

METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 15, 2016

The meeting was convened at 2:00 p.m. in the 5th floor lounge at Friendship Terrace by our president, Diane Tamayo. As of 2015 we have 23 paying members and nine "life-timers". It was noted, with regret, that Joe Richards, one of our life-timers, recently passed away. He had been very helpful and supportive with the landscaping in the cemetery and will be sorely missed.

Members present at this year's meeting included Diane Tamayo, Kathy Hardy, Nancy Werner, Ellen Joyce, Steve Davis, and Barbara Tate; also present was the representative from the Tenleytown community, Jane Waldmann. It was determined that we did not have a quorum this year, so the minutes and treasurer's report could not be approved.

We have a new non-voting (but paying!) member this year who has agreed to help by walking through the cemetery occasionally to keep an eye on it; he is a close neighbor.

It was agreed not to read the meeting minutes from the last two years, as all present had received copies. The financial reports from the last two years were discussed. We continue to receive approximately \$1,500 in dues every year, and our expenses are kept to a minimum, including bonding (\$148), lawn care (when the Tamayos are out-of-town), and – as needed -- tree maintenance or tombstone repair. Unfortunately the expense for lawn care continues to increase, from \$335 in 2014 to \$465 in 2015 and \$680 in 2016. Our landscaper bills for the entire season the year after the work is done, and is available wherever necessary since he also does the landscaping for St. Columba church.

The D.C. Property Tax Exemption form was filed in March, and the IRS Non-Profit statement was filed in May. These forms are due every year.

Our website “Methodist Cemetery Association”/”Methodist Cemetery Tenleytown” is now available. Steve Shoemaker recently switched to a new hosting site and renewed the domain name registration. The move was transparent. He has posted a lot of information already. So far the majority of the information can be found on the “burials” page which lists the names of those in the cemetery with tombstones and for each there is a pull-down for further information such as tombstone photos, cemetery cards, death records (link to Family Search), and even some portraits/photos of the deceased. We are actively looking for photos of these people and also for any old cemetery photos. Comments and suggestions for improvement of the website will be appreciated.

Under new business, it was noted that a replacement has been requested for Dorothy Ford on the Board of Directors, but no quorum was available for a vote. In addition, our president Diane Tamayo expects to be away more during the coming year, and may eventually move closer to her grandchildren. We definitely need to get the involvement of new members!

Kathy Hardy brought irises with her from the Eastern Shore which she will plant tomorrow along the outside of the fence. This is much appreciated. The donation of plants is always very welcome – and even more so if it comes with the labor to get them planted!

Discussion points included the following. Jane Waldmann would like to know the location of other small/private cemeteries in the area, namely the Shoemaker cemeteries, and requested to have them posted on the website. No decision was made as to how this might be accomplished. It was mentioned that Jean Pablo’s daughter had inquired about the possibility of installing a bench in the cemetery in her memory, and had also broached the question of scattering ashes in the cemetery. There was also discussion concerning the possibility of memorial bricks being offered. These are all unresolved issues. In addition, there was mention of a man at Gawler’s Funeral Home who has a method of determining whether someone is buried in a particular area; this will be looked into.

The next meeting is scheduled for the third Sunday in May, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Recording Secretary,  
Nancy Werner