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

Tucker House*418 N. Person Street November 9, 2015

Staff: Christy Cornell

Attendees:

Jimmy Thiem, Chair Jane Thurman, Vice Chair David Brown

Barden Culbreth Wayne Schindler

Jenny Harper, Terry Harper

Absent Excused: Danny Coleman, Danny Morgan

Absence, Not Excused:

Guests: Ernest Dollar (not in attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board met on Monday, November 9, 2015 at the Borden Building at 5:30 p.m. Board Chair Thiem called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the September 14, 2015 meeting was presented for review. Board Member Brown motioned for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jenny Harper. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

With Ernest's absence, Jimmy asked Wayne to proceed with reviewing the proposed Expenditure Plan.

Board Member Wayne Schindler reviewed the draft expenditure plan for the cemetery funds. A motion was made by Vice Chair Thurman to approve the proposed Expenditure Plan, with the option to alter the spending plan as the board may determine necessary in the future. "The motion was seconded by Terry Harper. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Landscape Committee- Board Member Terry Harper provided several updates:

- 1. Regarding the planting plan for the two entrances to City Cemetery along East Street, the hedges will be removed and replaced with low growing plants. The Committee decided not to plant around tree- mulch will be installed instead. Ground cover may be added in in future. These beds will not have a lot of color. The plan will be presented to the Hunter Thompson Neighborhood this evening. It has already been presented to the South Central CAC.
- 2. Urban Forestry staff will install plantings along the eastern boundary starting next week.
- 3. Wayne will work with staff to cost out entrance planting plans.
- 4. The Committee began work on the Landscape Plan for Mount Hope Cemetery. At the next meeting, the Committee will review maps and reference documents.

Terry noted that the circle area (site of the Lightner family plots) had large Oak trees prior to Hurricane Fran. Where feasible, it may nice to replant this area with the same tree species.

It was decided that the whole board will be invited to a site visit to Mount Hope Cemetery in mid to late winter 2016.

Maintenance Committee-

The Maintenance Committee met on 10-26-15 to review mowing in City Cemetery. Sally Thigpen and Danny Morgan presented the results of a pilot effort to evaluate the use of push mowers instead of zero turn mowers as recommended in the 2008 Chicora Report. The purpose of the pilot was to determine the impact on mowing cycles. The Committee discussed possible best practices for cutting grass around headstones (weed-trimming, push mower and/or a small riding mower) along with set distances from headstones for the different types of equipment. Staff offered to schedule an on-site demonstration to test various pieces of grounds maintenance equipment. The site visit is scheduled for November 16 at City Cemetery. The Committee also reviewed a draft of the training manual for cemetery staff.

Volunteer Committee

Board Member Jenny Harper mentioned that the Committee met 10-7 and 10-13. It has been difficult for the Committee to establish goals as most volunteer-related needs are being satisfactorily handled through the City's Volunteer program. It was agreed that this Committee's effort could be refocused as a Community Awareness/Marketing Committee. Further discussion will be held at a planned Board retreat in 2016.

Staff report

Wayne reported that he has received two quotes for security cameras in City Cemetery.

- 1. \$3500 upfront and \$120 monthly 120 (edge recording),
- 2. \$3700 upfront and \$240 monthly (streaming video)

Wayne noted that he will research the details of each proposal and report back to the Board.

Wayne reported that he is speaking with Pete Armstrong, with Recreation Resources Services at NC State University about hosting a one day cemetery workshop in Raleigh next spring. Mr. Armstrong has been contacted from several parks and recreation agencies throughout North Carolina with questions pertaining to cemetery management. More information will be forthcoming from Pete Armstrong.

Chair's Report

Chair Jimmy Thiem mentioned the idea of holding a possible Board retreat in 2016. Jenny Harper and Bardon Culbreth agreed to assist in planning the retreat. It was agreed that the retreat would be about 2-2.5 hours in length followed by lunch or supper. Wayne agreed to facilitate the meeting. If anyone has topics for the meeting or a proposed date, please email Jenny Harper.

Lastly, Jimmy proposed cancelling the December meeting in lieu of a social event. The Board was in agreement to cancel the meeting. More information on the location of the event is forthcoming.

RCCP Report

Board Vice Chair Jane Thurman noted that RCCP is soliciting funding for the slave section of City Cemetery.

New Business

Martha Lauer has applied for national historic designation of cemeteries within the Oak Grove, Oberlin, and Method communities.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

The next meeting of the Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board is scheduled for January 11, 2016.

END OF REPORT