



REPORT

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY COMMITTEE
November 17, 2016 3:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Committee Members Present: Adlena Graham, Chair; Johnny Andrews, Teresa Mack
Staff Present: Mary Catherine Farrell
Guests Present: Mildred Burno, Patricia Wingate, Willie Williams, Melanie Kelley, Alvin Heatley

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON Tuesday, November 15, 2016 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 E. CAROLINA AVE.

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm and opened with a prayer.

The following matters were discussed:

Staff shared updated website and solicitation letter which incorporated the changes requested at the October meeting. The group approved of both, with the only additional change requested being the corrected spelling of Councilwoman Mack's name on the website listing. Letter copies were distributed to all committee members.

Staff proposed the idea of amending the City's grant match budget for the South Hartsville Revitalization Community Development Block Grant to reallocate monies committed to the demolition of houses and clearing of roughly two acres of vacant lots to instead be used for the vegetation abatement of the Cemetery. The group voted unanimously to support. Staff communicated that next steps would be to seek Council approval and neighborhood feedback.

Councilman Andrews shared that he had utilized the 1939 City Directory to generate a list of 500 names. These surnames he used to search death certificates for burials in the Cemetery, citing an issue with discrepancies in location of burial ("Hartsville" could be Green Hill or Centreville or any other Hartsville area African-American cemetery). He also consulted Butler and Brewer newspaper columns which often contained African-American obituary information. Councilwoman Mack recommended consulting churches for burial lists and Councilman Andrews shared that all known cemetery lists have been published and are available at the library. The group was very appreciative of Mr. Andrews' tireless efforts, for on this phase of research alone he spent three weeks. Ms. Wingate added that Charles Mumford and Buster Beasley also authored columns in local papers that may be helpful.

Mr. Williams shared that Rev. I. E. Young, the founder of 2nd Baptist Church, was not on the list of known and suspected burials but needs to be added.

Councilwoman Mack arrived after the group's discussion and vote on the possible use of CDBG grant funds to cover Cemetery clearance costs. When staff updated her on the discussion, she shared her concerns about the use of grant funds to demolish Lincoln Village and requested grant and match information in writing.

Councilwoman Graham shared that Jerusalem Baptist Church had committed \$10,000 toward Cemetery clearance and preservation efforts. Ms. Wingate and Mr. Williams presented their donations to the group.

Staff committed to putting the request for grant match reallocation on the December Council agenda.

No Council African-American Cemetery Meeting will be held in December.

Recommendation to Full Council:
Reallocate CDBG grant match funds to offset clearance costs.

Chairman Graham closed the meeting at 4:05 pm.

This is our report and recommendations to the full Council.

Adlena Graham, Committee Chair