

# Committee for the Beautification & Restoration of Randolph Cemetery

7814 Bay Springs Road, Columbia, SC 29229

February 13, 2008

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

## Summary Minutes

*Attendees:* Frank Washington-President, Noble Cooper-Vice President, Cornell H. Boyd-Treasurer, Dorothy D. Flanders and Emma McGraw Myers, Consultant

### **I. Call to Order/Meditation**

President Frank Washington called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm at his home in Columbia. Everyone was invited to recite the Lord's Prayer in unison for the meditation.

### **II. Review of the January 16<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

Copies of the minutes were distributed. Emma Myers highlighted several sections. The minutes were approved by consensus.

### **III. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Cornell Boyd reported on the expenditures to date:

First Citizens Bank:

Carolina Insurance	\$586
Stamps	4.10
City Water Dept	272.68
Jesse Laury	905.00 (October)
(Rake Leaves)	320.00
Harry Brown (Concrete)	<u>100.00</u>
	\$2,187.78
<u>Income</u>	
Rent from Richland St	550.00
Deposits/Contributions	\$1200.00
More Contributions	<u>600.00</u>
	\$2,350.00

The checkbook balance at First Citizens as of January 14<sup>th</sup>: \$980.62. The balance in the BB&T Account is \$2, 745.65 as of January 2, 2008. The plan is to consolidate the accounts. The report was received as information.

### **IV. Chairman's Report**

A. Historic Marker Ceremony: Mr. Washington reported that the Unveiling Ceremony was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cemetery and they everything went well. Approximately 80 people attended including Mayor Bob Coble, Councilman Sam Davis, Representative Leon Howard and the State Newspaper reporter. Ms. Myers circulated one "borrowed" program from Robin Waites; none of the members nor the Historic Columbia Foundation seem to have any extra copies.

It was noted that the rental of the golf carts, catering, design and printing of the invitations and programs, postage, decorations (balloons), etc. came to close to \$1,000 and underwritten by the Historic Columbia Foundation. Other donated items included the tent from Palmer Memorial Chapel, the golf cart and driver from Representative Todd Rutherford, two students from the USC School of Law who drove the cart, the gift

certificates (\$10) and gift bags for the musician, Cheryl Frazier Jackson of Wesley Methodist Church and Minister Carolyn Brailsford of Bethel AME Church by Ms. Myers, the podium, tables and chairs from HCF, the easels to hold the maps and the Museum literature were courtesy of Elaine Nichols with the SC State Museum, and the photography was done by Latrice Williams of HCF. Senator Kay Patterson and Representative Rutherford presented a resolution declaring February 2<sup>nd</sup> at “B.F. Randolph Day”. The framed memento was circulated for all to see. Mr. Washington asked Mrs. Myers to hold on to it. Senator Patterson also presented a \$200,000 check from the Legislature. This was given to Ms. Waites as the fiduciary agent for the Committee to deposit.

Mr. Washington agreed to work with Ms. Myers in getting out thank you letters. Copies of the program will be sent to Ms. Besse Jenkins and Mr. Palmer as soon as they are located or reprinted.

- B. Meeting with Tax Assessor: Mr. Washington received a tax notice for the newly acquired rental property on Richland Street for \$2985.25. He has asked Ms. Myers to complete and return the application for tax exemption.
- C. Restoration vs. Active Graveside: Ms. Myers mentioned that she had spoken with Ms. Waites and Ms. Nichols about the status of the tax exemption application and the conversation that she had had with Attorney Franchot Brown about his filing exemption for the cemetery years ago. According to a Chicora Research Contribution 461 (dated 2/5/2007), the Cemetery Committee was incorporated in 1999. She contacted the Secretary of State office; however, there were not records. She stated that Mr. Brown did research his files to find the exemption papers that he did were for the Mann-Simon Cottage, not Randolph Cemetery.

Ms. Myers pointed out the previous name of the Committee was “Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery”; however, the current documents read “Beautification and Restoration”. After some discussion, it was moved by Dr. Noble Cooper and seconded Cornell Boyd to change all documents back to “Restoration and Beautification”. Motion carried. This change will effect the bylaws, the recent incorporation with the Secretary of State (\$10 fee for the amendment), changing the charitable name registered with the Secretary of State, the bank accounts, the letterhead, etc. The group agreed to apply for the federal tax exemption of the name, Restoration and Beautification.

Ms. Myers asked the board to decide if they want the cemetery to be an active gravesite or a restoration site. She pointed out the line of trees that once ran through the center of the property and the markers, approximately 600, that need to be repaired, restored or replaced. The board decided that they want to restore the cemetery back to its original charm and beauty including replacing the trees and removing the stumps.

#### V. **Update on the Cemetery Sign**

The group looked at the three renditions of signs and suggested to go with the one proposed by Phil Stallings of **Carolina Custom Signs** in West Columbia: 35” by 400” with 2” deep aluminum sign with the words, Randolph Cemetery, and be located just behind the concrete retaining wall. It was not clear if the quoted price of \$4,800 plus tax was accurate. Ms. Myers said that she will let Ms. Nichols know the Committee’s recommendation and ask that efforts to design and erect the sign get underway as soon as possible. Dr. Cooper asked that the founding date of the cemetery be added to the sign in smaller print. The concern was raised about safety namely that the sign may block visibility of persons visiting in the cemetery and/or providing shelter to homeless persons.

**VI. Old Business**

Ms. Myers reported that she had spoken with Attorney Luther Battiste of Johnson Toal and Battiste PA about the roast being planned for Senator Kay Patterson as a fundraiser for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The date is May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center and includes a stellar line-up of roasters. Mrs. Myers asked if the Committee for Randolph Cemetery could partner with them by sponsoring a table or taking out an ad and be allowed make a short presentation to the Senator. He said that he would get back with her on the details and to see if there would be time for the presentation.

**VII. Next Meeting** - Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 5:30 pm (Note: Time changed to 6:45 pm) at one of the Historic Columbia properties later identified as the Simpkins House.

**VIII. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by the President. Refreshments were served.

Recorded by Emma McGraw Myers  
EM Consultants

/emm