes the limitation
6 to marble and granite or whatever the limitations are.
7 In our area, we took out all the grass. We did
8 xeriscape it. It has very low-water-maintenance
9 planting in it. Very low.

10 It's bordered by broken tile, so that
11 there's no question about where our area is, so the City
12 doesn't have to bother about coming in to mow ours.
13 They don't have to have any question about where ours
14 is. It's -- our area must be about . . . I don't know,
15 16 inches by 12 inches -- 16 inches. 16 feet by 12
16 feet. Something like that. With -- with all of them.

17 And we don't have a single standard --
18 my -- my . . . our son carved a limestone wave for his
19 wife, because she had been a lifeguard as a young woman,
20 and swam every day of her life, including all through
21 the winter. And she had a little -- long before they
22 were popular -- tattoo on her ankle of a wave. So when
23 Shanda died, Scott carved a limestone wave. It's about
24 this tall [indicating] and this wide [indicating]. And
25 that is on her cremation.

1 My mother-in-law, we just buried her
2 ashes. She died 12 years ago, and she was on our
3 dresser until very recently. And . . . my husband's
4 brother and our sister-in-law came down for a little
5 ceremony, and we buried her cremains and had our family
6 there. And her little headstone is about this
7 big [indicating], and it's a ceramic little church.
8 Little steeple. Ceramic. It's about this
9 tall [indicating]. And it's on a . . . it's on a tile
10 base. And it's not going to blow away or fall over.
11 But it's not permanently anchored. And it is not
12 marble. And it's not granite. And it's not going to be
13 permanently anchored.

14 I . . . in addition to the colorful
15 flowers, have little pieces of broken tile, very sort
16 of . . . mm . . . to add to the color, I guess. It adds
17 to the color. So that even in the winter there is color
18 there.

19 There are monuments throughout 6 that are
20 wooden crosses; iron crosses. Our stillborn grandchild,
21 who . . . has a -- has an iron cross. Anyway. I have a
22 definite opinion about materials.

23 Also I actually have a question. The next
24 meeting is the 26th, I think, at Northwest Recreation
25 Center? Is that right?

1 WOMAN: For the master plan.

2 CAROL BURTON: We're gonna go to all
3 those. But I wondered if there is . . . how long does
4 this process continue?

5 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Well, actually, we've
6 got some information right there in which kinda --

7 CAROL BURTON: 'Cause I'm getting nervous
8 about transparency, that my husband is worried about,
9 too. And I'm wondering . . . I sent in a form on the
10 Web site filling out all -- all of these, and it
11 disappeared before I could do screen shots or anything.
12 I would love to have a copy of what I took a lot of
13 time, and I don't know how to get a copy.

14 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: Absolutely. I believe
15 that we have that. But why don't -- if you have a
16 second to catch up with Shae, then we can confirm that
17 we have that information.

18 Yeah, I think -- I appreciate your
19 comments. I think they kinda reemphasize what you had
20 pointed out earlier, about the individual quality of
21 remembrances.

22 CAROL BURTON: Right.

23 TIM SUELTFENFUSS: You mentioned your
24 opposition to limiting memorials to marble and granite,
25 and your preference for other types of materials. You

1 mentioned limestone wave and ceramic steeple, wooden and
2 iron crosses, and -- in the area. And how you had
3 bordered the space with tile to designate that, too.

4 So thank you for your comments.

5 Mr. Burton, I think you were next on the
6 list.

7 AMON BURTON: I just wanted to add a
8 couple of things. One of the comments with respect to
9 anchoring, one of the problems in these rules when you
10 really get down and look at details, is that on . . .
11 generally no one has a problem with being -- things
12 being anchored. There's not a -- I have walked through.
13 There's not a single bench that's anchored. They don't
14 need to be anchored. It takes two people to move most
15 of 'em. And so when we draft these kinda rules, we've
16 gotta be careful about that.

17 Anchoring with respect . . . cremations.
18 I mentioned in my comments I think there are two
19 mentions of cremation in all these rules. When these
20 rules were adopted in the '70s, very few people were
21 cremated. I don't know what's happened -- I can find
22 out later from Gilbert what the percentage is happening
23 right now at Austin Memorial Park and the other Austin
24 cemeteries.

25 But I called Cook-Walden, and right now

1 city-wide, 40 percent of all funerals they handle are
2 cremations. And therefore -- and these rules basically
3 are all based on casket burials. They were all created
4 that way, and they've been carried and slightly modified
5 here. And it has all kinds of implications.

6 Memorial space. What does that mean in
7 connection when you've got four . . . cremains on
8 particular space?

9 What . . . what does it do for the bench
10 when you got -- if it's at the base when you've got four
11 places ending up with a bench would basically be on the
12 fourth one, on the one at the -- at the end.

13 There are other implications through here.
14 I won't go through them. About cremations. But serious
15 thought needs to be given to how these rules apply to
16 cremations. And it's clear there's very little thought
17 has gone into that. And I haven't thought through it
18 all. But it clearly needs to be thought through.

19 The -- on the materials, today the
20 materials are completely different. There are so many
21 strong, different types of materials other than just
22 granite and -- and . . . concrete and marble. The --
23 the way they're being used in building materials, I
24 don't think we need to limit the materials in that way.

25 But the balance here is that if things

1 deteriorate, if things get blown away, that the -- there
2 needs to be weekly -- the staff goes by and picks them
3 up. Just like with respect to -- to stuffed animals and
4 toys that parents put for nursery, the children that
5 died very, very young, if they are terribly faded and
6 are deteriorated, they just need to be picked up. But
7 that's the balance I think needs to be done with a lot
8 of these where the City can -- doesn't require daily
9 maintenance for picking up things, but once every week
10 or once every two weeks they go through and pick up
11 things that are deteriorated. And -- and if broken.
12 That's the best way to handle that, rather than trying
13 to create rigidity about various things.

14 And finally, with respect to the
15 cremations, is like -- memorial space, as my wife
16 mentioned, some of the markers are very small in
17 cremation spaces, because you've got four of them there.
18 And there is -- there's no need for a concrete base for
19 something that's 18 inches wide and is not terribly
20 heavy, like it is critical if you've got a large
21 monument out of granite.

22 So there needs to be some flexibility in
23 these rules depending on the type of markers that exist.

24 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you.

25 So Mr. Burton, I just jotted down that --

1 that you mentioned that specifically benches do not need
2 to be anchored; that they're anchored by the weight of
3 the bench themselves. You pointed out that 40 percent
4 of funerals are cremations, and these rules seem to be,
5 in your opinion, based on casket burials and should be
6 more focused on cremations.

7 AMON BURTON: They just need to account
8 for that. They don't need to be focused solely on that.

9 TIM SUELTFUSS: To accommodate those.
10 Okay.

11 AMON BURTON: Yes.

12 TIM SUELTFUSS: You mentioned that
13 specifically memorialization space and benches should be
14 considered in relation to cremations.

15 AMON BURTON: Yes.

16 TIM SUELTFUSS: As well. That new
17 materials should be allowed from a standpoint of
18 construction materials. But that a weekly or biweekly
19 cleanup should occur of deteriorated items.

20 So thank you for your comments.

21 I believe we don't have anyone else
22 listed. Who else would like to speak?

23 Ms. Vega. Okay.

24 ZOILA VEGA: Do you need to sign in first?

25 TIM SUELTFUSS: No. She'll just jot it

1 down. Thank you.

2 ZOILA VEGA: Okay. Zoila Vega again. Now
3 I had a chance to read the rules.

4 I agree there should -- with the previous
5 speakers, there should be flexibility. I see a lot of
6 these rules as a way to reduce maintenance, don't do
7 this or don't do that or don't do this. I mean, all
8 that matters is, like you said, have somebody go and
9 pick it up. Every two weeks. It's not a big deal.

10 I don't wanna see a cemetery that's become
11 those -- administrator is a tyrant that says, "You shall
12 not do this and you shall not do that." We have our
13 rights in the cemetery. So it's a matter of flexibility
14 and accommodating everyone.

15 I see that sprinklers will not be allowed.
16 There's older people that cannot hold a hose by hand all
17 the time for the half an hour that it needs to water a
18 tree. They go in there and put a sprinkler, they sit,
19 they look, they get their memories, they visit with
20 their relatives that are dead, and then they pick things
21 up. They cannot be standing there holding a hose. Some
22 of us are landscapers. I have the strength to carry
23 hoses. But some people are older and they cannot.
24 That's the flexibility that's needed.

25 So sprinklers should be allowed on site.

1 The benches. I saw that there should be
2 only iron cast benches and marble and stone and all
3 that. Those are very expensive. I think the idea is
4 for not having those wooden benches that deteriorate.
5 There's some metal benches that are modern that are not
6 iron, cast iron, and they're cheaper, more affordable.
7 Not everybody can afford those expensive benches. So
8 maybe a metal bench would be a much better word than an
9 iron cast -- or cast iron.

10 Then the final one with the decorations
11 again. Some people lose their babies, their infants,
12 like the previous speaker said, and the best remembrance
13 that they have is that toy, that stuffed toy, for the
14 child. And they leave it there to accompany the child.
15 And now we're saying, "No, you cannot do that, because I
16 don't wanna pick it up." You know, that's not right.
17 It's not a human thing to do. It may be practical, but
18 doesn't a cemetery manager have a heart? You know.

19 I mean, think of everybody. And
20 accommodate everybody.

21 Thank you.

22 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Thank you.

23 So Ms. Vega. . . .

24 ZOILA VEGA: I'm sorry.

25 TIM SUELTENFUSS: I was just gonna . . .

1 mention what I had jotted down that -- that you saw that
2 these rules, in your view, are kind of designed to
3 reduce maintenance; that you felt like they should be
4 more flexible. Specifically sprinklers should be
5 allowed, especially for older folks to -- to use who
6 might have difficulty just with a hose. Mentioned that
7 metal benches, not just cast iron, should be permitted.
8 And toys should be allowed, as well. So. . . .

9 ZOILA VEGA: And those stuffed toys.

10 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Stuffed -- stuffed
11 animals, as well.

12 ZOILA VEGA: Right. Okay.

13 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Thank you.

14 ZOILA VEGA: Thank you.

15 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Do we have anyone else
16 signed up? Is there anyone else?

17 Yes, ma'am.

18 GAIL FOSTER: Just a couple of more
19 things, since this is probably our last time for any
20 input. Since you are drafting some pretty hard and fast
21 rules, it seems like, for the memorialization spaces on
22 what can and cannot be within those spaces, so making a
23 list of what's gonna be in there, I would recommend that
24 no solar lights be in those spaces, because I have never
25 seen solar lights that stay erect for any period of

1 time. They don't seem to be anchored well.

2 If there's gonna be a height limit, I
3 would like to see it be 24 to 28 inches.

4 I would like there to be no wind chimes.
5 I know there are people that love wind chimes. But
6 there are also a equal number of people that don't like
7 the sound of wind chimes.

8 And I would like to see in the
9 memorialization space a limit of three to four items
10 within that space.

11 Thank you.

12 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Okay. Thank you, ma'am,
13 for -- I appreciate those specific comments. You just
14 mentioned that your preference would be that if
15 memorialization spaces were to -- to occur in the final
16 rules, that they should not permit solar lights,
17 specifically because they're -- you don't see those
18 being anchored well oftentimes; that the height limit
19 should be 24 to 28 inches; that wind chimes should not
20 be permitted; and then limit to three to four items
21 within those.

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 GAIL FOSTER: Thank you.

24 TIM SUELTENFUSS: Are there others who
25 would like to speak?

1 Ms. Weintraub.

2 SHARON WEINTRAUB: I just want to -- to
3 make sure that it gets on the transcript to mention that
4 I believe the lack of benches at the cemeteries, because
5 they're city parks, do present a possible violation of
6 the Americans with Disabilities Act.

7 I also want to reemphasize that we need to
8 make sure that any rules fully allow different religious
9 traditions or observances. If you go to the Jewish
10 section of the cemetery, you will see lined up often on
11 top of the gravestones, or at the base of the
12 gravestones, all sorts of different rocks of different
13 sizes. It's a Jewish tradition when you visit a grave,
14 you don't bring a flower; you bring a stone. Because a
15 stone is -- represents the permanence of love and
16 memory, and it shows that that person has been visited.

17 I'm sure lots of people find these stones
18 not very attractive, because they're not nicely lined up
19 and all that, but they're very important to the Jewish
20 tradition.

21 If you go to my niece's grave, you will
22 see probably several hundred stones that have been left
23 by family and friends since she passed away in 2006.
24 Those stones are not supposed to be removed.

25 And I just want to -- and I'm sure there's

1 other religious traditions I may not be familiar with,
2 but . . . any rules have got to take those into account.

3 TIM SUELTFUSS: Thank you.

4 So Ms. Weintraub just reiterated that
5 the -- the comment stated for the record -- the comment
6 you had made previously, that -- that lack of benches
7 could be a possible violation of the Americans with
8 Disabilities Act. And you mentioned also the rules need
9 to allow for the various religious traditions, for
10 example placement of stones, as well as others.

11 Are there others who have signed up to
12 speak? No?

13 Anyone else who would like to make a
14 comment? Anyone?

15 Okay. Well, it is now just before 7:30, I
16 believe. Let me suggest that we go ahead and break now.

17 If anyone would like to make a verbatim
18 comment, but would not like to do that at the podium at
19 the microphone to a group, certainly stop by and visit
20 with our court reporter. You can also write comments
21 and drop them in that box there.

22 Ms. Weintraub, do you have a question?

23 SHARON WEINTRAUB: Yes. Is it possible to
24 get a transcript of today's meeting?

25 TIM SUELTFUSS: Those will be available,

1 yes. I think it was I believe a two-week time frame or
2 so. But . . . those will be available.

3 And certainly at --

4 I'm sorry. Go ahead.

5 MAN: No, you're fine.

6 TIM SUELTFUSS: I was just going to
7 point out that the transcript of the comments made
8 tonight would be presented as these proposed rules go to
9 the Parks and Recreation Board, as well.

10 (Gilbert Hernandez addressed the audience
11 off the record from 7:29 to 7:32 p.m.)

12 PATRICIA JACOBSON: Memorialization of our
13 loved ones should be what's in our heart, in our
14 memories, photographs, not by balloons and pinwheels and
15 solar lights and . . . stuffed animals and things of
16 that nature on the gravesites.

17 (No other public comment from 7:33 to
18 7:55 p.m., at which time the meeting was
19 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, RABIN' MONROE, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, hereby certify that the above transcript is a true and correct transcription of the audio recording, done to the best of my skill and ability;

And I further certify that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties in the above-listed action, and, further, that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Certified to by me this 30th of June, 2014.


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APPENDIX C: BEST PRACTICES

C1. A Practical Guide to Consensus

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CONSENSUS

Abbreviated Version

This abbreviated version of the *Practical Guide to Consensus* highlights some of the important elements of the book, and serves as a “review edition” for people considering purchasing copies of the book.

The complete *Practical Guide to Consensus* may be purchased through PCI’s on-line order form. Discounts are available for purchases of 10 or more copies.

Collaborators

Jim Arthur
Chris Carlson
Lee Moore

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FOREWORD

Why PCI Created this Guide

By Greg Wolf

*Director, National Policy Consensus Center and
Former Governor's Advisor for Dispute Resolution, State of Oregon*

Consensus based approaches to problem solving have long been used to resolve policy conflicts. Governments, businesses, interest groups and individuals negotiate decisions every day. These activities are not new.

What *is* relatively new is building the use of consensus processes into government as an alternative for addressing a wide range of multiparty, multi-issue disputes and controversies. In the 1970s , mediators began employing these approaches to help parties settle environmental disputes. Over the years, these methods have been used to address an increasingly broad array of issues. WE now know much more about when, where, and how to use these approaches.

This book is a practical “how to” guide for sponsors of consensus processes, a role often played by government agencies. It is produced by the Policy Consensus Initiative (PCI), a national non-profit organization working with state leaders to establish and strengthen the uses of conflict resolution and consensus building to enhance government effectiveness. The book distills the best practices for using collaborative approaches to resolve public issues. It is based on the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution 1997 report *Best Practices for Government Agencies: Guidelines for Using Agreement-Seeking Processes*.

While this book is written especially for those on the front lines in government, it provides information useful to any agency, department, organization, or individual involved in consensus processes. The more that we, as public officials, can wisely employ the tools of consensus building and collaborative problem solving, the better able we will be to serve the public interest. I hope you find the approaches and methods presented here to be as useful in resolving problems as I have.

INTRODUCTION

Building on the Best Practices Report

In a 1997 report titled *Best Practices for Government Agencies: Guidelines for Using Collaborative Agreement-Seeking Processes*, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution developed eight recommendations for government officials who sponsor consensus processes:

1. An agency should first consider whether a consensus approach is appropriate.
2. Stakeholders should be supportive of the process and willing and able to participate.
3. Agency leaders should support the process and ensure sufficient resources to convene the process.
4. An assessment should precede a consensus process.
5. Ground rules should be mutually agreed upon by all participants and not established solely by the sponsoring agency.
6. The sponsoring agency should ensure the facilitator's neutrality and accountability to all participants.
7. The agency and participants should plan for implementation of the agreement from the beginning of the process.
8. Policies governing these processes should not be overly prescriptive.

About this Guide

This guide provides step-by-step, “how-to” advice for the first seven of these recommendations. It also covers several important topics not fully addressed in the report, such as how to assess whether a consensus process is likely to work.

We define a consensus process as an effort in which government agencies and other affected parties seek to reach agreement on a course of action to address an issue or set of related issues. A consensus process is not appropriate for all issues, but under the right conditions, the approach described here can produce effective solutions with broad public support.

The book is written especially for government sponsors of consensus processes, but will also be useful to other stakeholders and participants. It offers government leaders and managers guidance on how to use and conduct consensus processes. While the idea for using a consensus process can come from anyone, often a public official or agency makes the decision to sponsor or initiate a process. Throughout the guide, “sponsor” refers to sponsoring governments, departments, or agencies.

This guide describes an ideal approach to organizing and conducting a consensus process. It is not always possible to undertake an ideal process, and modifications or adjustments are usually required. However, chances of a successful outcome will increase to the extent you follow the principles outlined in the guide. Chapters 1 and 2 lay the foundation; Chapter 1 defines and describes the basics of consensus processes and Chapter 2 explains when consensus processes are most likely to be successful.

Chapter 3 outlines the role of sponsors. The remaining chapters describe how to conduct the basic phases of the process: assessment (Chapter 4), engaging participants (Chapter 5), determining who will manage the process (Chapter 6), planning and organizing the tasks (Chapter 7), writing ground rules (Chapter 8) conducting the discussions and reaching consensus (Chapter 9), and formalizing and implementing the agreement (Chapter 10). These phases are not entirely linear; some will overlap or occur simultaneously.

While actual cases may vary from the model presented here, this guide covers the essential elements that sponsors need to address. The guide also includes a number of real-life examples that illustrate how these processes have been used. Stories from around the nation demonstrate how consensus, when used appropriately, really works to help resolve public issues.

This guide covers only the basics of consensus building. There are many other publications that discuss these topics in greater detail, some of which are listed in the bibliography. Our hope is that readers will find this guide a good place to start.

What is consensus?

A practical definition for consensus in the public policy setting is:

- The parties have reached a meeting of the minds sufficient to make a decision and carry it out;
- No one who could block or obstruct the decision or its implementation will exercise that power;
- Everyone needed to support the decision and put it into effect will do so.

What Is collaboration?

To collaborate means to work together. A number of recently published books discuss this new era of collaboration in government and business and explain how to build collaborative working relationships. Generally, collaboration includes:

- A shared purpose—collaborators work together to achieve a common objective.
- A shared need—accomplishing the objective requires a combination of skills, resources and ideas that one party alone does not have.
- Authentic conversations—people must be able to speak frankly and listen carefully.
- Reciprocity—cooperative give-and-take enables a group to negotiate effectively.

Why use a consensus process?

For a government agency, department, or official who is charged with solving a complex issue, a consensus process may make sense for several reasons:

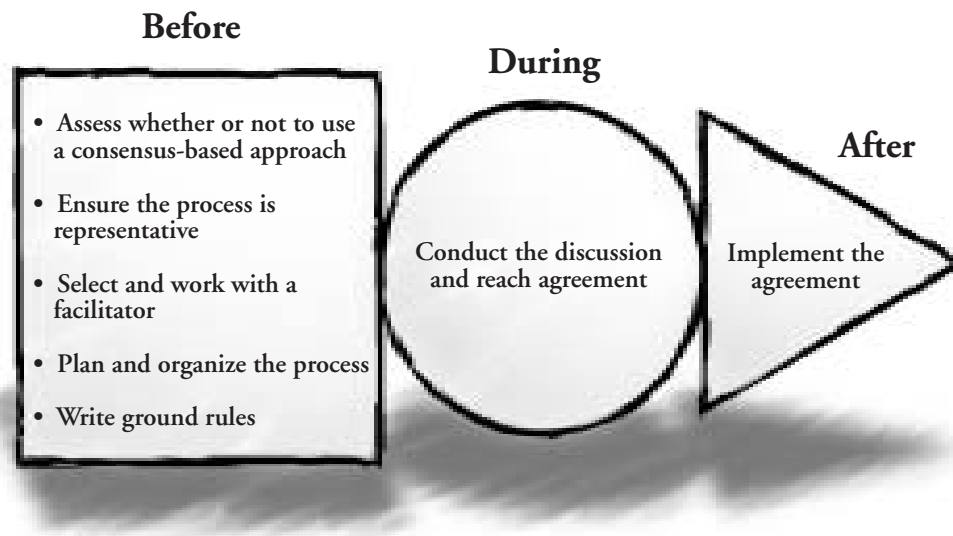
- An issue is not getting addressed and the costs of indecision and uncertainty are mounting for everyone.
- Decision makers in other forums may not address the real issues.
- The department could make an unpopular decision and no one would follow it.
- The parties may need each other's continued cooperation.
- Consensus agreements can result in better solutions.
- Consensus processes can shorten the list of disagreements or clarify issues for decision makers.
- Consensus processes can enhance the sense of fairness and equity in decision making process.

Other ways to engage the public

In addition to consensus processes, two other methods that are frequently employed are communication and consultation.

METHOD	POSSIBLE OUTCOMES
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Information exchange▶ Lists of interests, concerns, and/or options▶ Improved understanding of the issues
CONSULTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Opinions or suggestions for action▶ Plans developed and refined
CONSENSUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Agreements reached on actions or policies▶ Strengthened relationships

What happens in a consensus process?



BEFORE the process begins

1. Assess whether or not to use a consensus-based approach
2. Ensure the processes is representative and inclusive
3. Select and work with a facilitator
4. Plan and organize the process
5. Write good ground rules

1. Assess whether or not to use a consensus-based approach

What is an assessment?

An assessment is a diagnosis of a situation or conflict to determine whether a consensus process is feasible or likely to waste time and energy. Some sponsors try to economize by skipping this stage, but experience shows that this initial diagnosis is the most essential part of the process. Because some issues lend themselves to consensus and others don't, it actually wastes resources to proceed without first determining whether the situation is ripe for reaching consensus.

Sponsors of the processes may wish to follow this CHECK LIST to help determine their own willingness and ability to use a consensus approach:

- Do the issues appear to be negotiable?
- Are the interests clearly defined?
- Is the issue a priority for stakeholders?
- Is there enough time for parties to deliberate (or is it an emergency situation)?
- Alternatively, is a deadline "pushing" a decision helping ensure a defined time frame for the process?

- Who are the parties? Is there a relative balance of power or do some have better alternatives than negotiating that might be more attractive than reaching consensus?
- If issues of race, class, culture, and ethnicity could make it difficult for parties to participate on equal footing, what can be done to overcome those differences?
- Are any of the parties framing the issue as one of rights or asserting a fundamental principle they consider to be non-negotiable?
- Are any of the parties seeking to clarify a legal question or establish a legal precedent?
- Is it likely that political leaders will support a process?
- What are the relationships among the parties? Is there a history of conflict or is this issue a onetime occurrence?
- Do the parties have political influence that would help the agency implement the decision? For example is funding from the legislature necessary?
- Will implementation require the ongoing effort of many parties? Should the sponsoring agency try to achieve an agreement that will lay the foundation for productive collaboration?

NOTE:

The complete Practical Guide to Consensus contains a number of other questions that are key to making an assessment.

2. Ensure the process is representative and inclusive

How to decide who participates

Deciding who participates is a two-step process—first identifying the interests that need to be represented, then selecting the representatives for those interests. Generally, the parties agree on the interests to be represented and then each interest group selects its own representative.

Cautionary Note: Participation is the Key to Legitimacy

Government-sponsored consensus processes are not the traditional forums in which policies are made, administered, or adjudicated in a democracy. In traditional forums, the mechanisms for determining who participates directly in the writing and administration of law are spelled out in constitutions, charters, statutes, and rules. Consensus-seeking processes are adjuncts to traditional democratic processes; they can shift the locus of public decision making.

3. Select and work with a facilitator

What does a facilitator do?

- ▶ Before the process begins—Facilitators assess prospects for consensus by conducting interviews with the sponsor and the other stakeholders. Based on the interviews, they analyze whether a consensus process is feasible, then prepare their assessment without favoring the sponsor with strategic advice or recommendations that could harm the interests of another party. Facilitators advise other parties in the same way.

- ▶ During the process—Facilitators prepare for and manage the discussions as well as write meeting summaries. They see to it that information needed for each meeting is assembled and distributed to all participants in time.
- ▶ After the process—Facilitators assist with drafting agreements, and, if requested, manage meetings during the implementation period(s).

Should a facilitator from inside or outside the sponsoring agency manage the process?

If the facilitator is an agency staff member, the agency should establish an in-house policy or agreement with the “inside” facilitator that specifies the boundaries the facilitator will adhere to in order to preserve his or her impartiality and accountability to the participants. If parties distrust one another, a facilitator affiliated with one of them may not be able to perform all of his or her required tasks.

What qualifications does a facilitator need?

The most important qualification is past experience as a facilitator and mediator of complex, public conflicts involving many parties. Most rosters of facilitators, in fact, give priority to past experience. A facilitator should also have the attributes, skills, knowledge, and professional ethics

How to identify and select an independent facilitator

There are three basic steps to finding a facilitator:

- ▶ Identify the pool of candidates
- ▶ Issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
- ▶ Narrow the list of candidates to those you want to interview
- ▶ Interview the candidates

NOTE:

The complete Practical Guide to Consensus contains sample questions for interviewing potential facilitators.

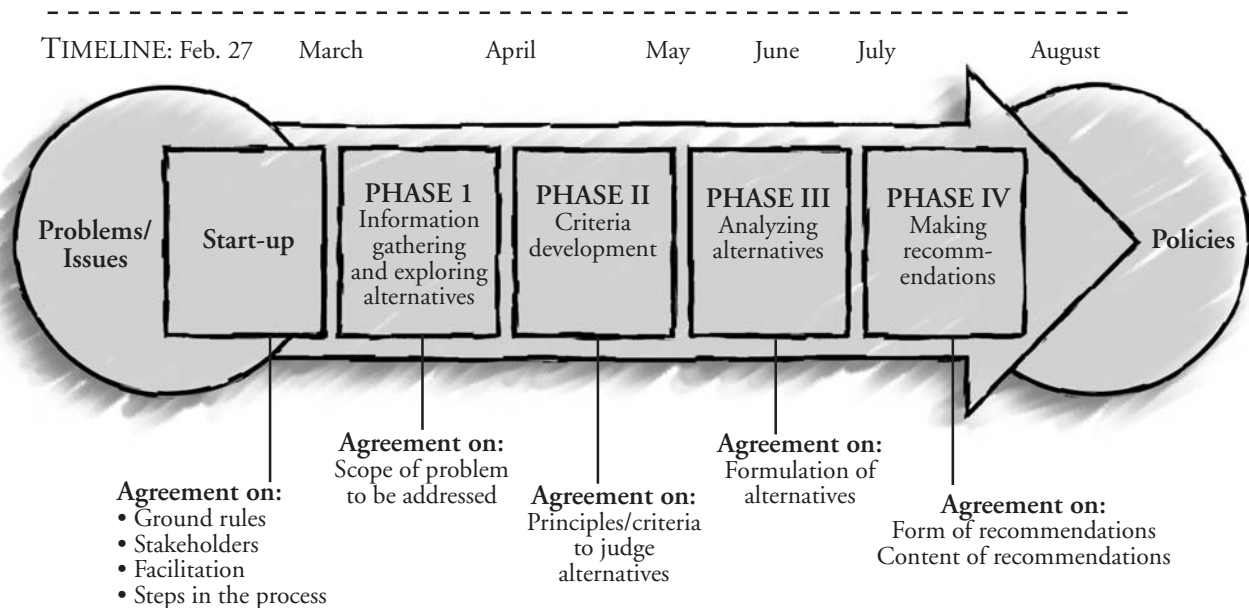
4. Plan and Organize the Process

Working with the facilitator and the other parties, the sponsor should:

- Identify and provide needed resources
- Identify and prepare information
- Orient staff and participants
- Establish mechanisms for public outreach
- Provide staff and logistical support
- Develop a map of the process
- Develop ground rules
- Develop a work plan
- Plan and hold the organizational meeting

Phases of the Policy Formulation Process

Phases of the Policy Formulation Process Medicaid Long-Term Care Working Group Activities



5. Write Ground Rules

The ground rules should address the following key elements:

- Purpose and scope
- Decision making
- Representation, roles, and responsibilities
- Procedural requirements, sunshine laws, and confidentiality
- Behavioral guidelines
- Organization and conduct of the process
- Time frame and schedule
- Communications with the public and the media
- Facilitator's roles and responsibilities
- Funding issues

NOTE:

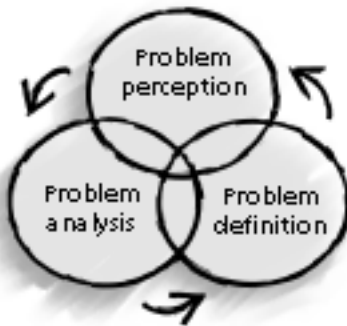
The complete Practical Guide to Consensus contains sample ground rules.

DURING the process

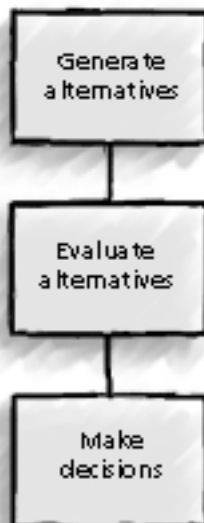
Negotiate the Issues and Reach Agreement

- Create the climate for negotiations
- Deal with legal requirements: confidentiality, and sunshine laws
- Collaborative problem solving is cyclical, not linear
- Use interest-based negotiation
- Inform and educate participants

Do this



**before you
do this**



Many groups jump
prematurely to solutions
without agreeing
on the problem

Six steps to reaching consensus

1. Develop a common statement of purpose
2. Exchange views and information
3. Generate options that accommodate the interests
4. Identify criteria by which to judge the options
5. Assemble the agreed upon options into a package that addresses all issues and accommodates all interests
6. Develop the final agreement

AFTER the process

Formalize and Implement the Agreement

- Plan for implementation beginning with the assessment
- Keep decision makers and constituencies informed