

**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

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FILE NAME: Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Design Guidelines and Maintenance Agreement

CATEGORY/DISTRICT: Landmark

APPLICANT: Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department

PUBLICATION DATE: April 1, 2008

DATE OF HEARING: April 8, 2008

STAFF INVESTIGATION AND REPORT: Aaron Hanauer (612) 673-2494

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## **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 is owned by the City of Minneapolis, is also a City of Minneapolis landmark. 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.

Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery was listed on the National Register in 2002. In 2006, Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery was designated as a City of Minneapolis local landmark. Design guidelines were not created at the time of designation. The attached document includes design guidelines for the cemetery. These design guidelines provide a framework for evaluating proposed alterations. In addition to the design guidelines, a maintenance agreement has been created for the cemetery in order to describe the work that needs to be carried out on a regular basis. The design guidelines and maintenance agreement were agreed upon by the CPED-Planning Division, the Minneapolis Public Works Department, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Friends of the Cemetery.

Since the local designation in 2006, CPED has 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

The adoption of the *Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Design Guidelines and Maintenance Agreement*, *Agreement* would achieve two of the five work plan goals. Staff continues to work on the other parts

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the HPC adopt the *Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Design Guidelines, Maintenance Agreement, and Work Procedure Agreement*.