

THE FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN CEMETERY FOUNDATION
MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2011

Those in attendance: T. Vic Bokas, Dottie Booker, F. E. Booker, Jack Fleming, Rick Fountain, Margery Haargraves, J. D. Hayward, Betty Nickinson, Ted Nickinson, Wesley Odom, Rev. T. E. Raines, Jean H. Russ, Hill Turner, Emily Walby, Edwin S. Wallace, Jean Wallace, and Dwight Watson.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Rick Fountain at 4:30 p.m.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting were not available at the time of the meeting but will be made available on the website or will be mailed to members upon request.
- III. President's Report: Pres. Rick Fountain expressed his appreciation for a successful year especially with the governing board. He further expressed appreciation for the efforts of the St. John's Cemetery Corporation. Several questions concerning responsibility for tasks in the cemetery had been cleared up. His main focus was on the Impact 100 Grant application which will be reported in another section. The president's report was accepted by a majority present.

At this time Mr. F. E. Booker was asked to explain some of the duties of the St. John's Cemetery Corp. He stated that the corp. is funded largely by the Masonic Lodge. It is sometimes difficult to weigh the historical aspects from the mechanics of tending the cemetery. He reminded those present that certain sites have been set aside and are available for: fraternities, firemen, labor unions, Masonic Orders, and civic groups. When asked if a financial statement was available, it was explained that a Form 990 gives financial statements for both the Cemetery Corp. and Friends of St. John's.

A special thanks was also given to Dwight Watson for being such a good watchdog for the cemetery.

- IV. Financial Report: The financial report was given by Wesley Odom. He explained that the biggest increase in spending was for a update of the website and that this would be a one time expense. The cash balance to date is \$10,357.02. The financial report was accepted by a majority present.
- V. Approval of new by -laws.
- VI. Report on Impact 100: An application has be turned in to receive \$107,500 from Impact 100, a grant to five local organizations upon approval. The main question involved in receiving the grant is "What would you do with \$107,500?" Some of the main points to improve the St. John's Cemetery site included:
 - Renovate the gatehouse
 - Set up a meeting room
 - Introduce a community meeting house
 - Develop a guided trail that could be accessed by an electronic device such as an Ipad
 - Buy property across the street from Gulf Power to provide additional parking
 - Repair drivewaysThe board has worked hard to submit this application and are hopeful the grant will be received this year. However, if this should not come to pass, it could be resubmitted at a future date.
- VI. Report on Scout Project, October 1, 2011: A special event day will be held October 1 for scouts, youth volunteers, and members to inventory unidentified gravesites. There are 71 sections with many unnamed gravesites which the board wishes to correct as much as possible. The event will last from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

VII. Election of officer, nominations and election of board members:

Rick Fountain will remain as acting president.

Wesley Odom will remain as acting vice president and treasurer.

Emily Walby, secretary

New board members elected were as follows

Hill Turner

Vic Bokas

Dwight Watson

Edwin S. Wallace

Delores De La Rua and Charles Green will remain on the board.

The elections were approved by a majority present.

VIII. New Business

Wesley Odom is in the process of adding photographs along with names of those interred at St. John's Cemetery and generally updating the website. Recent funerals have also been posted on the website and this should continue through the future.

A. Dues collections: Dues may be sent to The Friends of St. John's Cemetery Foundation, P. O. Box 30245, Pensacola, FL, 32503-0245. Individual membership is \$25.

B. Formation of committees: A meeting has been set up for Tuesday, September 13, 2011, to begin tracking information for historical preservation.

IX. Meeting adjourned.