

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Steve Nowak, Executive Director, snowak@watkinsmuseum.org

The Douglas County Historical Society, which manages the Watkins Museum of History, announces a merger with Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery.

Lawrence— The Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS) and Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery have joined together to support the preservation and interpretation of Oak Hill Cemetery. Working in partnership with the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, the newly formed DCHS Oak Hill Committee will provide preservation advice, continue long-standing programs like cemetery tours and cleanup days, and develop new ways to help the public experience and appreciate this historic place.

After several months of planning, led by Sarah Bishop of Coneflower Consulting, the Friends of Oak Hill proposed reconfiguring their organization as a committee of the Board of Directors of the Douglas County Historical Society as the best way to ensure future growth and advance the vision of their founders, board of directors, and membership.

The Douglas County Historical Society board of directors unanimously approved the proposal and in June the Friends of Oak Hill board of directors voted unanimously to approve dissolution of their 501(c)(3) non-profit and transfer their assets to the DCHS, to be held in a dedicated Oak Hill Cemetery fund at the Douglas County Community Foundation. A new committee consisting of a combination of several existing Friends of Oak Hill and Douglas County Historical Society board members began meeting in July.

We are excited to begin this new collaboration and to expand the role of the Douglas County Historical Society beyond the familiar walls of the Watkins Museum.

Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS 66044

785-841-4109 www.WatkinsMuseum.org