Draft Summary Report
City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (CORCHAB)-
Monthly Meeting

Tucker House*418 N. Person Street
Monday, October 14, 2013

Members Present:
Jane Thurman
Danny Morgan
Terry Harper
David Brown
Wayne Schindler
Danny Coleman
Jose Fraser
Jimmy Thiem
Jenny Harper (arrived 6:07 p.m.)

Staff present:
Christy Cornell
Zach Manor

CALL TO ORDER

Jimmy Thiem called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Jose Fraser introduced himself as the newest member of the Advisory Board.

No public comments were received.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September meeting. With one correction, the minutes were unanimously approved.

David Berra discussed replacement of the existing fencing at O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery. The board briefly discuss whether to relocated the fence around the large tree on Pender Street and behind the existing plaque marker at the corner of Tarboro and Pender Street. The Board directed David to pursue a Major Works application to the Historic Development Commission for the fence project.

Zach noted that he has received conditional approval from Tania Tulley to remove a single tree located at the corner of Tarboro and Lane Streets. The conditional approval requires the planting of a tree within a historic district, location to be determined by Zach.

David also gave an update on the fence repair work at City Cemetery. All work should be completed by November 1, 2013.

The Board briefly discussed the item referred from City Council on 9/17/13 regarding Hillcrest Cemetery. Mr. Bruce Lighter, owner of Lighter Funeral Home and manager of Hillcrest Cemetery requests the City assume grounds maintenance of the cemetery. Lightner Funeral Home would continue interments until the grounds are filled.

Danny Coleman offered some background history on the ownership and management of the Hillcrest Cemetery. Jimmy noted that there are many questions concerning the proposal which must be answered prior to the Board could make a recommendation back to Council. Some issues include:

- The Cemetery is purportedly "historic"- How is the term defined?
- Deeding of plots- How can plot ownership be verified? Due to a fire, records of the deeds may be lost.
- Ownership- Who owns the parent track of the 3 acre cemetery? The land is purported in a living trust managed by Margarite Lightner. Does Mr. Lighter have the legal ability to convey the property to the City on behalf of the trust?
- Is the trust responsible for perpetual care of the plots?
- Does acquisition of this site fall within the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources mission? What are the implications for the City in taking on maintenance of this property? Can a private funeral home continue to provide burials with City providing maintenance?

The Board unanimously agreed to refer the proposal to the City Attorney Office for further legal research. Christy was asked to forward the minutes of the meeting to the City Attorney Office after approval by the Board.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Historic Cemetery Advisory Board is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 at the Tucker House.