

METHODIST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING, September 13, 2020

The Methodist Cemetery Association met remotely, or virtually, via Zoom, for the first time, due to the Covid-19 crisis. Meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Roll call included a report on membership dues. So far, we have 21 annual members and one new life-time member, bringing the total of this year's dues-payers to 22. We already had 12 lifetime members. In addition to our president, Diane Tamayo, the following members present introduced themselves: Amy Patterson O'Keefe, related to the Queens and Burrows families; Barbara Tate, related to the Harrys; Bart Robey, of the Robey family; Dan Nielsen, great-great grandson of Addison Chappell; Steve Davis, related to the Queens and Rileys; Kathy Hardy, related to the Shoemakers and Elds; Lenore Blevins, related to the Hardings; Nancy Werner, related to the Shoemakers and Elds; Pat Ryan, related to baby Helen Burke; Roger Pridham, Pat Ryan's cousin, also related to Helen Burke; Bill Barnard, related to the Walther family; and Steve Shoemaker, related to the Shoemakers and Elds. In addition, five members sent proxies: William Clift Sr., Ellen Joyce, Sabra Kone, Carolyn Shelton, and John Walther Jr. A quorum was present.

The minutes for last year's meeting were accepted as sent out after the meeting and will be published on the cemetery website.

The Treasurer's Report for 2019 was read and approved. We have a healthy bank balance at this time. Prior to last year, for three years in a row, we received large donations from the Columbian Harmony Society, thanks to the auspices of Paul Sluby, now deceased. We do not expect to be so fortunate in the future. Additionally, expenses in the past have been kept to a bare minimum: for at least fifteen years, until 2017, there was almost no cost for lawn maintenance due to the donated labor of the Schwartz and Tamayo families. Income in 2019 was from dues, member donations, and bank interest. Expenses included: bonding for \$148, and grass cutting which increased to \$890. There was no tree work last year, but provision continues to be in the budget for future work, as there are two very large trees that could be affected by storms and disease. Tombstone repairs were not performed last year but it is anticipated they might be as much as \$5,000, this year.

The pre-approved budgeted expenditure limits for 2020 were as follows:

Mowing	\$2,000
Bonding	200
Tombstone repair	5,000
Tree maintenance	5,000
Incidentals	200

Note: "expenditure limits" allow the Board of Directors latitude to spend up to the amount shown in each category, without additional permission from the membership. It does NOT at all represent the amount actually anticipated to be spent. Grass cutting expense has already increased this year to \$1,185 and is expected to continue to increase further each year as the Tamayo family is no longer cutting the grass, although they will still be doing other yard work. Also, Bart Robey has again helped with care of the cemetery this year, which is much appreciated. The budgeted expenditure for tombstone repair is a large amount due to the need to repair several tombstones. One stone in the back right corner was badly shattered when one trunk of the multi-trunked tree in the back right corner of the cemetery fell next to it. Also, it has been found that one of the broken stones to be repaired has a base buried underneath it. It is suspected that the stone propped up next to it may also have a buried base. Diane would like to also have this stone & base be repaired. It was noted that Robert Mosko, of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services, said his people may be able to finally make it to our cemetery this month. Tree maintenance is on an as-needed basis.

The proposed budget of expenditure limits for 2021 is as follows:

Mowing	\$2,500
Bonding	200
Tombstone repair	5,000
Tree maintenance	6,000
Incidentals	500

A motion was offered and approved to accept the 2021 budget.

Under unfinished business, members were encouraged to visit our website, [MethodistCemeteryTenleytown.com](http://MethodistCemeteryTenleytown.com), where our webmaster, Steve Shoemaker, had posted the first "Tidbit of History" by Bart Robey. Steve was looking to hear

feedback on this, before posting the other two we have received so far. Discussion followed and the decision was to change the name “Tidbits” to “Family Stories”. [Note: since the meeting, this change has already been made, and the second family story has already been posted.] We are looking for more of these family stories! Steve will post them in PDF format, but they may be submitted in Word or PDF.

Other unfinished business from last year: Although we previously decided to explore donating our historical materials to an archives, nothing has been done so far, due to the pandemic. American University and the DC Historical Society are possible depositories for the archives.

Our bylaws had been in need of updating to make them current. Pat Ryan has now updated them through 2017 – so they are now completely current as to what has been approved. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to make a proposal to the Board, and then to the membership, of additional revisions to the bylaws that may be needed, including the proxy procedure and associated form. Attorney review may be required for some of these revisions. Pat and Amy have agreed to work on this project, along with Diane.

A membership roster including name, address, phone number, and email address is to be established and placed in a future “members only” location on the website. This is to be accessed with a password. This password-protected location is also where financial reports will be posted.

The next meeting is planned for the first Sunday of May: May 2, 2021. The meeting is planned to be virtually, via ZOOM. In future we will explore the possibility of some people also being able to attend in-person, with the location to be either in the cemetery, if weather permits, or at the Friendship Terrace meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Werner  
Recording Secretary