



Mission Statement: The purpose of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery is to optimize the cemetery's potential as a cultural resource through education, preservation, and promotion of Mount Hope Cemetery's unique heritage.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – July 5, 2023

In Attendance	Excused	Unexcused	Guests/Members
Dennis Carr	Sally Millick	Cam Tran	Jarod Terrell
Pat Corcoran	Tony Filer	Yarelis Tinoco	Carina Gassman
Deb Coffey	Barbara Figura		Marilyn Colby
Kristine Klein	Marjorie Searl		Lynda Baudanza
Tom Jones			
Henry McCartney			
Monica Gurell			
Robbie Dreeson			
Chris Grooms			
Nancy Uffindell			
Chris Petote			

Call to Order: Kristine Klein 7:00 pm

Secretary’s Report: Chris Petote

- No changes needed for June minutes. Motion to approve by Nancy Uffindell, seconded by Robbie Dreeson. Approved by all.

Cemetery Report: Jarod Terrell

- Jarod informed board members that the Frederick Douglass statue will be returned to MHC following repairs needed due to weathering. Location to be determined; options include outside, near the cemetery office, or potentially inside the office.
- There is a scheduled walk-thru of both chapels and the crematory on July 10 by the city administration.
- Jarod reported that after the completion of the City’s South Avenue Project, there should be 1,300 new burial sites.

President Report: Kristine Klein

1. Kristine reported that Rose O’Keefe has resigned from the Board and shares the following message: *“Please accept my resignation from the board of Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery for health reasons. Being on the board has been a wonderful way to get to know the behind-the-scenes efforts to take care of this local treasure. As a member, I would gladly write articles for the website, with sufficient notice, word length and due date. Sincerely, Rose O’Keefe”*
2. Kristine would like to meet with the chairs of committees or with the committees. She stated that we need to document the roles and responsibilities of committee chairs and the purpose and purposes of committees.
3. Kristine would also like to work with a small team to develop a strategy/plan to fill board positions. She encouraged those not already involved with other committees to help with this and noted that these meetings take place via Zoom.
4. Committee reports – remember to send them before 5 pm the Tuesday before the meeting.
5. #DouglassWeek – we will be participating in the 3rd annual #DouglassWeek festivities. (7/10-7/16) And are already starting to plan for next year. (Douglassweek.org)
“#DouglassWeek (#DW) is an annual event series celebrating the inspiration of Frederick Douglass around the world. The week includes discussions, performances, exhibitions and events designed to promote transatlantic collaboration and engagement. We organize #DW with a wide network of partners to highlight and respond to the influence of Douglass and other change makers through historical, creative, academic and other lenses.”
There will be a gravesite service on Sunday, July 16, 2023.
6. Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society Papers, 1848-1868 are now available online on the University of Wisconsin Library’s website:
<https://findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-wcl-M-2084roc>
7. Kristine asks that if anyone has a new project planned, please inform her. She doesn’t plan on interceding but does not like surprises.

Kristine reported that the smartphone app is live; this info will be shared via Facebook, Constant Contact, and the website. Kristine added that Sarah Johnson would be providing the voice portion for the Susan B Anthony app tour and noted that Marcia Birken has reached out to Verdis Robinson about possibly working to create a *Black Lives* app tour.

Financial Report: Henry McCartney

- Henry presented his financial reports, adding that the FOMH continues to do well. Memberships are at or above the previous year, contributions are doing exceptionally well, and private/group tours are doing well, but the public tours are a bit lower than the 2022 season.
- Investment income with RACF and CD is doing well.
- Henry noted that the cemetery improvements costs have gone up significantly, noting that Bill Yager’s increase in the number of employees has meant the completion of projects faster. The FOMH has spent \$54,000 this season.

- Former Trustee of the board, John Pearsall, who passed away in January, left a monetary gift to the FOMH. Henry proposed to add \$10,000 of this into the 2023 core restoration budget and put \$15,000 into the RACF for future use. Pat Corcoran seconded the proposal passed by all, less one in abstention.
- A tree that was previously planted will be dedicated to John Pearsall. Pat Corcoran and Monica Gurell will plan a ceremony accordingly.

Holley Dedication: Pat Corcoran

- Pat shared that in the summer of 2022, a couple from New Mexico was visiting MHC and talked about their being ancestors of Myron Holley. They expressed an interest in putting some money into his plot area by installing a bench at the top of the hill as well as steps and a handrail on the side of the hill. This area will be completed soon.
- A dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 30, from 2-5 pm. Pat will take the lead on this, noting it will be similar to the Amy Post dedication. Pat will be assisted by Robbie Dreeson, Monica Gurell, Dennis Carr, and Chris Petote.

Tour Committee: Dennis Carr and Deb Coffey

- Dennis and Deb reported that this season has been busy with private/group tours and many school tours. Dennis shared that in the winter, he and Pat Corcoran will try to meet with many different group leaders to promote the private tours.
- Deb added that of the original ten new tour guide volunteers, they have a consistent group of six who continue to shadow seasoned guides, and of these, two will be doing their guide certification soon and will be ready to guide.
- Deb also reported that she and Dennis will meet soon to prepare for the “From the Beyond” special event in October.

For the Good of the Board: Everyone

- Pat Corcoran shared that a few months after the restoration of Section U was complete, a massive tree fell down, knocking many stones down. After a couple of weeks, the city removed the tree. On a day when Pat and Bill Yager were assessing the damaged stones, a visitor to MHC asked about what happened, how the stones could get fixed, and at what cost. Pat and Bill talked with this person, and Bill said the cost would be about \$2500. After this conversation, the gentleman said ok and that he would send a check.
- Pat shared the sad news of the passing of David Hunt, husband of FOMH Past President Emeritus Joan Hunt. Joan emailed Pat that her husband’s ashes would be scattered at the MHC scattering garden on July 15 at 10:15 am, and all who knew him are invited.
- Nancy Uffindell shared that she and Tom had attended the school student book dedication at Mount Albion, where she obtained a copy of the book for the library.
- Carina Gassmann and Chris Grooms announced they are resurrecting the FOMH Instagram account. They asked that anything interesting be sent to either of them for adding to this format. Instagram is designed for concise blurbs but lots of pictures.
- Sally Millick shared that she will be creating a schedule for posting to Facebook; this will help keep it fresh and hopefully prevent anything from getting lost too soon.
- Kristine Klein reported that she will be adding all minutes and reports to the Google Drive shared folder. She mentioned that the next Epitaph will be mailed soon, also noting

that the fall Epitaph will have articles on the funeral industry. Kristine also discussed Jarod's recent podcast regarding headstones and how we should cherish and admire them.

Nancy Uffindell motioned to adjourn, and Monica Gurell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

To shorten Board meetings while allowing enough discussion time, most committee reports/stats were sent to each member before the meeting for review. There will be an opportunity for questions regarding these reports at the end of the meeting. This new procedure is a trial and can be discussed at subsequent meetings for its effectiveness.

Additional Reports:

Please see the attached individual committee reports

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

The next board meeting is Wed., August 2, 2023

Minutes Submitted by Chris Petote, Board Secretary