

## FSJCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING, MARCH 6, 2012

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm. Those in attendance were Dolores De La Rua, Charles Green, Wesley Odom, Bobby Riggs, Hill Turner, Emily Walby, Edwin Wallace, and Dwight Watson.

2. Reintroductions

Wesley Odom reintroduced the members of the board.

3. Review of finances.

To date the FSJCF has a cash balance of \$14,318.56. A complete financial report was provided for board approval. A copy of this report is included with the minutes. The financial report was approved.

4. Recent Activities

A. Inventory - Approx. 50 people have volunteered to help find, record, or enter into a database the names of all people buried in St. John's Cemetery. Over a thousand new names have been added. (Wesley Odom related a story of a British citizen who had discovered the name of an ancestor on the FSJCF website and is making a trip to Pensacola in April to see the gravesite for himself.)

B. Tree Planting - An effort is being made to plant more trees in the cemetery, partly to replace those damaged by Hurricane Ivan. Rick Fountain picked up several trees donated by the county, and Dwight Watson donated 20 trees. Six of those trees have been stolen. Wesley Odom will make some inquiries about acquiring additional trees. The guidance department of Catholic High and the Marines have helped in the past.

C. Cremation interments are now being done for family members of those owning plots in the cemetery. The Friends collected \$50 last year and \$75 YTD.

5. Gatehouse Project

A large scale project had been proposed by an Eagle Scout to help renovate the Gatehouse office and chapel. The structure was built in 1908 and has sustained considerable damage especially by Hurricane Ivan. The scouts are willing to remove the old plaster and lathe so that new electrical, insulation, and sheet rock may be added. Miller Caldwell did a survey on renovating the buildings several years ago. An attempt will be made to find his drawings.

The board approved the project (to remove the plaster and lathe) with the provision that certain board members be present at the removal to stop procedure if a major problem is found. A dumpster will be provided by the Friends.

A sub-project will be done by the younger scouts to bury a small pvc pipe into the ground of veterans' gravesites to serve as flag holders. Drinks and snacks will be provided to all of the scouts mainly through free donations or paid by the Friends.

Members of FSJCF will be informed of costs of renovations as they become available.

Charles Green expressed the desire to not only restore the chapel but to one day have computers in the office for genealogy research for visitors.

6. Lot

The board approved the purchase of the lot across the street from the cemetery Gatehouse owned by Gulf Power for the sum of \$1. The lot is approx. 100 x 100 and may be sold by FSJCF to help with the cost of renovations or used as a parking lot for cemetery visitors.

7. Mollie McCoy

After considerable detective work, the gravesite of Mollie McCoy, notorious madam of Pensacola's post Civil War days has been found. Wesley Odom proposed that a gravestone and marker be placed where Mollie rests in the hopes that it may attract curiosity seekers and tourists. This may in turn create interest by the community as a whole who may wish to help and protect the cemetery.

Either a radio transmission or a personal CD could be used to tell stories of Mollie and others buried in St. John's.

The board approved this proposal.

8. SJC'S Ghosts in the Graveyard

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October will be the dates of the Ghosts in the Graveyard riding tour. Guests tentatively will pay \$5.00 at the Gatehouse entrance and ride through the cemetery viewing people dressed in period costume and hearing stories about different people interred there. Either a radio broadcast or a personal CD will provide the stories.

Families are encouraged to relate stories of those in St. John's, and Rick Fountain has been asked to create a questionnaire sheet to help expedite this information.

9. Other business

Dwight Watson asked about procuring a security camera for the cemetery. Charles Green will donate the camera with the understanding that it must be used in conjunction with a computer which is connected to the internet. Dwight also expressed an interest in rehangng the old gates to the cemetery now stored in the chapel. The board approved this as part of the renovation process.

A newsletter will be sent out to members of FSJCF to inform them of all events taking place and reminding them to pay their annual membership dues.

There are several families connected with St. John's who would like to be interviewed about family stories and genealogy. Wesley Odom is in the process of arranging these interviews.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.