

Friends of St. John's Historic Cemetery

Minutes of Annual Meeting - June 23, 2010 5:30PM Bowden Building

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. Present were: Richard Fountain, Wesley Odom, Lynn and Buddy Lewis, Bobby Riggs, Vic Bokas, Herman Bray, Gene Booker, Jean and Ned Wallace, Richard Brosnaham, Randall Broxton, Carolyn and Jack Fleming, Betty and Ted Nickinson. 16 members being in attendance, Co-Chair Nickinson declared a quorum was present.

Co-Chair Jack Fleming welcomed the group after which Ted Nickinson presented a review of the year 2009, explaining the reason for the meeting had been necessarily postponed until this time due to both co-chairs having medical issues in the spring of 2010. A copy of this review was presented to the members as follows:

“Our major effort during 2009 accomplished a significant start of one of our original mission goals - to improve the appearance of the grounds by adding plantings in the four corners of St. John's and in the first two blocks from the entrance at a cost of approximately \$22,000 to cover the plants and installation of an irrigation system to the new plants and to the intersection circles on Belmont Street. We also held successful celebrations of our annual Commemoration Day and All Saints Day programs in May and October.. Our website was enlarged in 2009 to include burial data from 1876 to 2005 which is a “work in progress” with much more work to be done. (Note: our website has changed its server and is now found at “www.stjohnshistoriccemetery.org”).

As you might expect, contributions to support our mission were drastically reduced as a result of the overall economic situation. The only bright spot was the receipt of a sizable bequest from the James Harrell Trust in the amount of \$8729. Continuing support from 82 members of Friends amounted to \$5270. With a small carryover from 2009 our current cash account is \$11354, having already received \$1270 from 25 donors in 2010.

At this time we are obviously unable to proceed with restoring the gatehouse or repairing the roads in Blocks 4 and 5, each of which are estimated to cost about \$50,000. We did apply for a grant in the amount of \$75,000 from the State of Florida in 2007 and 2008 without success. The condition of Belmont street in Blocks 3, 4 and 5 has seriously deteriorated but our efforts to interest the City of Pensacola to repave these blocks have been met with “no funds available” due to the current continuing economic situation with City finances.

St. John's Cemetery Company continues to provide routine maintenance of the grounds despite serious reduction in income from its trust funds. New burials continue at the rate of 4 or 5 each month, mostly in blocks 4 and 5 in the western end of St. John's. “

A motion to accept the report and to approve the activities of the Corporation was duly seconded and approved unanimously

Jack Fleming presented a report of the Nominating Committee as follows::

Officer of the corporation to serve for one year:

President - Richard Fountain

Vice-President - Wesley Odom

Secretary-Treasurer - Lynn Lewis

There was no response to a call for nominations from the floor. A motion, duly seconded, to affirm these nominations was adopted unanimously.

To serve as member of the board for a period of three years: Herman Bray, Richard Brosnaham, JoAnn Doman, Charles Green, Bobby Riggs, Guy Yaste III, Rodger Doyle, Miller Caldwell and Randall Broxton. Hearing no nominations from the floor, the chair declared them elected by acclamation. It was noted that the following had been previously elected for terms ending in 2010: Vic Bokas, Rick Johnson, Gordon MacKenzie, Tom Pace, Jr, and Dwight T. Watson.

A motion duly seconded, was approved to designate the newly elected officers as authorized to approve disbursement of funds as required to Saltmarsh, Cleaveland and Gund, Public Accountants who serve the corporation.

A brief discussion was taken regarding a proposed sign to be placed in the cemetery at the two entrances to inform visitors of the need to protect the grounds. Herman Bray agreed to have his name and e-mail address appear on the sign to handle inquiries regarding availability of lots in the cemetery. Bobby Riggs will secure cost estimates to be submitted to the board for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Nickinson, Acting Secretary.