

# Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery

Summary Board Minutes

February 19, 2009

**Attendees:** Carlos L. Smith-President, Maeward Belk, Staci Richey, Elaine Nichols, Debbie Hacker, Keilah Spann and Mel Hart.

## I. Call to Order/Prayer

President Carlos Smith called the meeting to order at the Simkins House. Prayer was given by Mel Hart board member of the Historic Columbia Foundation. In his opening remarks, Dr. Smith commented that he has relatives buried in the Randolph Cemetery and that he is excited about this journey. Dr. Smith then acknowledged the presence of Keilah Spann of the Historic Columbia Foundation and who is the Preservation Administrator for the Randolph Cemetery. Keilah explained that her function with the committee is to oversee the preservation of the monuments as well as to work with the committee and the public.

## II. Review of the January 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes

The January minutes were distributed and reviewed. Corrections were noted. It was moved by Elaine Nichols and seconded by Debbie Hacker that the corrected minutes be approved. Motion carried.

## III. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Cornell Boyd, the Treasurer, there was no financial report.

## IV. President's Update

A. *2009 Meeting Dates Revised.* The committee reviewed the 2009 meeting dates. Dr. Smith requested that we come up with at least one event as a spring/summer activity during the month of May, June or July. The purpose of the event would be to draw the public's attention to the historic Randolph Cemetery. There should also be a fall/winter activity sometime in September, October or November. The committee decided to participate in Historic Preservation Month during the Month of May for the spring activity. Suggestions and recommendations are to be discussed at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Other discussion ensued about possibly having a fall event during the month of October.

## B. *Committee Updates*

The following committees are in place: Finance Committee, Cornell Boyd, Fund Development Committee, Carlos Smith, Membership Committee, Dorothy Flanders and Maeward Belk, Public Relations/Marketing, Latrice Williams, and Preservation, Research and Education, Keilah Spann,

## General Discussion

Many suggestions were made concerning activities in which the committee may become involved. Keilah Spann suggested that we sponsor workshops for African American Churches on maintenance of cemeteries. Other suggestions were: sponsor a tour of the cemetery, have field trips for schools, etc. Dr. Smith suggested we petition the Department of Education for the next South Carolina History book to include something about Randolph Cemetery. A suggestion was also made that we Partner with Fort Jackson's Chaplin Museum.

Staci Richey distributed her report on restoration recommendations. There is serious erosion around the cemetery. Carlos is to talk with Mr. Washington about who was contracted to remove trees from the drop-off. Elaine Nichols reported that she emailed Jonathan Leader about GPR but has not heard back from him. Staci Richey will check with staff members who can give information about GPR. It was also stated that the Coroner's office may be able to help. In addition, it was stated that the coroner's office wants to close the cemetery.

## V. Additional Business

Carlos distributed a handout requesting feedback from members. He asked the committee to ponder the questions and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Elaine asked members to email their feedback to Carlos at [clsmith212@aol.com](mailto:clsmith212@aol.com) with copy to [csmith@richlandone.org](mailto:csmith@richlandone.org). All comments are to be in by February 27.

VI. Next Meeting: March 19, 2009 at 6 pm at the Modjeska Simpkins House.

VII. Adjournment: Dr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm. Refreshments were provided compliments of Dr. Smith.

Recorded by Maeward S. Belk, Secretary