

Agenda



City of Hillsdale
Cemetery Board Commission
May 27, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

A. Letter from JoAnne Miller

III. Approval of Minutes

A. March 4, 2026

IV. Public Comments

V. Old Business

A. Oak Grove Cemetery Boundary Survey and Expansions ('26-'27 Budget Year)

B. Spring Clean-up '26

VI. New Business

A. Boys State June 23-25, 2026

B. Oak Grove Scattering Garden: Entry Gate, Budget, Health Dept. Approvals.

C. MAMC annual conference August 19-21, 2026

VII. Information Only

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

2026 Meeting Dates – March 4, May 6, Aug 5, Nov 18.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room on the second floor of City Hall.

Cemetery Board Meeting - May 27, 2026

Hi Jason and Frank -

I won't be in town for the meeting. Here are copies of the Justice Fence Company estimate for a gate for the Scattering Garden. It was good for 30 days, and since the estimate was two months ago, I called to see if there had been an increase ... and there hasn't been.

The Hillsdale County Community Foundation "Love Your Community" grant applications will be open in July, and they are for a maximum of \$2,000. The grantees will be announced sometime in August or September. I strongly believe that this project will be funded because the garden will be available to anyone. However, if it isn't funded, the cost would have to be borne by the funds set aside in the Public Services budget. The Cemetery Board will need to address this timing issue.

I didn't get another bid for the gate because I learned an expensive lesson with a Hillsdale County Historical Society project. We chose a painting company we hadn't used before and they didn't do a satisfactory job. So we had to redo the barn painting. The second time we went with the painter who had done a beautiful job with the insides and outsides of our Poorhouse and the Fairgrounds Museum because we could count on the quality of his work.

Justice Fence Company did a wonderful job on the gate for Paupers' Field. The same person who was in charge of that project is now one of the owners of the company. My vote is that that we contract with this company for the gate for the Scattering Garden. If we decide to go with them or not, they probably should be contacted after the meeting with our decision. Their contact information is on the bid.

If possible, I would like to attend the meeting through someone's phone on speaker. My number is 517 212-0776. I will understand if this isn't possible.

JoAnne Miller



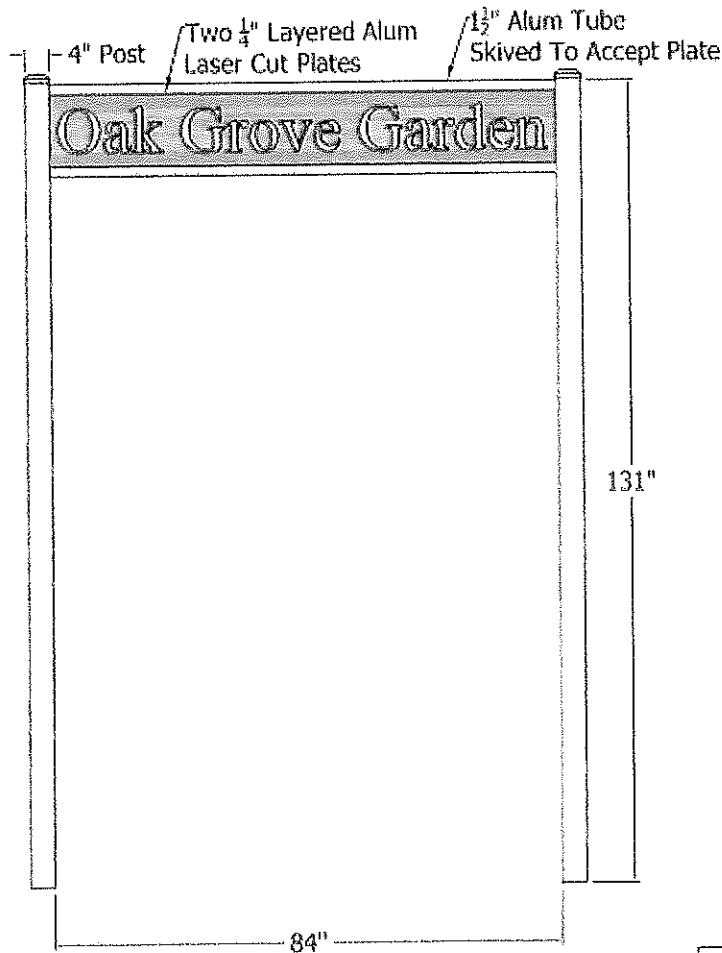
3-18-2026

Oak Grove Cemetary

SUBJECT: Fence

We are pleased to provide you with a quote for materials, labor and supervision to install the following:

- 7' wide sign that says "Oak Grove Gardens", black with white backer panel, all aluminum, 2 posts that are 11' long and set 36-42" in the ground with concrete
 - \$2,406
 - Add \$985 for an arch top swing gate to be added between the posts
 - 4' tall fence to go around the cemetery in the future to be \$70/ft



West Location and Billing: 1276 E. Columbia Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49014
Phone: 269-964-1596 Fax: 269-964-0425



**Cemetery Board
Minutes
March 4, 2026
2:00p.m.**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Jason Blake at 2:03 p.m.

Board members present:

DPS Director Jason Blake, Ronald Spence, Joanne Miller, Emily Rhoda

Absent Were:

Adam Bentley

Also present were:

Cemetery Sexton Frank Engle, City Clerk Katy Price

The Board welcomed Ronald Spence. Spence filled Smith's vacancy expiring May 2026.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DPS Director Jason Blake requested the following amendments to the August 6, 2025 Minutes:

August 6, 2025 Minutes to be approved with Adam Bentley present. JoAnne's name spelled correctly adding an A and e on end, (JoAnne). And Emily Rhoda seconded the approval of May 7, 2025 minute, not John Barrett.

Motion by Miller, support by Rhoda to approve the August 6, 2025 minutes as amended.

All ayes, motion carried.

DPS Director Jason Blake requested the following amendments to the November 12, 2025 Minutes:

November 12, 2025 Minutes to be approved with corrections to New Business item A. Set 2026 Meeting Dates reflecting November 18th meeting not November 22nd. Old Business A. Oak Grove Cemetery Boundary Survey and Expansion. Discussion on survey work being awarded is incorrect.

Motion by Miller, support by Rhoda to approve the November 12, 2025 minutes as amended.

All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Oak Grove Cemetery Boundary Survey and Expansion:

An RFP was published to have work done, Lodzinski responded. Service was not done as funds weren't budgeted but is included in the 26-27 budget cycle to have it completed.

B. Addition of Information to City Website: March 16th is the Clean-up for the Cemeteries and is included on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Application for New Board Member: No new member needed Mr. Spence was appointment to fill vacancy from Richard Smith.

No action taken.

B. Oak Grove Scattering Garden: Scattering Garden would be replacement of burial option. This would be a less costly option as well. \$10,000 is budget in the 2026-27 Budget to start the garden. Size and dimensions were discussed to be located at Oak Grove. Miller stated she would check with Love Your Community for a grant for an archway to the garden. Lengthy discussion ensued on possibilities of fence, size and memorial plaques.

Information Only:

Frank Engle reported the Boy State MI- Hillsdale College would like to volunteer and clean the headstones of veterans on June 23-25, 2026. Engle is coordinating with the group and other volunteers to order correct supplies and other items. Emily Rhoda would like to help in this endeavor as a volunteer.

Adjournment:

Motion by Emily Rhoda, support by JoAnne Miller, to adjourn.

All ayes, motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katy Price, City Clerk