



REPORT

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY COMMITTEE
January 26, 2017 at 3:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Committee Members Present: Johnny Andrews, Teresa Mack
Committee Members Absent: Adlena Graham, Chair
Staff Present: Mary Catherine Farrell, Rebecca Edwards
Guests Present: Patricia Wingate, Willie Williams, Brian Gandy

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON Tuesday, January 24, 2016 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 E. CAROLINA AVE.

Councilman Andrews called the meeting to order at 3:19 pm.

The following matters were discussed:

Staff reported that donations raised to date totaled \$3,240.

Johnny encouraged attendants to continue to reaching out to family and friends to donate. Mr. Williams reported that he had reached out to three churches:

- Mt. Olive: no donations
- Centenary and Kingsville (sister churches, same pastor): Mr. Williams indicated that he would visit their congregations in the coming weekend to follow up.

Ms. Wingate said that she had disseminated several solicitation letters before the holidays and would resume her efforts promptly.

Staff reported that they are awaiting Department of Commerce approval on the grant budget amendment request before they initiate the procurement process for sensitive clearing of the Cemetery vegetation.

Staff will pursue the addition of the searchable and static burial listing to the website, and will check to see if the PDF is dated.

Staff shared that a burial listing that reflects early burials at Greenlawn had been completed by intern Chynna Addison to help rule out burials at the Marion Avenue Cemetery.

Councilman Andrews shared with the group a host of death certificates and obituaries to demonstrate the range of names that the Cemetery in question was referred to by residents throughout the decades, demonstrating that there is no consistently accepted name. Councilwoman Mack indicated that she was going to try to find Marion Copeland's records (of Copeland Funeral Home).

City staff has committed to funding two historical markers (from the list provided by the Darlington County Historical Commission) per year, as funds allow and are approved in the budget, the first two of which shall be the Rail Passenger Station and the Cemetery.

Brian Gandy, Executive Director of the Darlington County Historical Commission, provided an explanation of the specifications for historical markers, indicating that there are two types: city and country. Mr. Gandy clarified that it is best practice to avoid listing the names of any individuals, and provided a copy of the sample text recommended by his office, noting a limit of 27 characters/spaces per line.

Mr. Gandy is doing title searches on adjacent properties to determine the original owners.

The group began discussion of the site name to be featured on the marker, and will revisit when the entire committee has had a chance to review.

Mr. Andrews shared that he met with Dr. Ehren Foley of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History to gather additional samples of marker wording. The group agreed to not include any individual names in the text. It was

noted that the first founding association was known as the Hartsville Colored Cemetery Association, and the second was the Mutual Cemetery Association. Recommended changes to the proposed marker text include:

- Amend sentence to say "The burials chronicle former slaves, local residents including professionals and veterans..."
- Adding in text about slavery, "former slaves"
- Double-sided marker costs an extra \$220 and each side must end in a complete sentence (cannot carry sentence from side to the other)

It was recommended that the sign provide context for what was happening in history, for example, contrasting people born in slavery and going into professional fields. The group suggested a "wish list" of words to include: former slaves, veterans, local residents, professionals, craftsmen, fraternal orders."

Brian will revise the text and present to the group at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

This is our report and recommendations to the full Council.

Adlena Graham, Committee Chair