

THE METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
ANNUAL MEETING, September 10, 2023

The Methodist Cemetery Association met virtually, via Zoom, again this year for the convenience of our members. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll call included a report on membership dues. We now have 12 life-time members. However, as of the meeting, dues have been received from only 13 annual members.\* In addition to our President, Diane Tamayo, the following members were present and introduced themselves: Steve Davis is related to the Riley's and Queen's, Pat Ryan is related to Helen Burke; Amy Patterson O'Keefe is related to the Queen and Burrows families; Bart Robey is related to the Robey and Burrows families; Jacque-Lynne Schulman is related to the Brewer's; Steve Shoemaker, Kathy Shoemaker Hardy, and Nancy Shoemaker Werner are related to the Shoemaker, Payne, Eld, Ernest, and Beach families; and Barbara Tate is related to the Harry's. In addition, six members not in attendance sent proxies: Ellen Joyce, John Derrick, Arthur Harding, Carolyn Shelton, John Walther, and Robyn Trower. A quorum was present.

The minutes for last year's meeting were accepted as published on the cemetery website.

The Treasurer's Report for 2022 was displayed and approved. Income was from dues, donations, and interest. Expenses were explained including the addition of two line-items for recurring website expenses: website hosting (due every 3 years) and domain name (due every 5 years). The Treasurer's Report for 2023 was discussed and it was noted that the lawn mowing costs have risen this year and are expected to continue to increase. This year the expense for lawn cutting will be more than the dues received. The budget for 2024 is expected to be much the same as for 2023 with the following exceptions: \$5,000 added for cemetery maintenance 2x/year (for bush/tree trimming, etc.) and incidentals increased from \$500 to \$1,000. A motion was offered and approved to accept the budget.

Since the cost of cutting the grass is more than the current membership dues received (or expected), there is a need to discuss raising dues. President Tamayo recommended that this be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Ideas to improve our financial position were discussed. It is thought to be difficult to get grants since we do have money in the bank. The possibility of merging with the Tenleytown Historical Society was also discussed but no action was taken. Efforts need to be made to recruit new members. Amy O'Keefe suggested that she will look into some genealogical websites for relatives to obtain members, possibly through the Calvert family and Queen surnames. Casey Trees has donated tree services to similar organizations. Lynne Schulman will reach out on this. Also, a group representing the oldest residents of DC might be interested in helping.

Action still needs to be taken to archive our historic cemetery records, and decisions need to be made as to which ones should be stored with American University if they will still accept them. A committee needs to be formed for this purpose. President Tamayo will be setting up this Ad Hoc Committee in the near future.

Steve Shoemaker, our Webmaster, is hoping to be able to devote more time to our website. He has caught up on the burials list. He has arranged to pay for the domain name and website rehosting for the next several years. Steve is now looking into how to set up a private page on our website where he could post the membership roster, Bylaws, and financial reports. To access this tab on the website a members'-only password will be needed. And, President Tamayo continues to send Steve historic documents to post on the *History* page of the website. It is recommended that our members at least glance at some of these; the "1952 Letter of Compliance" is particularly interesting.

Under New Business, Bylaw changes as stated in this meeting's Agenda were offered and adopted.

The election of new officers was held and the offices were filled as follows:

President – Diane Tamayo  
Vice President – Jeanette Pablo  
Treasurer – Kathy Hardy  
Recording Secretary – Jacque-Lynne Schulman  
Corresponding Secretary – Pat Ryan

Gratitude and appreciation were given to our previous Vice President, Steve Davis, and our Recording Secretary, Nancy Werner, for their years of support. It was recognized that Jeanette Pablo lives close-by to the cemetery and that Lynne

Schulman is in the area often. This will be helpful as they can provide periodic checks on the condition of the cemetery.

Open Discussion:

- The possibility was offered to raise the Lifetime membership fee and to increase the annual membership fee. Again, this needs to be addressed at the next Board of Director's meeting.
- It was noted that the cemetery has no connection to the neighboring church, but we could ask if they wish to contribute to the cemetery. However, at one point the church went bankrupt, and it is unknown what its present situation is.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:28.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Werner  
Recording Secretary

\*As of 16 Sep, a total of 20 annual members have submitted dues.