

**Community Planning & Economic Development  
Planning Division**

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**City of Minneapolis**  
*Department of Community Planning  
& Economic Development - CPED*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Heritage Preservation Commission  
FROM: Aaron Hanauer, Senior City Planner 612.673.2494  
DATE: August 18, 2009  
RE: Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery: Fence Restoration Project

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**Executive Summary:** In 2006, a five-part work plan was created to aid in the preservation of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. The most imminent capital improvement project that is part of this work plan is the restoration of the decorative steel fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue. The City of Minneapolis was awarded \$100,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society for the fence restoration project in 2008. The City of Minneapolis is applying for another Minnesota Historical Society grant for the fence restoration project (the deadline is August 28, 2009). Community Planning and Economic Development-Preservation and Design staff is seeking Heritage Preservation Commission comments on the fence restoration scope of work for the 2009 grant application as well as ideas for fundraising opportunities.

**Background:** Layman's Cemetery, which was renamed Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery in 1928, is an important part of the State of Minnesota and City of Minneapolis' history. Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery has the honor of being the only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, which has been owned by the City of Minneapolis since 1928, is also a City of Minneapolis landmark (see Appendix A). This cemetery, which was non-sectarian and ethnically diverse, is the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis, and one of the few surviving features from the city's first period of settlement.

Since the local designation in 2006, CPED, the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department, Minneapolis Parks and Recreational Department, and Friends of the Cemetery have created a work plan to aid in the preservation of the cemetery. This work plan includes five parts.

1. Raise funding for capital improvements and awareness of cemetery importance
2. Adopt design guidelines
3. Create a maintenance agreement
4. Archive cemetery records
5. Create an interpretive plan

**Capital Improvement: Fence Restoration:** The most imminent capital improvement project is the restoration of the decorative steel fence that lines the cemetery on Cedar Avenue and Lake Street (see A4-A6 and D11-D16 for map and images). The fence is a contributing feature of the National Register of Historic Place listing and the local designation. The fence, which is 1,953 linear feet, was built in 1928 as part of the 1928-1936 Redesign that was completed to help commemorate the Minnesota pioneers and soldiers that were buried in the cemetery. The fence is in poor condition (see appendix C0.3). If the fence it is not restored in the next couple of years it is likely that it will have to be replaced.

**Fence Restoration Finances:** The cost of the rehabilitation project is estimated to be \$750,000 to \$1 million (C0.1 and C0.2). The City of Minneapolis, through the Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC), has appropriated \$250,000 for this project. In addition, the City of Minneapolis received a 2008 Minnesota Historical Society grant in the amount of \$100,000 for Phase I of the project (see Appendix B1).

CPED submitted a pre-application for the 2009 Minnesota Historical Society state-grants-in-aid program requesting an additional \$150,000 for Phase II (see Appendix D). Final grant applications are due on August 28, 2009.

In addition to the grant application, Friends of the Cemetery, the nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, has plans to soon announce an *Adopt a Picket* fundraiser with the goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of 2010.

**Request for Action:** For the 2009 State Historic Preservation Office grant application, a work plan and a scope of work is required. CPED-Planning-Preservation and Design staff is seeking Heritage Preservation Commission comments on the scope of work for the 2009 grant application (see Appendix D7-D10). The information provided in the scope of work form was guided by the 2008 Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Fence Restoration Project Manual completed by Miller Dunwiddie (See Appendix C).

Note: As part of the 2008 State Historic Preservation Office grant, CPED was required to submit a work plan and scope of work that specified work details of the fence restoration. This work plan was approved by SHPO. The draft 2009 work plan, which is submitted for your review, is identical to the 2008 work plan that was approved by SHPO.

In addition to the review of the scope of work and work details, CPED and Friends of the Cemetery would welcome commissioner ideas and comments on grant and fundraising opportunities.

**Appendix:**

Appendix A: Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Map and Overview

Appendix B: Press Release of 2008 Minnesota State Historical Society Grant Award

Appendix C: 2009 Minnesota Historical Society State Grants in Aid Work Plan

Appendix D: State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid Program Application