

DRAFT City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (CORCHAB)-
Monthly Meeting

**Tucker House*418 N. Person Street
Monday, January 13, 2014**

Members Present:

Jane Thurman	Danny Morgan
Terry Harper	Wayne Schindler
Jose Fraser	Jimmy Thiem
Jenny Harper	

Absent, Excused: Danny Coleman, David Brown

Staff present: Christy Cornell

CALL TO ORDER

Jimmy Thiem called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

DISCUSSION

No public comments were received.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the O'Rourke Cemetery Renovation Plan. Seegar's Fencing Company, Inc. of Raleigh is the selected bidder with a contract price of \$27,556. The Board agreed to authorize staff to move forward with contract.

Terry brought forward a recommendation by the Landscape Subcommittee to plant trees east of current access gate on Pender Street and one tree (inside fence perimeter) at the corner of Tarboro and E. Lane Street. The recommendation was unanimously approved.

Hillcrest Cemetery

Diane, Wayne, Jimmy, and Danny Coleman met with Bruce Lightner to clarify his request. Wayne's summarized notes from the meeting.

- The maintenance arrangement among three funeral homes has fallen away leaving Mr. Lightner unable to pay for grounds maintenance (mowing maintenance).
- Mr. Lightner is asking the City to provide mowing of the Hillcrest Cemetery grounds.
- It is unclear if any written records exist of interments. Maintenance would not include monument repair or road way ingress/egress maintenance. Some trees/bushes have grown as volunteers. Mr. Lightner said he would identify volunteers from family trees or shrubs planted by plot owners. He indicated he would have volunteer trees and shrubs removed from property.
- The number of grave sites at cemetery is unclear. There may be about 100 graves available for purchase, most have been purchased. Left side of cemetery is reserved for indigent burials.
- There was some discussion about the City acquiring the property in future however details are unclear. Mr. Lightner proposed a phased approach- he would like the City to take over mowing maintenance this spring and then the City could examine the ownership issues.

Jimmy reviewed a response prepared by Carolyn Bachl on November 14, 2013. Excerpt of her memo below:

“You have also asked whether a private funeral home would be able to continue to sell burial plots and inter at Hillcrest if the City takes over maintenance or the cemetery is conveyed to the City. As discussed above, the City could only take over maintenance and possession of Hillcrest to the extent the owner is unknown. Because we have a known owner, the City would only assume maintenance responsibility if the property were conveyed to the City by the owner. In that case, no private funeral home would have the rights to sell burial plots in Hillcrest Cemetery unless it entered into a contract to do so. And if the City were to agree to acquire the property, it would have to understand to what extent the rights to burial sites have already been conveyed to third parties and address that in any contract for conveyance.”

Jimmy proposed that a response to Council address only the question of providing mowing and weeding maintenance.

The Board brainstormed concerns about providing maintenance of Hillcrest and identified components of a response to Council. Jane and Jose offered to work with Wayne to develop the response which will be reviewed by the Board at the March meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Historic Cemetery Advisory Board is scheduled for February 10, 2014 at the Tucker House.

END OF REPORT