



*F.V. Cemetery Company Incorporated*  
*A Non-Profit Corporation*  
P.O. Box 6231  
Roanoke, Virginia 24017

Fair View Cemetery  
3300 Melrose Avenue  
Roanoke, Virginia

Cedar Lawn Memorial Park  
5070 Cove Road  
(Office in Fair View Cemetery)

Phone 540-344-4263

[www.thefairviewgroup.org](http://www.thefairviewgroup.org)

Fax 540-345-4701

June 24, 2021

Mr. Bob Cowell, City Manager  
City of Roanoke  
215 Church Avenue SW  
Room 364  
Roanoke Va. 24011

Subject: Historic Fair View Cemetery & Cedar Lawn Memorial Park

Dear Mr. Cowell:

We appreciate the opportunity to visit with you and share historical information on a local business serving the City of Roanoke since 1890. Below is a review of the milestones outlined in my remarks regarding the creation and operation of Historic Fair View Cemetery and Cedar Lawn Memorial Park.

In 1876, the City Cemetery located at 501 Tazewell Avenue SE opened to serve the Town of Big Lick and the City of Roanoke. Not long after, the 3-acre cemetery was running out of space.

On February 14, 1890, a group of community leaders who envisioned a need for a new and more beautiful cemetery met and pooled their resources to acquire a large tract of land just west of the city limits for the purpose of developing Fair View Cemetery to serve their rapidly growing community. Fair View Cemetery Company, Inc., was incorporated on February 15, 1890, under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. See [thefairviewgroup.org](http://thefairviewgroup.org)

In 1918 the Code of Virginia required cemeteries not owned by municipalities or a church to fund Perpetual Care Funds from the sale of burial spaces. Truist Financial Bank as a court appointed Trustee is the custodian and manager of three funds. This includes the Fair View Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund, Cedar Lawn Perpetual Care Fund and a Merchandising Trust Fund. The balance of these funds as of April 30, 2021 was \$3,431,777.

In 1965, Fair View Cemetery Company, Inc., in an effort to provide additional financial support for the operations of Fair View Cemetery, expanded to include Cedar Lawn Memorial Park. Cedar Lawn, established in 1930 is located near the intersection of Cove Road and Peters Creek Road in the City of Roanoke just 2.5 miles from Fair View Cemetery. The revenue generated by Cedar Lawn continues to provide support for the maintenance and beautification of Historic Fair View Cemetery.

For over 130 Years the primary objective of management is to preserve this historic landmark for future generations and serve the community and the families who have identified Fair View and Cedar Lawn as their final resting place.

Fair View Cemetery Company, Inc. operated continuously under its original corporate charter for 93 years. Over this period of time, stockholders gifted their stock to the Fair View Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.

Recognizing the need to identify additional resources to enable Fair View Cemetery Company, Inc. to continue serving the community, the Board of Directors acknowledged changes had to be made. On April 30, 1983, after receiving approvals from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Corporation Commission, the Board of Directors dissolved Fair View Cemetery Company, Inc. by converting to F. V. Cemetery Company Inc., to a Non-Stock Not-for-Profit Charitable Foundation under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(13) known as the "Fair View Foundation".

This conversion provided the additional resources necessary for Historic Fair View Cemetery to reduce operating expenses and develop a campaign to generate donations for the maintenance and beautification of the cemetery.

In 1990, as part of Fair View Cemetery's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, contributions made to The Fairview Foundation were used to make long overdue capital improvements. Contributions have continued over the past thirty years.

Historic Fair View Cemetery represents approximately 57 acres and Cedar Lawn Memorial Park encompasses 14 Acres. The combined properties represent the final resting place for over 26,000 individuals including thousands of veterans, ten mayors of Big Lick and the City of Roanoke, members of the Virginia State Legislature, United States Federal Judiciary, the United States Congress along with numerous individuals who succumbed to the 1918 Flu Pandemic and Covid 19. This is in addition to eight family cemeteries relocated to Fair View Cemetery over the past 130 years to make way for the growth and expansion of the City of Roanoke. Fair View Cemetery continues to work with funeral directors and families when there is little or no funds available for an interment by providing free burial spaces.

The developed, unsold lots and undeveloped land will provide a significant number of burial spaces for future generations.

Preservation of one of Roanoke City's most prominent historical assets has always been the primary objective of management.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our information and the historical impact The Fair View Foundation has had on the growth of our community.

Respectively Yours:

Dennis R. Cronk, Chairman

Myrteen C. Heslep, President

CC: Fair View Foundation  
Board of Directors

Attachments