

Silver Jackets Meeting

Tuesday February 12, 2019

Georgia Tech Student Center, Room 343

Minutes

Members Attending (28): John Balsam (GTRI), Ron Bohlander (GTRI), Steve Bomar (GTRI), Earl Cagle (Purchasing), Steve Dickerson (ME), Nan Dooley (Library), Mary Duncan (Development), Carey Floyd (GTRI), Claudia Ford (ECE), Ian Gatland (Physics), Janis Goddard (OSP), Bill Halabi (Facilities), Maggi Harrison (GTRI), Jo McIver (Registrar), Jeanne McKown (Development), Chris Mitchell (ISyE), Chuck & Sheila Parsons (Management), Kimsey Pollard (IEN), Jim Powers (Chem & Biochem), Chris Powers (Chem & Biochem and Mgt), Gerry Reed (History), Ed Rondeau (Real Estate), Roger Rupnow (Arch, City Pl), Bonnie Smith (guest), Sandra Thornton (Public Policy), Kathy Tomajko (Library), Robert Viduya (OIT).

Business Meeting:

President John Balsam asked members to introduce themselves. He announced that the officers planned to meet with GT Human Resources to discuss retiree ID cards, better access to campus services and programs, and library access. It was hoped Silver Jackets would be invited to present at Benefit Fairs and receive help from HR in printing brochures. VP Ed Rondeau introduced the speaker Dr. Jeff Clemmons. Dr. Clemmons lives in suburban Atlanta and is an author as well as a PR and Communication Specialist at Georgia Power. He has a degree in business administration from Reinhardt University and a degree in creative writing and theater from Georgia State University. He created and leads walking tours of the Midtown and SoNo districts and Westview Cemetery of Atlanta for the Atlanta Preservation Center. He serves on the board of the APC's auxiliary group, CIRCA, which offers its members private tours of some of metropolitan Atlanta's most interesting historical structures.

Program: Atlanta's Historic Westview Cemetery

Dr. Clemmons, author of *Atlanta's Historic Westview Cemetery*, presented the fascinating history of this cemetery. It is located just south of I-20 and is still an active cemetery. In 1884, several leading citizens purchased 577 acres to open the new cemetery. The rolling terrain, part of which was a site in the Civil War battle of Ezra Church, became the final resting place for more than 110,000 people. Prominent locals buried here include Grant Park namesake L.P. Grant, author Joel Chandler Harris, High Museum benefactor Harriet High, Coca-Cola founder Asa Candler Sr. and Havertys founder J.J. Haverty. The cemetery's Westview Abbey mausoleum is one of the nation's largest, with more than eleven thousand crypts. Throughout its history, Westview dabbled in other business ventures, including a cafeteria, a funeral home and an

ambulance service. And for decades, the cemetery's Westview Floral Company sold flowers to lot owners and local businesses.

Dr. Clemmons also recounted stories from his other book, *Rich's: A Southern Institution*. Both books cover some of the leading family names in Atlanta history.

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