

MOUNTAIN VIEW JEWISH CEMETERY DESIGN COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: May 8, 2013

ATTENDEES: Wendy Oberlander, Ronnie Tessler, Yosef Wosk, and Bill Pechet

TOPIC: Review of the perimeter design of the Cemetery

DISCUSSION:

The group reviewed the hedge condition around the perimeter and also reviewed the proximity of gravesites outside the section, relative to the hedge. On the west and east sides of the cemetery, the gravesites virtually abut the hedge (no measurements were taken, this was a visually determined condition). On the south (37th Ave.) and east (Fraser St.) sides, there may be room for a nominal increase in space, if the hedge is removed.

views along east side



view along north side



view along south side



view at southwest corner



The hedge itself is mostly cedar, with a few yews, and has been trimmed into a somewhat straight, slightly undulating shape. There are several locations where the plants have died, producing small openings. The thickness of the hedge does obscure the occasional grave marker, although mostly the hedge has been trimmed around the grave markers in a very careful way.

The group acknowledged that this trimming has a special quality to it and is worth further discussion to see what action should be taken in this regard. Potentially a few trees could be planted within the perimeter.

trimming around grave markers



Security issues aside, the hedge does provide a successful boundary to the cemetery, giving the Jewish section a sense of privacy and comfortable enclosure. The group discussed the possibility of replanting a lower hedge (possibly boxwood) and combining this with a new fence system.

The eastern edge of the Cemetery, along the internal roadway, parallel to Fraser Street, holds some potential for expansion by a few feet. This area could contain a new gateway, reminiscent of the original) but also take benches, a hand washing station, a children's memorial, an information plaque, and other such things.

There was also a suggestion that the benches could be covered with a canopy to shield one from the rain.

The extra 2 feet is also an opportunity to use the original fence footings (see photo below) a kind of memorial art project which can simultaneously illustrate the original boundary of the cemetery and combine it with historic references to Jewish history in the region.

original fence footings



There was a discussion about perhaps replacing the asphalt surface on the road, outside the gate with a cobblestone or some other distinctive surface, which carries through into the cemetery, to extend the 'gateway' experience. This surface also has art opportunities within it.

