

ANNUAL MEETING
OF
THE FRIENDS OF ST. JOHNS CEMETERY
NOVEMBER 4, 2017

Prior to the annual meeting, an All Saints' Day service was held in the Gatehouse chapel. The Rev. Michael Hoffman, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, officiated a service to honor the departed and comfort those left behind. President Wesley Odom brought the meeting to order at 9:38am by reading a list of those who had been interred at St. Johns during the past year.

IMPACT100 GRANT

The gatehouse and chapel have undergone extensive renovations thanks to ongoing projects from FSJC and the Impact100 Grant that was awarded October 2016. In addition to being more attractive, the office is functional and the bathroom has new fixtures and hot water. The chapel has been restored to and is fully functional; a new mural has replaced the original stained glass window, and new furniture has been added thanks to a generous donation from retired educator, James E. Reese. A large outdoor map of the cemetery will be added near the entrance at a later date.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2018

Members Dolores de la Rua Hayes, secretary Emily Walby, and vice president Dwight Watson cycled off of the board this year. After receiving appreciation for all his hard work, Dwight Watson returned a set of keys to the board. Dolores and Emily were also thanked for their service.

New nominations to the board were submitted as follows: Cynthia Dean (retired native), Anny Shepard (mgr Starbucks on Gregory, neighbor to SJC, and native), and Thomas Raines (retired chaplain). No other nominations were made. These three were elected unanimously.

Nominations from the Board for officers were Hill Turner as vice president, and Jane Moseley as secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. These nominations were accepted and the new slate of officers approved. Wesley Odom will remain as president, as his term expires next year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A complete financial report was presented to those present and verified by Dwight Watson. FSJC has a balance of \$30,751.27. The most recent expenses were: 6 trees that had to be taken down due to age or storm damage and 25 stumps that needed to be removed. The financial statement was approved.

AVAILABLE SPACES IN CEMETERY

There are many spaces still available in St. Johns. The cost is \$1000 a plot. Any one having or knowing someone who has deeds or documents that prove ownership of

plots in St. Johns are asked to relay the information to Wesley. Plots that are not claimed may be sold again.

PERPETUAL CARE

Brenda Arnold, head of the perpetual care committee that works on the grounds has been doing a study of native plants, especially drought resistant varieties, to be added to the cemetery landscape. Brenda passed out a model of landscaping that might be used at the entrance to the cemetery. Bobby Riggs expressed concern about irrigation. Brenda is aware of the problem and believes it can be maintained. Both Delores DeLaRua Hayes expressed concern over grass growing over the pavement especially on the south side of the cemetery. Cynthia Dean added that the new strips of concrete on which we drive going west from the second circle have areas where the soil has washed away from the edges. Both of these need to be addressed. Wesley asked Jim Speed and Charles Green of SJC to address these. Brenda welcomes any volunteer help.

CROSS FOR CHAPEL

An email was sent out a few months ago from Wesley expressing a wish to purchase a cross for the Gatehouse chapel. The 36" cross was the work of a wood sculptor and had the cost of \$700. Several of those present at the meeting had missed the email. Jane Moseley requested that it be resubmitted along with additional choices. Wesley will bring samples at the next board meeting.

CEMETERY NAME

Charles Green, a member of SJC, related that St. Johns Cemetery is named after two saints: St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. The apostrophe often added is a mistake because it is a dual title. These two saints are historically important to the Freemasons.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in FJSC is \$25 per year. Members offered some suggestions for making it easier to pay dues.

Included were:

Attaching a membership application to the newsletter that can be filled out and mailed in.

Writing a "We miss you - please come back" note.

Offer different levels of membership as some may wish to contribute more.

Adding a list of projects that are being done or need to be done so that members know where the funds are being used.

Stephanie Joiner has volunteered to help with a mailing list and notices.

Wesley Odom announced the date of the next board meeting as Tuesday, December 5, at 4:30pm at the Gatehouse chapel.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33am.

Jane Moseley