

DOUGLAS COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

<u>No. of Members:</u>	Ten
<u>Term Length:</u>	Four Years
<u>Term Limit:</u>	None
<u>Compensation:</u>	None
<u>Training Required:</u>	None
<u>Meeting Schedule:</u>	Monthly, first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room.
<u>Appointment:</u>	Each District Commissioner appoints two members and the appointment runs concurrently with appointing Commissioner's term of office.
<u>Description:</u>	Established in 1990 by resolution of the Board of Commissioners. Works in conjunction with the Zoning/Planning Division of the Community Development Agency. Purpose of this Commission is to identify abandoned, desecrated and unmarked cemeteries and graveyards and to present its findings to the BOC. Members are expected to attend a monthly meeting and work in the field weekly.

Powers and duties of the DCCPC. The DCCPC shall be authorized to:

- (1) Formulate a county-wide cemetery preservation plan, including but not limited to:
 - a. Identification and location of all cemeteries and burial grounds in the unincorporated county to the extent possible.
 - b. Creation of a map containing all known cemeteries and burial grounds for use by all citizens, developers, and county departments.
 - c. Determine status and needs of each cemetery and prioritize rehabilitation.
 - d. Establish and publish guidelines regarding cemetery preservation, maintenance, landscaping, security, development and other information.
 - e. Work with the planning and zoning department, the engineering department, and the building and inspections department to establish procedures for the review of zoning applications, variance requests, and subdivision plans involving properties containing cemeteries and burial grounds and properties immediately adjacent to cemeteries and burial grounds.
- (2) Make recommendations in accordance with the purpose and intent of this ordinance to the board of commissioners, the planning and zoning commission, and the board of appeals on any zoning or variance applications involving properties containing cemeteries or burial grounds or properties adjacent to cemeteries or burial grounds.
- (3) Recommend to the board of commissioners specific cemeteries and burial grounds that have been determined to be abandoned or not maintained by the person legally responsible for its upkeep that:
 - a. Should be acquired by the county pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-72-3.
 - b. Should be preserved and protected by the county.Such recommendations should include a plan and a cost estimate for the proper restoration of the cemetery or burial ground.
- (4) Provide for the preservation and maintenance of those cemeteries that have been placed under the jurisdiction of the county pursuant to section 6-313 or otherwise on an "as needed" basis, that do not have the financial ability to properly maintain a cemetery if such funds are approved by the board of commissioners.
- (5) Conduct educational programs regarding cemetery preservation as a means of increasing public awareness and support.
- (6) Assist the county in any legal action, as required, regarding cemetery relocation, maintenance, security measures or collection of money from those legally responsible for the upkeep of cemeteries or burial grounds as reimbursement for public funds expended for such purposes.
- (7) Establish appropriate and necessary liaisons with other appropriate boards, commissioners, county departments, organizations, and municipalities within the county.
- (8) Provide guidance and suggestions to the county board of commissioners relative to ordinances dealing with cemeteries.
- (9) Provide guidance and suggestions to the state legislature regarding changes/updates to Georgia Code relative to cemetery preservation.

(10) The DCCPC shall not financially obligate the county in any manner without the prior approval of the board of commissioners.