

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CARRBORO TOWN CODE
TO MODIFY WESTWOOD CEMETERY INTERMENT AND
RELATED PROVISIONS

DRAFT 1-18-2024

THE CARRBORO TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Article I, Section 13-1 (Definitions) of Chapter 13 of the Carrboro Town Code is amended by renaming the title of “Burial Space, Type One” and adding a new definition for ‘Burial Space, Type Two’ in alphabetical order, with the existing definitions renumbered accordingly:

(3) Burial Space, Type Two. A parcel of ground within a cemetery lot having the dimensions of 4 feet by 4 feet, and the usage of each space shall be limited to the interment of the remains of not more than two individuals, resulting from cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or other offsite decomposition processes permitted under NCGS.

Section 2. Article II, Section 13-4 (Disruptive Activity Prohibited) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended by the addition of a new subdivision (g) to read as follows:

- (g) Passive and quiet open space activities such as sitting, reading, watching birds and other wildlife, meditating, and occurring within the area of the Westwood Cemetery property designated as undeveloped greenspace shall not be considered as disruptive activities.

Section 3. Article II, Section 13-8 (Trees, Planting, Landscaping) is amended by revising subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The cemetery administrator may remove from the cemetery all floral designs, flowers, weeds, plants, temporary lighting and grave coverings of any kind as soon as they deteriorate or otherwise become unsightly.

Section 4. Article II, Section 13-12 (Purchase of Burial Rights) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended by revising subdivisions (c) and (d) to read as follows

- (c) A Certificate of Burial Right shall be issued to the person who purchases a burial right. The certificate shall identify the purchaser, the specific lots or spaces to which the certificate applies, the names of the individuals intended to be buried in the spaces purchased, and whether the lots or spaces shall be used for traditional or natural burials. If spaces are intended to be reserved for unborn children or grandchildren of the purchaser, that fact shall be noted on the certificate and such offspring shall be deemed to have the same residency as their parents. If the remains of more than one person resulting from offsite processes, such as cremation or alkaline hydrolysis, are

to be located within a single space, the names of all persons whose remains are intended to be located on the space shall be indicated on the certificate.

- (d) The usage of each burial space, Type One shall be limited to one of the following: (1) the interment of one human body; (2) the interment of one human body and one urn for remains from cremation, hydrolysis, or similar; or (3) the interment of no more than four urns for remains from cremation, hydrolysis, or similar. The usage of each burial space, Type Two, shall be limited to the interment of remains of not more than two individuals, resulting from cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or other offsite decomposition processes permitted under NCGS.

Section 5. Article II, Section 13-18 (Monuments) of the Carrboro Town Code is rewritten to read as follows:

Section 13-18 Monuments

- (a) Monuments shall be allowed for Type One burial spaces only.
- (b) All monuments shall be bronze and/or stone.
- (c) All monuments shall be placed on a concrete apron which shall extend four (4) inches from each side of the base of the monument and which shall be flush with the ground in order to facilitate monument protection, stability and maintenance.
- (d) No monument for any burial space may exceed four (4) feet in height.
- (e) The length for single burial space monuments shall not exceed twenty-eight (28) inches.
- (f) A double space monument shall be permitted on two (2) adjacent burial spaces, located side by side. The length for double space monuments shall not exceed seventy-six (76) inches. A double space monument shall be centered on the line between two (2) burial spaces.
- (g) A triple space monument shall be permitted on three (3) adjacent burial spaces, located side by side. The length for the triple space monument shall not exceed one hundred-twenty (120) inches. A triple space monument shall be centered on the second (middle) burial space.
- (h) The width of monuments shall not exceed sixteen (16) inches.
- (i) All monuments shall be placed at the head of the burial space(s) and positioned perpendicular to the burial space(s).
- (j) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to monuments placed prior to the effective date of this section.

Section 6. Article II, Section 13-19 (Markers) of the Carrboro Town Code is rewritten to read as follows:

Section 13-19 Markers

(a) All markers shall be of bronze and/or stone.

(b) A head marker used in place of a monument **or used for a Type Two burial space** shall be placed on a concrete apron which shall extend four (4) inches from each side of the base of the head marker, and which shall be laid flush with the ground in order to facilitate head marker protection, stability, and maintenance.

(c) A head marker used in place of a monument or used for a Type Two burial space shall be laid flush with the ground, shall not exceed two (2) feet in length and one foot in width and shall be placed at the head of the grave, perpendicular to the burial space(s). Only one head marker shall be permitted on each burial space.

(d) A foot marker shall be laid flush with the ground, shall not exceed two (2) feet in length and one (1) foot in width and shall be placed at the foot of the grave, perpendicular to the burial space. One foot marker shall be permitted on each Type One burial space. Foot markers shall not be permitted on Type Two burial spaces.

(e) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to markers placed prior to the **effective date** of this section.

Section 7. Article II, Section 13-22 (Records of Persons Buried Required) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended to read as follows:

(a) The cemetery administrator shall keep complete and accurate records of the name, age, sex, **race and ethnicity**, date of death, and date of burial of every person buried in the Town cemetery, as well as the particular space where such person is buried.

Section 8. Article II, Section 13-24 (Grave Liner or Vault Required) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended with the addition of a reference to permissibility of Natural Burials in the Westwood Cemetery so that the section reads as follows:

Grave liners or vaults, composed of concrete or a substance of equivalent strength and durability, shall be required for all graves within the Town cemetery. No person may bury or cause to be buried the body of any deceased person unless the casket is properly placed within a grave liner or vault. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the Natural Burials shall be permitted in the Old Carrboro Cemetery **and in the designated areas of** Westwood Cemetery in conformance with this Chapter.

Section 8. This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

This the 6th day of February, 2024.