

THE METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2024

Call to Order:

The Methodist Cemetery Association Annual Meeting, via Zoom, was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by President Diane Tamayo.

Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum:

A. Report on Membership

Diane advised that the Association still has twelve (12) Life members two (2) of whom are Honorary. Diane did indicate that the status of some of the Life members needs to be determined since there has been no contact with some of them for an extended period. She will address this concern at a later date. To date, dues have been received from twenty (20) Annual members. Unfortunately, we have had to remove one of our long-term members from this list since there has been no contact from her for at least two (2) years and no current way to reach her.

B. Establishment of a Quorum

It was determined that with ten (10) members attending via Zoom, and with nine (9) proxies received, that there was a quorum to conduct business at this meeting. The Bylaws require seven (7) voting members be present to conduct business. Proxy forms were received from Carolyn Shelton, Donna Griffin, Ellen Joyce, Helen Lidie, Jack Walther, Sabra Kone, Steve Shoemaker, William Clift, as well as Bill Barnard who actually was able to attend this meeting.

C. Introduction of Attendees

Diane requested that each of the members attending via Zoom introduce themselves and state the family names of their relatives buried in the Methodist Cemetery: 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; Joy Cutcheon is related to the Paxton, Smith, and Willingham families; Kathy Shoemaker Hardy and Nancy Shoemaker Werner are related to the Shoemaker, Payne, Eld, Ernest, and Beach families; Barbara Tate is related to the Harry's; Bill Barnard is related to the Walther family; Jeanette Pablo is related to the Queen's; and Diane Tamayo is related to the Huddleson, Walther, and Shoemaker families.

President's Report:

A. Resignation of Recording Secretary Jacque-Lynne Schulman

As part of Diane's President's report, she advised the members in attendance that Jacque-Lynne Schulman, who was elected as Recording Secretary at last year's Annual meeting, has had to resign as a result of a serious cancer diagnosis and resultant surgeries. Diane indicated that Jacque-Lynne was a Life member and a member since the re-establishment of the Association in 2002-2003. Her talents and knowledge will be sorely missed and we wish her well as she battles this disease.

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President's Report (cont'd):

B. Election of Dan Nielsen to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Schulman

If a vacancy occurs in an Officer position, the Bylaws provide that the Board can elect someone to fill this vacancy until the next Board election which will be in September, 2025. Therefore, to replace Jacque-Lynne for the remainder of her term, Dan Nielsen agreed to accept this position and was duly elected by the Board. Unfortunately, Dan could not be with us today but many of the members already know him from previous Annual meetings.

C. Future Absences of President Tamayo

As a result of the birth of her Grandson late last year, Diane advised the members that she will be spending more time in Oklahoma. For the near future, she indicated that she will be away from November to the spring of 2025. However, she will still be available if needed via Zoom meetings, e-mail, or telephone.

Officer Reports:

A. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes from last year's Annual meeting were mailed to each member last fall and have also been posted on the Cemetery's website. Hearing no requests for revisions, the minutes were adopted by unanimous consent.

B. Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Limits – Kathy Hardy

See attached Treasurer's report for 2023. Also attached are the budgeted expenditure limits for 2023 and 2024. There is an explanation on the bottom of these latter reports as to their function.

A discussion followed the Treasurer's report presentation and it was suggested that the Association should look into investing its excess funds into a CD with a good rate or possibly into several smaller ones to reduce the penalty amount should a CD have to cashed in for a shortfall. The rest of the Association's funds will be maintained in an operating account.

C. 2025 Proposed Budget

See attached projected expenditure limits for the upcoming year.

Webmaster's Status Report:

A. Members Only Section

In Steve Shoemaker's absence, Diane advised that he has developed the *Members Only* section on the website which will be password protected. He is awaiting content from the members. It has been his understanding that the Association will include members' personal contact information and indicated that the Association's financial reports could also be included. After some discussion, it was decided that a form could be developed to send to the members to see who wants to be listed and what content would they would like to include. The question arose as to whether there were limitations to store content. Diane will discuss this issue with Steve.

As part of his report, Steve had included the following information about the website:

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- The domain name registration expires on May 22, 2026 and the renewal price is anticipated to be \$22.99. This is for the domain name only and does not include hosting the website.
- The hosting is provided by Blue Host which will renew on August 5, 2026. The projected cost would be approximately \$720 which is a large increase. Steve will attempt to find an alternative hosting platform closer to the renewal date.

B. Bylaws on *Members Only* Page

The suggestion was made to include the Bylaws in the *Members Only* Section of the website. A motion was made and duly seconded to include the Bylaws as stated. The motion passed unanimously. Diane will inform Steve to now include the Bylaws as outlined.

Board of Director's Meeting Report:

The Board of Directors held a meeting in March of this year to discuss the following items:

A. Increasing Membership

Jacque-Lynne mentioned a project to contact a group representing the oldest residents of D.C. to see if there would be any individuals who may be eligible and interested to join. She planned to follow up on this suggestion.

As an addition to this discussion at this Annual meeting, Amy O'Keefe advised that she had previously recommended a project that she offered to undertake utilizing the resources that she has developed researching her family tree. Unfortunately, other priorities had to have attention before this project could be started. She will try to develop a questionnaire to send to the members which could provide some leads for Cemetery descendants who may be interested to join the Association.

B. Landscape Maintenance Contract

This item was not discussed.

C. Tree Maintenance Contract

Jacque-Lynne had suggested that Casey Tree Service be contacted to see if they will do our tree maintenance pro bono since they are known to do this for other organizations. Jacque-Lynne was unable to follow through on this suggestion. President Diane inquired if any of the members present at this meeting would be interested in checking into this suggestion. No one offered to take this project on so the matter was dropped.

D. Discussion on Annual Dues Increase

The Board decided to take this matter up at a later date. However, Diane recommended the possible tax advantage for members if they donated IRA Required Minimum Distributions directly to the Cemetery to support its upkeep. She will look into how this is done.

E. On-line Payment of Dues Program

After some discussion of the pros and cons of this type of program, the Board decided not to offer an on-line payment program.

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Unfinished Business:

A. Record Archival Project – to be referred to an Ad Hoc Committee

There has been no progress yet on this undertaking but it is still on the agenda to be addressed.

New Business

A. 2024-2025 Tree Maintenance Requirements

In June, a very large tree limb fell from the tulip poplar tree in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery. Whereas it was eventually sawed into pieces and hauled away by Diane and her husband, it is obvious that the tree needs trimming since there are still a number of dead branches further up the tree. Diane received an estimate for this tree work totaling \$1,850. The other very large tree near the center of the cemetery was checked and appears not to need any work at this time.

B. 2024-2025 Tomb Stone Repair Requirements

Possibly as a result of the impact from that falling limb mentioned above, there is now a toppled and broken tombstone. The stone is for George W. Turner, 1866-1904, in the southwest section of the cemetery immediately next to the end of the east-west walkway. Diane spoke with Robert Mosko, chief Conservator of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services, to discuss this situation along with the proposal provided in May, 2021. The 2021 proposal addressed the repair of four (4) other tombstones in very bad condition and totaled about \$4200. He has promised to visit the cemetery this fall to at least do some “prep” work on the newly broken stone as well as on the Harding stone. The Harding stone, one of the four (4) tombstones in the 2021 proposal, is in imminent danger. Arthur Harding, a descendant of this Harding, had made a donation to defray a portion of the repair costs.

C. Replacement for Recording Secretary Vacancy

As mentioned earlier in these minutes, Dan Nielsen was elected by the Board to fill the unexpired term of Jacque-Lynne Schulman.

Open Discussion

As a result of some confusion regarding the date of the Annual Meeting this year, the members voted to set the Annual Meeting date each year as the Sunday after Labor Day. The vote was unanimous.

With no further discussion to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ryan

Pat Ryan
Corresponding Secretary