

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2016 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 2

RESOLUTION NO. 21 - 2016

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Matthew Smithson to the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board.

Introduced and read first time on February 1, 2016.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on February 16, 2016.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn by the County Council on March 7, 2016.

Certified by Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

CR 21-2016

Matthew Smithson - Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board

Lee, David K.

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 1:42 PM

To: CouncilMail

Cc: Feldmark, Jessica; Sager, Jennifer; Lazdins, Valdis; Burgess, Beth; fdorsey1130@verizon.net; Wilson, B Diane; Schrader, Sandy; Robbins, Lonnie

Attachments: Religious Rep Board 03221~1.docx (18 KB)

FILE COPY

Councilmembers,

I am providing the following explanation in response to the testimony provided by Mr. Fred Dorsey regarding Mr. Smithson's qualifications for the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB).

Since the CPAB was reconstituted in 2013, Beth Burgess has made significant efforts to find a representative from the religious community and has been unsuccessful in soliciting any interest. Attached is an information sheet that Beth had revised in 2013 and distributed to the religious community as part of her efforts. Beth went through the CPAB's inventory of more than 200 cemeteries in the County, but there are not many active places of worship on that list.

Elizabeth Larney was appointed and confirmed in July 2015 to serve on the CPAB. She is willing to represent the church and is a member of a church and has pastoral experience. While she is not a pastor or clergy member, she has provided evidence of significant volunteer service for the St. Paul Roman Catholic Church in Ellicott City. Specifically, she is currently the Cemetery Restoration Committee Chair, actively served on the Pastoral Counsel for six years, and was a Religious Education instructor for four years. At the time of Ms. Larney's appointment, Beth Burgess and I agreed that given her extensive community involvement and Beth's struggles in trying to find a clergy member to serve, that Ms. Larney did represent the religious community, and she was willing to serve in that capacity.

The County Code requires two members of the general public to serve, the other qualifications required by the Code have been filled, and Mr. Smithson is being appointed as a member of the general public. Mr. Dorsey indicated in his testimony that he would support Mr. Smithson's appointment to the CPAB as a member of the general public. I spoke with Mr. Dorsey, discussed Beth's efforts to find a religious community representative and Ms. Larney's designation as the religious community representative, and confirmed his support for Mr. Smithson's appointment as a general public member.

Please let me know if I can provide additional clarification on this issue.

Thank you,

David K. Lee

Director of Constituent Services and Community Partnerships

Office of Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman

410-313-3395

DKLee@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board Roles and Responsibilities

We are seeking to complete our Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB) for Howard County and are in need to fill the Religious Community Representative category for a Board Member. Each Board member should fulfill one of the following qualifications of expertise or representation:

- 5 members shall be residents of Howard County; the remaining can be from other counties
- 1 member shall represent the development / building industry
- 1 member shall represent the religious community
- 1 member shall represent the funeral-cemetery business
- 2 remaining shall have knowledge or training with preservation, genealogy, history, architecture etc who have knowledge and demonstrate and interest in the preservation of burial grounds
- 2 members shall represent the general public

We currently have 4 board members and have fulfilled all representation except for the religious community. If you have any interest in serving on this board then the following is the time commitment for each year.

- 4-5 board meetings a year typically on Tuesday mornings, typical 90 minute meetings (attendance of the majority of meetings are required)
- 1-3 Council sessions a year for the first few years as we update laws and regulations (not required but presence, support and testimony appreciated)
- 1-3 annual events to help with cemetery restoration or education within Howard- site visits, additional meeting/seminars (not required as board but presence is welcomed)
- 2-5 hours each month reading materials, communicating with board and making progress on goals (required to in order to be an active and effective member)
- As boards go, this is not a taxing commitment. There are no nightly or weekly tasks that will consume your schedule.

For the specific representation of the religious community, it would be beneficial but not required if:

- The member was a pastor, priest, rabbi or in an official ordained religious role to a congregation, synagogue or active religious body; a person retired from this role is acceptable.
- The member was familiar with historic cemeteries, for example: if their congregation owned a historic cemetery or a historic cemetery was adjacent to their facility, or the member has a connection or interest to historic burial grounds.
- The member was not over-tasked in other areas of his/her life where they don't have the time or focus to spend on the CPAB.

This Board shall have oversight of:

- The Howard Counties Historic Cemetery Inventory Map which currently has more than 200 sites inventoried
- The preservation of historic burial grounds through various means of education, projects, and initiatives
- The creation of laws, regulations and procedures that would be consider by County Council and the County Executive for implementation
- Ideas and opportunities to share with our citizens for the preservation of historic cemeteries

For any questions of these roles or this description, please contact Beth Burgess at bburgess@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-4341

If interested in submitting your name for this Board, please send a letter of interest along with your bio/resume to the County Executive office attn: David Lee at DKLee@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-3395

FILE COPY

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February 16, 2016

My name is Fred Dorsey and I live at 10774 Judy Lane, Columbia, Md.

Being a member of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board I have a vested interest in appointees to the Board. CR 21-2016 appointment of Mathew Smithson is to fill a vacancy that requires a representative from the religious community. Mr. Smithson does not meet the requirement and the appointment should not be approved.

CR21 - 2016

Howard County Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board Roles and Responsibilities

Thank you for your interest in the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB). This role is an appointed position that is chosen by the County Executive. Each Board member should fulfill one of the following qualifications of expertise or representation:

- 5 members shall be residents of Howard County; the remaining can be from other counties
- 1 member shall represent the development / building industry
- 1 member shall represent the religious community
- 1 member shall represent the funeral-cemetery business
- 2 remaining shall have knowledge or training with preservation, genealogy, history, architecture etc who have knowledge and demonstrate and interest in the preservation of burial grounds
- 2 members shall represent the general public

We currently have 6 board members and have fulfilled all required representation. If you have any interest in serving on this board then the following is the time commitment for each year.

- 4-5 Quarterly board meetings a year typically on Tuesday morning for 90 minute meetings. (Attendance of the majority of meetings is required. Meetings have been scheduled 10:00am-11:30am unless a holiday or weather conditions interfere with that schedule.)
- 1-3 Council sessions a year as we update laws and regulations. (Attendance is not required but presence, support and testimony is appreciated.)
- 1-3 Annual events to help with cemetery restoration or education within Howard- site visits, additional meeting/seminars (Attendance is not required as a Board but your presence is welcomed.)
- 2-5 Hours each month reading materials, communicating with the Board and making progress on goals. (Participation is required in order to be an active and effective member.)
- As Boards commitments fair, this is not a taxing commitment. There are no nightly or weekly tasks that will consume your schedule.

An example for the specific representation of the religious community, it would be beneficial but not required if:

- The member was a pastor, priest, rabbi or in an official ordained religious role to a congregation, synagogue or active religious body; a person retired from this role is acceptable.
- The member was familiar with historic cemeteries, for example: if their congregation owned a historic cemetery or a historic cemetery was adjacent to their facility, or the member has a connection or interest to historic burial grounds.
- The member was not over-tasked in other areas of his/her life where they don't have the time or focus to spend on the CPAB.

This Board shall have oversight of:

- The Howard Counties Historic Cemetery Inventory Map which currently has more than 200 sites inventoried.
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- The creation of laws, regulations and procedures that would be consider by County Council and the County Executive for implementation.
- Ideas and opportunities to share with our citizens for the preservation of historic cemeteries.

For any questions of these roles or this description, please contact Beth Burgess at 410-313-4341 or bburgess@howardcountymd.gov .

If interested, please submit your name and a letter of interest along with your bio/resume to the County Executive's office attn: David Lee at DKLee@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-3395. Thank you.

Matthew Smithson

12970 State Route 108
Clarksville, MD 21029
240-319-9918
matthewjsmithson@yahoo.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

High-energy motivated professional skilled at building strong working relationships with fellow staff, supervisors, and community members. Have a passion for making a difference. Talented superior and strategic planner. Excels at building dynamic teams that achieve continual process improvement. 17+ years of exceptional customer service.

QUALIFICATIONS

Creative problem solver. Sound judgment. Client-focused. Persuasive negotiator. Relationship building expert. Decisive problem solver. Marketing and sales specialist. Motivated team player.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Earned Luck Stone Values Based Leadership Award in 2013.
Had a perfect safety record for 8 years in a row while working for Luck Stone Center.

EXPERIENCE

Facilities Analyst, State Highway Administration; Baltimore MD — 2015-Present
Analyzing current processes and standards. Identify and implement key performance areas to assist various departments reach yearly goals and state mandated requirements. Inventory management. Building team unification through values base leadership.

Lead Yard/Inventory Specialist, Luck Stone Center; Jessup MD — 2006-2015
Developed highly empathetic client relationships and earned reputation for exceeding sales goals. Prepared and sold broad range of customized merchandise to individual and contractor accounts. Operated multiple forklifts, and a CATTT14G loader safely, with 0% incident rate. Managed the ordering, receiving and cycle counting of inventory. Create new processes and systems for increasing customer service satisfaction.

Assistant Lead Yard, Zimmerman's Home Center; Burtonsville MD — 1998-2006
Managed ordering and receiving inventory. Maintained friendly and professional customer interactions. Assisted in gathering and moving materials for assigned displays. Scheduled and directed staff in daily work assignments to maximize productivity. Processed and organized orders for contractors.

EDUCATION

High School Diploma 1998
Catonsville High School; Catonsville MD

AFFILIATIONS

Volunteer for Change Maryland/Hogan for Governor campaign 2014