



## REPORT

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNCIL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 28, 2017 AT 3:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Committee Members Present: Adlena Graham, Chair; Johnny Andrews; Teresa Mack  
Guests Present: Willie Williams, Jennifer Heusel  
Staff Present: Christopher Morgan, Brenda Kelley, Mary Catherine Farrell

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 E. CAROLINA AVE.

Councilman Graham called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm, and asked Christopher Morgan to open with a prayer.

The following matters were discussed:

Staff reported that donations raised to date totaled \$5,095, with \$1,255 of that having been raised through Mrs. Marva (Burno) Serrano's family fundraising efforts.

The Committee members had no fundraising updates.

Staff shared that the dilapidated, long-vacant apartment complex adjacent to the Cemetery had been demolished.

Councilman Andrews shared minutes from the 1976 Council wherein the Council committed to maintaining the Cemetery (before the state enabling legislation to allow public funds to be used for the maintenance of private cemeteries had been passed).

He also shared previously completed cemetery surveys that included findings from the cemetery in question. In 1993, the Genealogical Society committed to survey all cemeteries in Darlington County and published their first compilation of findings. A revised edition was published in 1997. Councilman Andrews presented these as resources to be used in the grave plotting work to be done at the Cemetery.

Brenda Kelley mentioned that the Public Works Department might be in possession of GPS equipment to be used in conjunction with GIS software to more accurately plot gravesites. Staff will follow up with the Public Works Department. Orangeburg was cited as an example of a city who used this technique.

Councilwoman Graham inquired when Alice Butler died, as she is believed to be buried in the Cemetery.

It was verbally confirmed that Hines Funeral Home and the Young and Young Funeral home started independently, and were not previously existing funeral businesses that were purchased and run by new owners, meaning that they likely would not have historical funeral records.

Jennifer Heusel, professor of communications at Coker College, updated the Committee with the news that her Visual Communications class would be supporting the Committee's efforts. This group of 15 students is looking forward to helping lead public relations efforts and to increase awareness of fundraising efforts, and possibly take the lead in implementing some creative fundraising strategies.

Jennifer invited the committee to come speak briefly to the class at 1:20 pm on September 13 at the Daniel Ford Room in the Coker College library. The class will have reviewed the website and Chicora

Foundation report before this meeting. Jennifer will email the group with additional information and a reminder.

Jennifer shared that she has assigned a student the task of searching the Coker Archives for the Coker picture discussed at the previous meeting. She has students available for additional research efforts, as well. Councilman Andrews requested assistance with searching for any history of Burial Associations in the area, the finding of which might lead to additional information on persons buried in the Cemetery.

Councilwoman Mack asked if anyone had contacted ETV to expand our PR efforts. Councilman Andrews also suggested that the Community Times might be a good media venue to raise awareness amongst potential donors.

Jennifer is researching Hillsboro Park, a burial place for enslaved persons, for insight on PR and fundraising campaigns for historic cemeteries.

Councilwoman Graham suggested that the Marion Avenue ditch be covered once restoration is complete.

The next meeting will be held Monday, August 25 at 3:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers.

Councilwoman Graham closed the meeting at 4:20 pm.

This is our report and recommendations to the full Council.

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Adlena Graham, Committee Chair