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Cylburn Arboretum Friends
is the NEW NAME for
Cylburn Arboretum Association

December 2019 -- Cylburn Arboretum Friends is the new official name of the non-profit group that runs educational programs and helps maintain the gardens and grounds at Cylburn Arboretum, announced Cylburn Arboretum Friends Board President Rebecca Henry.

The board wanted to change the name to give people a better understanding of our relationship with Cylburn and Baltimore, Henry said.

“Whenever I explained our organization, I always said it was the friends group of Cylburn Arboretum and everyone immediately knew what that meant versus association, which seemed so vague,” explained Henry, who has been president of the nonprofit for nearly five years.

Our role of supporting the arboretum and offering nature education programs increases every year as the city’s financial resources continue to decline, explains Patricia Foster, executive director of Cylburn Arboretum Friends.

“We truly are the friends of the arboretum. We are there to fill in the gaps. With our help, the arboretum is more of a resource for our neighbors with unique nature programing along with beautiful gardens and walking trails,” Foster said.

This is not the first time the non-profit supporting Cylburn has changed its name. When Baltimore first bought Cylburn, formerly the estate of the Tyson family, in 1942 the city used it as a wildflower and nature preserve and so the charity was incorporated shortly after as a garden center to support that effort. In 1982, Baltimore turned the property into what it remains today, the Cylburn Arboretum, and the friends adopted a new name: Cylburn Arboretum Association, which lasted until now when then Association voted to change its name to the Cylburn Arboretum Friends to better reflect its role at the arboretum and relationship with the city.

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