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 – October 4, 2023

<table>
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<tr>
<th>In Attendance</th>
<th>Excused</th>
<th>Unexcused</th>
<th>Guests/Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Carr</td>
<td>Sally Millick</td>
<td>Cam Tran</td>
<td>Jarod Terrell</td>
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<td>Pat Corcoran</td>
<td>Marjorie Searl</td>
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<td>Lynda Baudanza</td>
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<td>Deb Coffey</td>
<td>Robbie Dreeson</td>
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<td>Kristine Klein</td>
<td>Tony Filer</td>
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<td>Tom Jones</td>
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<td>Barbara Figura</td>
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<td>Henry McCartney</td>
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<td>Chris Petote</td>
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<td>Chris Grooms</td>
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<td>Nancy Uffindell</td>
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<td>Sally Millick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monica Gurell</td>
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<td>Carina Gassman</td>
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Call to Order: Kristine Klein 7:00 pm

Secretary’s Report: Chris Petote
- Motion to accept July minutes made by Patricia Corcoran, seconded by Nancy Uffindell, accepted by all.

Cemetery Report: Jarod Terrell
- Jarod reported that the first part of the City’s South Ave project is done.

(The Mount Hope Cemetery South Avenue Improvements Project includes road narrowing and partial road removal. Road width reductions will create adequate space for future fence foundation installation, and road removals will create space for future interment space and revenue generation along Elmwood Avenue. This project is consistent with and will advance priorities identified in the 2016 Mount Hope Cemetery Master Plan. Work includes, but is not limited to, Road narrowing - South Ave. between Forest Ave. and Second Ave.; Road removal - Fifth Ave. from Elm Ave. to South Ave., South Ave. between Fifth Ave. and Second Ave., and South Ave. between Forest Ave. and Adlington Ave.; Curb installation, utility adjustments, and lawn restoration).
• Jarod noted that between the new in-ground sites and new columbaria, about 1700 niches have been created.
• The Circle of Tranquility area should be completed by the end of December. Cardinal Landscaping will be helping to finish the landscaping work.

President Report: Kristine Klein
• Kristine thanked those who helped with the Holley event, noting it was a great success, and the Holley family was very happy with the ceremony.
• Kristine reminded all to submit hours, noting that attending Board meetings counts too.
• Don Hall, former FOMH Board member, and retired tour guide, was awarded the ‘Joe U. Posner Founders Award’ from the Rochester Area Community Foundation. “Each year since 1991, Philanthropy Award recipients have been recognized for their creative and effective giving that inspires others while strengthening the communities in greater Rochester’s eight counties.” Don could not attend the ceremony; however, his daughter and several FOMH Board members were there to honor him.
• Kristine reported on a tour given to a group of “Yelpsters.” Yelpsters are representatives of Yelp, a popular online directory where people discover, connect, and transact with local businesses of all sizes. They immensely enjoyed the tour, given by Dennis Carr and Sarah Johnson. Following the tour, they gave rave reviews on the online platform. This is good PR for the FOMH and tour program.

• Henry emailed all his financial reports ahead of the meeting.
• Henry noted that overall membership is not doing as well as hoped, stating that long-time members seem to be the ones that continue to renew, whereas new members often do not renew after the first year.
• The regular tours are down from past years, but merchandise sales and special tours are up. Contributions are doing very well.
• Restoration has spent about $54,503 between June and September, the prime months for restoration work. Henry noted that about 151 headstones and 72 foundations were repaired in one month alone.
• Henry noted that the Square seems to be working well. He said that Carina Gassman has done well with teaching others to use the device. Henry is currently carrying the phone and fees on his plan and will request reimbursement later in the year.

Reporting Emergencies at the Cemetery: Barbara Figura
• After receptionists and other volunteers posed the question of how to handle emergencies that might arise at MHC, it was felt that a set plan should be created. Barbara Figura, Reception Chair, was tasked with creating the guidelines. These were presented to the Board, and after some discussion, a few changes needed to be made. Once these changes are made, the updated information will be sent to board members and the cemetery manager. If all agree, the new plan will be shared and available to receptionists, volunteers, etc., in the Gatehouse.
Holley Event Follow-up: Pat Corcoran

- Pat reminded all that it was only August when the Holley family reached out to the FOMH to explore installing a bench at the Holley gravesite. After many emails, Zoom meetings, and help from volunteers, the area was cleaned, much of it by Chris McCoy’s students from Edison Tech. Susan Andersen worked on clearing the area of poison ivy, Tom Jones landscaped the area to create vistas, and the city mowed and weeded. Steps were installed, and the bench was installed. Invitations were sent, speakers and a bagpiper were arranged, refreshments were obtained, and the event went well. The Holley family was extremely pleased.

Square Update: Henry McCartney & Carina Gassman

- Carina noted she has been coming to the Gatehouse before many of the tours to assist the receptionists in using the Square app. In addition, she also created a tutorial for the receptionists. Carina finds this app makes accounting very easy, and she adds the information to QuickBooks with no trouble.
- Henry noted that the phone is now turned off, there was no penalty fee, and he will cancel the credit card machine as well.

From the Beyond: Deb Coffey

- Deb reported that the final plans have been made, the refreshments are all set, and the photo booth is set. The historians, escorts, and sweeps are ready. Most everyone participated in the dress rehearsal walkthrough. The photographer is set. Deb obtained a donation of apples as well. Deb reminded all to publicize as much as possible on FB sites, Instagram, bulletin boards, etc. Carina shared that, as of now, 110 tickets have been sold.
- Deb will schedule a follow-up meeting to review how everything went.

Volunteer Appreciation Event: Kristine Klein

- The planned date for this event is Sunday, November 5, 2023, 1-3 pm. The event will be held at the Hervey Ely house again. Kristine will create the invitation but has asked all committee chairs to send it to their committee members and volunteers. Barbara Figura offered to take email responses and make the final list of attendees. Chris Petote will work with Robbie Dreeson on handling refreshments and event setup.

Committee Reports:
*Full reports were emailed to Board members before the meeting*

PR Committee – Per Kristine, this committee continues to stumble along, noting we need PR volunteers. Kristine and Pat met with the owner of Pelligrino’s and The Distillery. We now have 20% discount cards to hand out to tourgoers, new members, etc. In exchange, we will offer a free tour for their employees next season.

Stone Cleaning Committee - Kristine mentioned that a volunteer is interested in chairing the stone cleaning committee. She has been a FOMH member and active volunteer, including with the stone cleaning group, for a few years. She plans on creating a small, core group of regular volunteers for this committee.
**Restoration Committee** – Patricia Corcoran reported that restoration has been completed in the Jewish sections as of the end of September. She will arrange a date when Monica Gurell and Marjorie Searl, representatives of the Jewish groups, can visit the work areas for a final inspection.

**Genealogy Report: Nancy Uffindell** – Nancy shared with Jarod that she is very grateful to the girls in the cemetery office for their helpfulness when she is doing research, and she is happy to help them when needed.

**For the Good of the Board** –
- Carina shared information from Genesee Country Village and Museum. They are offering a talk, An Orderly Eternal Rest the American Rural Cemetery Movement; those attending the talk will hear about mourning rituals in the Foster house. In addition, the John L. Wehle Gallery will display 19th-century mourning jewelry.
- Pat shared information from an email she received about the unveiling of a historic new memorial honoring the deceased buried in the public section of MHC. These deceased typically came from an almshouse, insane asylum, or penitentiary. This will be presented by Professor Ryan Thibodeau, St. John Fisher, on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10 a.m. Speakers will include Mayor Malik Evans, County Executive Adam Bello, and St. John Fisher University President Dr. Gerry Rooney. This ceremony will be in the public section of MHC.
- Pat also thanked Jarod for having a city crew clean the Gatehouse windows, inside and out.
- Dennis will create a sign to demonstrate the use of the new handicapped door.
- Nancy let everyone know that great history books are available in the library.
- Chris Grooms asked about getting new shirts to replace ones that are getting worn out. Dennis and Kristine shared they are actively looking into this.

Motion made to adjourn by Chris Grooms seconded by Nancy Uffindell

**Additional Reports:**

Please see the attached individual committee reports

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**The next board meeting is Wed., November 1, 2023**

**Minutes Submitted by Chris Petote, Board Secretary**