

Press Release
City of Fernandina Beach
Community Development Department

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BOSQUE BELLO CEMETERY MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP

Over the past two years, City staff in the Community Development and Parks and Recreation Departments have been working toward creating a master plan for the management and preservation of the historic Bosque Bello cemetery. The plan will include historical information about the cemetery, existing conditions and operations of the cemetery, and recommendations from City staff about preservation and use of the cemetery moving forward. The Bosque Bello master planning effort is directed by two elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan: Recreation and Open Space, and Historic Preservation.

City staff began the master planning process during Summer 2012, which was greatly assisted by a group of interested citizens and stakeholders, including members of the Amelia Island Genealogical Society and Amelia Island History Museum. The working group has helped City staff gather history and information on the cemetery. As part of the planning process, the City asked for feedback on the cemetery through a survey. The survey questions involved people's current understanding and usage of the cemetery and thoughts on what should occur in the future. Over 200 people responded to the survey. The results were positive and indicated that a majority of responders were in favor of improving the cemetery and making it a more visible cultural resource in the community.

As a follow up to the survey, the Community Development Department held a public workshop in November 2014 to discuss the master plan and to get more input on things to consider for the cemetery. About thirty people attended the workshop held at the Amelia Island Museum of History. Adrienne Burke did a brief overview of the planning process, and information learned to date. The group then discussed topics such as what Bosque Bello means to them, things that they need to find or know when visiting the cemetery, and overall ideas and thoughts for the master plan. City staff will take this additional information and incorporate it into the plan's goals and action items. It is hoped the cemetery master plan project will wrap up in the first half of 2015, at which time it will be presented to the City Commission.



For more information, contact Adrienne Burke at (904) 310-3135 or aburke@fbfl.org.

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