

## **Paradise Cemetery**

To be owned and operated by ISW

### **Background:**

- 1- Like other local religious minority communities in the Wichita Metro Area, The Muslim community has grown to about 5,000 members. Although not all are practicing Muslims, when death occurs, their families want them to be buried according to Islamic tradition. Muslim, Christian and Jewish burials were all “natural” and similar until recent decades. Today, Muslims and Jews have similarities in prompt and natural burial, “from dust to dust”. However, more and more “Natural Cemeteries” are being started around the country, similar to Ascension Cemetery started by Catholic Diocese of Wichita in 2015 on East of Woodlawn on 45<sup>th</sup> Street North. Please see article below:  
<http://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/diocesan-news/16156-ascension-cemetery-going-green>  
<http://www.kansas.com/news/local/article31916955.html>
- 2- There is no Muslim Cemetery in the Wichita Metro Area at this time. Members have been utilizing a cemetery in Butler County, approximately 45 minutes from K96 and Woodlawn St., that is at near permitted capacity. The current owner would like for ISW to find an alternative solution and members want an intown location so burying and visiting a loved one’s grave is not an out of town trip.

### **Building, parking and gravesites:**

- 3- Access to the property will be off of 69<sup>th</sup> Street North. Access, drive and approximately 30’x40’ storage building will be according plans approved by MABCD. Building and parking lot will be closest to 69<sup>th</sup> Street. Internal gravel drive that will lead grave sites will be gravel road.
- 4- Phase one area will serve the community for approximately the next 25 years. It will be fenced and clearly marked.

### **Development and neighborhood impact:**

- 5- The 20 acre site is divided into 4 development phases, approximately 4-5 acres each. Each will serve the needs of the community for approximately 25-year period.
- 6- We all have heard the saying “Not in my backyard”. Most of us, especially those who don’t live on a regular city lot, don’t want to see any development happen at all. Reality is that development will happen eventually. Whether it is housing, retail, manufacturing.... That will depend on the desire of the property owners and local zoning

boards.

- 7- Another reality is that most of us will have a final resting place somewhere, and as cities grow; houses or businesses will end up bordering cemeteries. Just look around town.
- 8- To minimize impact to the neighborhood, ISW will start the gravesites from the furthest point from the road in a fenced area. Since the need to have gravesites towards the front of the property will not arise in our lifetime, the front 15 acres minus the parking lot and building is most likely to continue to be farmed by the original owner or another local farmer for decades to come.
- 9- This property is estimated to serve the local needs for approximately next 80 to 100 years. This approximation is based on current needs (2-3 burials a month).
- 10- Development will commence as soon as permits from City and State are issued.

**Legal and financial stability:**

ISW (Islamic Society of Wichita) is a 501C nonprofit organization located at 6655 East 34<sup>th</sup> St North, Wichita, KS 67226.

- 11- ISW has an application with the Kansas Cemetery Association to reap the benefit of continuous education of current rules and regulations.
- 12- ISW will have an application with the State of Kansas as soon as conditional use is issued and contract is executed.
- 13- Even though ISW may be exempted by City and State, ISW will establish a perpetual trust fund to guarantee the care and upkeep of the property according to local and State Statutes.
- 14- A \$20 per burial space assessed by the State of Kansas on every burial space sold will be calculated and remitted to the State by ISW's accountant along with form CQ.

**ISW stands ready to listen to all suggestions to be a good neighbor.**