

METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting, May 19, 2019

The annual meeting of the Methodist Cemetery Association met at Friendship Terrace at 2:00 p.m. Members present were: Diane Tamayo, Kathy Hardy, Steve Shoemaker, Ellen Joyce, Nancy Werner, along with two new members who were introduced: Pat Ryan is a niece of Helen Elizabeth Burke (1900-1906) whose grave had a wooden marker (no longer existing) in the NE section; and Lenore Blevins is a descendant of Benjamin L. Harding. Jane Waldmann of the Tenleytown Historical Society was also present. Additionally, eight proxies were received, all giving the President authority to vote on behalf of those members.

Old Business:

It was agreed the minutes of last year's meeting would not be read, as they can be read on the website.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. The Association is consistently netting over \$1,000 in dues, with about 20 annual members and 12 lifetime members. The cost for lawn maintenance is expected to increase as the volunteers that have spent many hours working in the cemetery may not be so available in the future. So far this year we have spent \$148 for bonding and \$890 for grass mowing that occurred last year. \$5000 was approved for tombstone maintenance in 2019 and we expect repairs to commence this fall. Mosko Cemetery Monument Services have proposed \$3,300 in repairs.

So far over the last two years we have received and sent out two family histories, "A Tidbit of History" – one on the Robey child buried in our cemetery by Bart Robey, and one on the John Burrows family of Tenleytown by Carolyn Kiser. All are encouraged to offer their contributions and these "tidbits" will be published on our website. Amy Patterson O'Keefe has just this month posted a "tidbit" about her ancestor Robert Henry Burrows (along with a family photo) on the Cemetery's Facebook page. Jane Waldmann of the Tenleytown Historical Society expressed an interest in contributing. Also, the Harding family may, as well.

New Business:

A moment of silence was observed for Paul Sluby of the Columbian Harmony Society who passed away March 27, 2019. Paul was a former police officer,

legal researcher, and historian and was very active in the Columbia Harmony Society. He took a great interest in our cemetery and was instrumental in our receiving annual contributions of \$5000 for the last three years, as well as the funding to get our renovation efforts off the ground over a dozen years ago.

An effort was made recently to straighten footstones, quite a number of which had been toppled and many leaning at an angle. Thanks to volunteers, Jeanette Pablo and John Derrick a good number in the right front quadrant as well as some in the right rear quadrant have been straightened using methods taught by Robert Mosko.

The Tamayo family is easing back on regular grass maintenance at the cemetery. Our lawn care professional, Mr. Litz-Beavers has been asked to take over as needed. He manages maintenance at St. Columba church, across 42nd Street. He will not service us as often as he does the church, but will keep the cemetery in good condition.

In principal, the idea of donating The Methodist Cemetery's records to an archives, American University being one of them, has merit as the records are available. A motion was made to this effect by Jane Waldman, Tenleytown Historical Society, was seconded, and unanimously approved. Diane Tamayo, current "keeper" of the records, will look into this. The Tenleytown Historical Society have already chosen American University as the repository of their historical records.

A call for volunteers to fill the vacant position of Corresponding Secretary was made. After a brief discussion of the duties involved, new member Pat Ryan volunteered and was unanimously approved. (She is already hard at work!)

There was discussion of the date for the 2020 annual meeting. As it turns out, by the Sunday after Mother's Day there is already a lot of beach traffic, conflicts with graduations, and other problems. It was agreed to try the Sunday before Mother's Day: the first Sunday in May which will be May 3, 2020. Hope to see you then!