

JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

July 9, 1952

A Special Meeting of the Jewish Community Cemetery Association was held on Wednesday, July 9, 1952 at 100 East Seventh Street, at 7:30 P. M. Mr. I. B. Finkelstein, Vice-President, presided, and the following were present: Messrs. Jos. W. Braiger, Louis Budin, J. A. Chester, Herbert L. Cobin, Louis Feldman, Samuel Keil, A. Roke Lieberman, Nathan P. Michlin, Louis Platensky, Henry Schultz, and Benjamin Stolper.

Mr. Finkelstein announced that Mr. Lieberman would replace Ben V. Codor as a representative from the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

The minutes of the previous meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ were read, and approved as read.

Mr. Cobin presented a financial statement dated July 9, 1952. This statement was prepared by Mr. Cobin and Mr. Lieberman, and copies were distributed to each of those present. Mr. Cobin pointed out that the total receipts were \$36,250; the total expenditures were \$34,965.50; cash on hand was \$784.50. There were bills due in the amount of \$354.97; a loan with the Commercial Trust Company had been made of \$2,750.00. A copy of the financial report is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. The report as made was unanimously accepted. By motion duly made and seconded it was moved that the bills set forth in the financial statement be paid by the Association.

A discussion was entered into concerning the lines and boundaries of the entire cemetery plot, including the new portion. Mr. Cobin presented blue prints and the various lines and boundaries were explained.

Mr. Michlin reported that the Moses Montefiore Society had previously passed a resolution to withdraw as a member of the Association. However, the Trustees of the Society had met and it was finally agreed that the Society would be asked to rescind its resolution of withdrawal. Mr. Michlin stated that it was understood that the Cemetery Association would hold a meeting prior to that of the Moses Montefiore Society for the purpose of determining certain questions, involving the use of the land, which had been presented. Mr. Cobin stated that he had had a lengthy conference with Mr. Stolper and Mr. Michlin and at that time it seemed to be that the questions in which the Moses Montefiore Society was interested were those pertaining to perpetual care and the laying out of the cemetery plots; and that since it would be impossible to resolve all questions pertaining to these matters at one meeting of the Jewish Community Cemetery Association, he advised Mr. Michlin and Mr. Stolper that there was no point in calling a meeting of the JCCA at that time.

Mr. Chester stated that he felt that the entire situation was confused and should be clarified. Mr. Michlin stated that the Moses Montefiore Society was under the impression that the Cemetery Association was formed merely for the purpose of taking title, and there were several questions which were, (1) whether the land would be divided; (2) if so, how, as between the various members. If it was not to be divided, what provision for the operation of the cemetery and for the setting up of perpetual care were to be made.

Mr. Michlin pointed out that there were many technical questions to be answered, such as, (1) whether burials should be done in an orthodox manner; or (2) involving a decision by the Moses Montefiore Society to bury a Gentile in the cemetery.

Mr. Finkelstein stated that the question was whether this group of men would, and he felt that they should be able to do some community planning; that he trusted that the Cemetery Association would be capable of deciding itself what the best possible plan would be for the operation of the cemetery and for undertaking to carry out the plans. He stressed that nothing would be accomplished unless the Cemetery Association had some objective and that the basic objectives and purposes facing the Association at present were, (1) the laying out and developing of the land; (2) the establishment of proper perpetual care, and other matters.

Mr. Finkelstein felt that the only question at the moment was whether the Moses Montefiore Society was going to participate in full or not; that the Moses Montefiore Society was still a member of the Cemetery Association and should bring its full share of money in by the next meeting.

Mr. Stolper pointed out that the Cemetery Association was a separate and distinct corporation, whose members however, represented diverse groups; and he wanted to know whether the land was going to be used on an individual basis or on a community basis.

Mr. Braiger was of the opinion that the first problem had been the purchase of the land, which was accomplished; that the next was the setting up of plans for completing the cemetery.

It was the consensus of the group that the Moses Montefiore Society pay up its full share and that committees be appointed and all the necessary details worked out, with respect to arranging for the operation of the cemetery and the establishment of the proper funds for caring for the cemetery.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was passed that the Moses Montefiore Society be considered as a member of the Association; that the Society should pay in its full share; and that the Association proceed with plans for the development of the cemetery.

The question as to the appointment of the various committees was raised, and the Chairman stated that there seemed to be two problems to be considered: (1) Maintenance; (2) perpetual care for present as well as future graves.

Mr. Cobin suggested that Mr. Stolper set up the necessary books and accounts for the Association, and set up the necessary books for a perpetual care fund; and that Mr. Philip Cohen and Mr. Nathan Michlin work together to set up a system of rules and regulations. He stated that Mr. Key and Mr. Sachs, who are at present taking care of maintenance of the present cemetery grounds, have indicated their willingness to assist in doing that work in the future in conjunction with the Association. He also agreed to take an accurate census of the present graves.

At this point, Mr. Braiger asked that the Jewish Federation of Delaware withdraw as a member of the Cemetery Association, in accordance with a motion to that effect which was passed at the Association's meeting of December 23, 1951.

Mr. Keil objected to this motion, and stated that he felt that the Federation should continue to guide the affairs of the Association until such time as the Association plans had been carried through, and it was an established and going concern.

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Considerable discussion took place on this subject. Mr. Cobin pointed out that the efforts to purchase additional cemetery ground had been going on for over a period of seventeen years; that nothing had been accomplished; that it was only because the Federation was acting as a neutral and impartial member of the group and had supplied the incentive in seeing that the work was done, that the land had been purchased; that he had contributed considerable of his time, because he felt that this was one of the more important of the community projects and that it should be carried to a successful and proper conclusion, that is, the establishment of a cemetery with proper rules and regulations, and operating on a business-like basis, with provision made for the present as well as taking care of future area. He also stated that this could not be accomplished unless it was done as a unit, and that was no reason why it could not be so done.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was passed that the resolution of the meeting of December 23, 1951, that the Jewish Federation of Delaware withdraw as a member, be rescinded.

Mr. Cobin stated that since this subject had used up so much time in various meetings, he hoped that in view of the present action, it should not be brought up again, at least until the cemetery was laid out, properly function with various funds set up, and was a going concern.

The Chairman stated that in view of the discussion, he desired that those present to select the committee/<sup>members</sup> who were to act in the following committees:

- 1. COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GROUND: Mr. Samuel Keil, Chairman  
 Jos. Braiger Louis Platensky  
 Louis Budin Nathan Michlin
- 2. COMMITTEE ON PERPETUAL CARE: J. A. Chester, Chairman  
 Philip Cohen Louis Feldman  
 Henry Schultz
- 3. COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, BOOKKEEPING AND AUDITING: Mr. Benjamin Stolper

The various committees were created, and motion duly made and seconded and approved.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the Committee on Development of New Ground was authorized to spend up to \$100 in pursuance of its work .

A discussion as to the time for the next meeting was had, and it was decided that the next meeting should be called at the discretion of the Chair, but that it should probably be in September 1952.

Mr. Schultz stated that the Farband desired to purchase one-half of the interest of the Workmen's Circle, and he wanted to know what the Workmen's Circle had to sell. Mr. Schultz was advised that title to all of the land was in the Cemetery Association and that the Workmen's Circle had no title or any interest to sell, and that the Workmen's Circle should so advise the Farband.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT L. COBIN, Secretary