

Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery  
Summary Board Minutes  
October 22, 2008

**Attendees:** Frank Washington-President, Noble P. Cooper-Vice President, Carlos L. Smith, Elaine Nichols, Robin Waites, Staci Rich, and Emma Myers-Consultant.

I. Call to Order/Meditation

At 6:02 pm, President Frank Washington called the meeting to order in the Modjeska Simkins House. Meditation was the reciting of the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Washington and Emma Myers noted those members who called to express their regrets.

II. Review of the June 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes

The June 12<sup>th</sup> minutes were distributed and reviewed. Two corrections were noted: Page 2, Section VII, Robin Waites and Elaine Nichols were working on a getting a study done to "identify which monuments needed to be restored"; also on Page 2, Section VII, Ms. Waites was talking, not negotiating, w/ three firms in CT, PA, and VA. It was moved by Carlos Smith and seconded by Ms. Waites that the corrected minutes be approved. Motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mr. Cornell Boyd, the treasurer, Ms. Myers reported that she met w/ Mr. Boyd on October 18<sup>th</sup>. He said that the account balance at the First Citizens Bank as of 10/06/08 was \$395.62 and at BB&T as of 10/17/08 was \$924.00. She noted that the purpose of her meeting w/ Mr. Boyd was to develop a draft a budget and review the bank statements. Ms. Myers stated that she plans to use this information to complete the report to the Secretary of State, the 990 report and the IRS tax exemption application.

Ms. Myers said that she had requested that Mr. Boyd ask Mrs. Laury about removing the cedar tree cuttings that had been thrown down the revenue on top of other graves. She said that Ms. Laury stated that she had them removed when she brought the invoices by Mr. Boyd's house on Monday. Ms. Nichols asked Ms. Myers to verify that the tree cuttings were completely removed from the property and not just moved them to another location on the site.

Ms. Myers also stated that there is a delinquent bill of \$234.79 for the storm fee and runs about \$16++ per month. Ms. Myers said that she made an appointment with Mayor Bob for 10/23/08 at 4:30 pm to discuss the fee and a waiver; however, she said that Mr. Boyd felt that given the information that had been gathered to date about how the fee is assessed due to structures on the property, not water, he agreed that the Committee was obligated to pay the monthly storm fee and there was no need for the meeting w/ the Mayor. After some discussion, it was agreed that the HCF would pay the past due water bills, grass cutting and tree cutting and that the Committee would pay the water bill from this point forward. Ms. Myers said that she would get all the invoices to Ms. Waites and noted that Ms. Laury has been asked to direct future invoices to HCF for payment of the grass cuttings.

Dr. Cooper moved that the report be received as information. It was seconded by Dr. Smith. Motion carried.

IV. Leadership Update

- A. *City Landmark*: The Design Development Review Commission (DDRC) under the leadership of Amy Moore recommended that the Randolph Cemetery be considered as a Historic Landmark by the City of Columbia. As a result of Ms. Moore's efforts/application, testimony by Mr. Washington and representation at a DDRC and Council Meetings, the City approved the site as a Historic Landmark this summer.
- B. *Appropriations by SC Senate/Income*: Ms. Waites circulated a handout outlining all funds received to date (\$509,160) including the \$400,000 awarded by the Senate Appropriations Committee for restoration and beautification of the Cemetery over a two-year period and expenses (\$98,954). It was pointed out that the funds were given to Historic Columbia Foundation (HCF) on behalf of the Committee. HCF serves as the fiscal agent until the Committee establishes its tax exemption status. Ms. Myers asked if this committee's budget should reflect this larger amount in its IRS application. The consensus of the group was that it should not.
- C. *Appeal to SC Department of Revenue*: Ms. Myers stated that the SC Department of Revenue denied the request for exemption by the Committee. She asked if anyone had a contact name or person that she could contact. Ms. Waites said that she would see if she could locate a name. Ms. Myers said that she has been playing phone tag w/ Dave Adams, Richland County Treasurer, about alternative for paying delinquent property taxes. She said that the property goes up for Auction if not paid by October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was the consensus of the group to see if the County will grant the Committee any special consideration based on the pending tax exemption application. The last option will be to pay the 2007 taxes. The Committee approved Ms. Myers negotiating a payment plan with the County.
- D. *Nominees for President*: Mr. Washington stated that he needed to step down from serving as President due to his declining health. Ms. Myers placed the name of Dr. Carlos Smith in nomination. The election will be held in November and if elected, he will assume office in December.

V. Report from Historic Columbia/Fiscal Agent

- A. *Ground Penetration Radar* – Ms. Nichols, Ms. Waites, and Ms. Myers met w/ Dr. Jonathan Leader from USC on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM to discuss his conducting a study of the cemetery to see if there were unmarked graves. He projected that he could do so in December. Dr Leader is w/ the SC Institute for Archeology & Anthropology located at 1300 Pendleton Street.
- B. *Proposed Cemetery Sign* – Ms. Myers reported that she and Mr. Washington had visited the sign at Palmetto Cemetery that Mr. Palmer had mentioned and felt that it was too small. She stated that she, Ms. Waites and Ms. Nichols had looked at the proposed location of the sign behind the retaining wall and felt that the sign would look better going across the street and be wrought iron in keeping w/ the era. Ms. Nichols met w/ Mr. Charlie Redden of Redden's Mobile Welding Service, LLC about designing an archway. She distributed a rendition of a 12" archway for \$3500 and a gate at \$5,500 to be added later. She said that she has made contact w/ the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Traffic Engineering Division for right-of- way clearance for the archway. It was also noted that the proposal will also need to go before DDRC for approval. The group asked questions but responded favorably to the rendition.

VI. New Business

- A. *December Social* - Consensus of at the group was that this was a good idea to have a social and celebrate Mr. Washington's service. Details re: date/time/place will be confirmed by Ms. Myers.
- B. *PO BoxRental* – Downtown Columbia - It was suggested that the Committee get a box for one year at the Main Post Office—central location--especially w/ Mr. Washington stepping down as President. Presently all mail goes to his address. Ms. Waites said that this expense will be paid by Historic Columbia Foundation. .
- C. *Membership Database*: Ms. Myers reported that she is working on a database for the Committee that will include the Conservation Committee, persons who attended the Jubilee Festival, members of the Committee, etc. Mr. Washington noted that Bessie Jenkins no longer lives in Columbia.

Ms. Myers added that the Committee might want to consider having levels of membership such as members, friends and associates. She proposed that a committee be established to brainstorm the types of membership levels, amounts and benefits.

VII. Next Meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Modjeska Simkins House.

VIII. Adjournment: No other business, NC/RW moved adjourned at 7:14 PM.  
Refreshments were served.

Recorded by Emma Myers  
*EM Consultants*

/emm