



REPORT

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY COMMITTEE
MARCH 27, 2017 AT 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: Patricia Wingate, Willie Williams, Brian Gandy, Mildred Burno, Pecolia Grove, Dr. Daniel Moses, Sgt. John Specht

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 E. CAROLINA AVE.

Councilman Andrews called the meeting to order at 3:11 pm.

The following matters were discussed:

Brian Gandy, Director of the Darlington County Historical Commission, invited the group to attend “The Unveiling of the Darlington County Historical Commission’s Lady of Mystery”, to take place on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 6-8pm.

Staff reported that donations raised to date totaled \$3,440.

Mr. Williams shared that he followed up with Centenary and Kingsville churches, but no additional donations have been made. Councilwoman Graham shared that the Rufus Poole family of Atlanta, GA had committed to donate some monies. She further stated that her pastor was traveling but that she would follow up on the status of a contribution from Jerusalem Baptist Church when he returned.

Staff shared that the Department of Commerce has approved the reallocation of local match funds for the open Community Development Block Grant project to be used for cemetery sensitive cleaning efforts. This affords an additional \$26,000 to offset costs.

Mr. Gandy led the continued discussion on historical marker language, explaining that the “city” size marker allows more words than the “county” size. Mr. Gandy advised that marker language should be consistent with any forthcoming National Register application narrative for the site, hence the importance of mentioning the Spanish-American War.

The language as decided by the group is as follows:

Hartsville Colored Cemetery

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| The cemetery was founded by | 27 |
| two mutual aid associations | 27 |
| representing Hartsville's | 25 |
| African American community. | 27 |
| The first acre was acquired | 26 |
| in 1904 by the Hartsville | 25 |
| Colored Cem. Association. | 25 |
| A second acre was acquired | 25 |
| in 1931 by the Mutual | 21 |
| Cemetery Association. The | 25 |
| burials chronical former | 24 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| slaves and local residents | 26 |
| including professionals | 23 |
| and veterans who served | 23 |
| from the Spanish American | 25 |
| War to the Vietnam War. | 23 |

The group decided that the marker’s heading should be the “Hartsville Colored Cemetery”, in keeping with its chartered name. Mr. Gandy and Mr. Andrews again reiterated inconsistencies in cemetery name on death certificates during the years of active burials.

Councilwoman Mack requested that local banks and Sonoco be solicited for funding support and that Councilman Andrews and/or Councilwoman Graham be included as contacts. Staff acknowledged this request and advised that the project first be bid out, as an updated budget would lend greater credibility to any such request.

Staff shared that the anticipated bid opening timeline will feature approval by City Council at their regularly scheduled May meeting and clarified that the work in question is limited to that outlined as Phase I in the Chicora Report, namely sensitive vegetation clearance with no leveling of graves or grading.

Dr. Moses confirmed that when he conducted his burial survey in 1991, the Cemetery was already densely overgrown. Dr. Moses also shared that his purpose then was to document those graves with stones/markers, and that he did not include in his survey any unmarked graves.

The group decided on the last Monday of every month as the new standing meeting date, with the only upcoming exception being May. The May meeting will be held on May 22nd to accommodate Memorial Day closures.

Staff committed to sending an email reminder to anyone who requested such. This reminder will include the meeting agenda and minutes from the previous meeting.

Councilwoman Graham closed the meeting at 4:37.

This is our report and recommendations to the full Council.

Adlena Graham, Committee Chair