

Newport Dogs and Burial Sites
Presentation/Discussion
April 19, 2022
6 pm
Newport Public Library

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (Lew- city, Pam or Sharon- Island) introduce members of each organization that are present as well as city staff and council people.
2. A brief history of the sites emphasizing how they have been connected from the start (Lew?)
3. Based on history and fence removal, our approach is to consider it a unified space
4. Identify concerns: (Sharon?)
 - a. Parking
 - b. Dog waste left on site
 - c. Dogs off leash- Currently leashed dogs are permitted in the Common Burying Ground and the Island Cemetery. Perception is it's okay for off-leash dogs but that's not the case
 - d. Dog activity at one site now spills into the other site.
 - e. Some dog owners are belligerent when approached by staff or other dog owners.
5. Desirable behavior: (Sharon?)
 - a. The public is welcomed and encouraged on the sites
 - b. The continued use of the sites with dogs is desirable but the situation needs to improve
 - c. Parking
 - d. Waste
 - e. Dogs on leash
6. Plan to move forward (Pam?)
 - a. The Cemetery Commission and the Island Cemetery commission have agreed to a unified solution/approach.
 - b. Share the concerns with Newport residents, dog owners and non-dog owners (this meeting and follow-up emails and postings)
 - c. Monitor the situation for a period of 6 months. Review the status of both sites in November.
 - d. If the situation has not dramatically improved, the cemetery commission will recommend to that Newport City Council ban dogs in the Common Burying Ground and the Island Cemetery will ban dogs from their grounds.
 - e. If dogs are banned, violations incurred include fines plus court costs.
 - f. If the situation has dramatically improved, leashed dogs will continue to be welcome in both sites.
 - g. While we are pleased to have people and dogs enjoy the sites, they are cemeteries not dog parks and our first commitment is to maintain the sites, their history, and their aesthetics.
 - h. Based on how the sites are being currently used it seems Newport needs an additional dog park that's not a burial site.
7. Questions and comments from the audience (Lew?)