



HISTORIC RANDOLPH CEMETERY  
est. 1871  
"History Lies Within These Boundaries"

**Meeting Minutes for the *Committee for the Beautification and Restoration of Randolph Cemetery* April 16<sup>th</sup> 2009**

@ Modjeska Simkins House on 2025 Marion Street, Columbia, South Carolina

Attendees:

Carlos Smith, president  
Cornell Boyd, treasurer  
Elaine Nichols  
Sue Hodges  
Regina Montieth  
Garland Jackson

Donna Jackson  
Dick Summers, PhD  
Bobby Donaldson, PhD  
McKenzie Falvo  
Staci Richey  
Keilah Spann

The meeting was called to order at 6:-- p.m. by Carlos Smith. The first order of business was a review of the minutes from the last meeting. Mrs. Maeward Belk, the secretary for the *Committee for the Beautification and Restoration of Randolph Cemetery* (CBRRC) was not in attendance due to illness. Carlos Smith gave a brief review of the minutes from his personal copy and passed the paper around for each attendee to review and verify for accuracy. There was one amendment to the minutes regarding the obtainment of information concerning Randolph Cemetery that belonged to the late Mrs. Emma Kyer. No one has contacted her niece Caroline Ray for copies of the information as of the date of this meeting. Any information that would be received from her niece would be housed at the Historic Columbia Foundation. Keilah Spann mentioned that Frank Washington, the former president of the CBRRC has the contact information for Ms. Caroline Ray. Dr. Bobby Donaldson mentioned the daughter of Dr. Reed Johnson as a resource for records on Randolph Cemetery. Dr. Reed Johnson is the son of C.C. Johnson who is interred at Randolph Cemetery. Dr. Donaldson will be traveling to Aiken County to visit Dr. Johnson's daughter for the purpose of conducting an oral interview. Dr. Richard (Dick) Summers also mentioned another possible contact for historical information concerning Randolph Cemetery, Ms. Hoover.

The next order of business was the treasurer's report given by Mr. Cornell Boyd. Currently the CBRRC has \$2376 in available funds in a checking account at First Citizens Bank and \$376.47 in an account at BB&T Bank. There is also an additional \$112 in the form of a check from rental property owned by the CBRRC on 1623 Richland Street. Elaine Nichols expressed the need for the CBRRC to combine their two checking accounts into one account. Currently the CBRRC funds are split between the account at BB&T Bank and First Citizens Bank. It was also suggested that the check for the rental property

be direct deposited to the CBRRC's checking account monthly. Other financial issues and obligations for the CBRRC include a storm water bill from the City of Columbia, outstanding property taxes for the rental property, and a 1,400 penalty from the Secretary of State for failure to file a 990.

Keilah Spann expressed the need for considering more competent landscape service providers to perform routine maintenance at Randolph Cemetery. On Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> during a tour of the cemetery lead by Dr. Donaldson, Keilah Spann witnessed Laury Services, the landscape providers for Randolph Cemetery, driving a backhoe through a crowded area of the cemetery to get to pieces of a tree that had been cut down but not removed. She expressed her opinion that this and other practices may be the cause of damage that has occurred to many of the cemetery's markers and monuments. Sue Hodges and Donna Jackson who were also present for the tour also witnessed this particular incident. Keilah Spann explained that there are particular methods that are used to maintain cultural heritage landscape that vary from regular maintenance procedures like using hand-held tools instead of weed-eaters and trimmers to cut near historic masonry. Staci Richey also reiterated this point and offered to share information with Keilah Spann that would assist in developing guidelines and codes for landscape maintenance at Randolph Cemetery which is much needed. Carlos Smith called for the development of guidelines for maintenance at Randolph Cemetery and Keilah Spann and Staci Richey have agreed to work on this task together.

A discussion was brought forth concerning the paperwork for 501c3 non-profit filing. Mrs. Emma Myers filed the paperwork in October of 2008. According to Elaine Nichols the check that was sent in with the 501c3 application has not cleared. There is a follow-up on this being done by Elaine Nichols and Robin Waites of Historic Columbia Foundation.

Next on the agenda was the up-coming activity for Preservation Month (May). In the CBRRC meeting on February the 19<sup>th</sup> Keilah Spann was assigned the task of coming up with an activity for Preservation Month. The activities Keilah purposed were a lecture on cemetery preservation for the public and a cleaning of markers and monuments at the cemetery. Mr. Phillip Acheampong, architect and former lead conservator for the City of Savannah Cemeteries Department will be the lecturer. The possible venues for the lecture are the Robert Mills Carriage House and Big Apple. The purposed day and time for the lecture was a Friday evening starting at 6 pm and running approximately 1 hour. The marker cleaning was purposed for a Saturday morning and would run until noon. Elaine Nichols mentioned giving an honorarium to Mr. Acheampong for his services. Elaine also mentioned charging admission for churches to cover Mr. Acheampong's honorarium. The attendees present at the meeting all decided on a date for both the lecture and the cleaning. The lecture will be on Friday May the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the cleaning will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Keilah Spann has already reserved the Robert Mills Carriage House for the lecture. Keilah also agreed to call Mr. Acheampong that evening to confirm his availability for that date.

Carlos Smith pointed out his proposed activity for Preservation Month which was printed on the agenda and was a clean-up day at Randolph Cemetery. Volunteer organizations such as Omega Psi Phi fraternity or the Boy Scouts would be asked to help cut the grass and clean-up the cemetery grounds. No definite date was decided for this activity but it was agreed by most of the attendees that this should take place *before* the marker cleaning. Carlos and Sue Hodges also suggested dividing the cemetery into areas and assigning an organization to clean each area. Keilah Spann agreed to go forward with the press release for the lecture and marker cleaning activity once she confirmed Mr. Acheampong's availability.

Elaine Nichols and Keilah Spann presented their nominations for a contractor to perform a GPR survey at Randolph Cemetery. Keilah explained that the survey would indicate the presence of burials where no visible markers exist. After excusing Staci Richey due to her affiliation with one of the submitting contractors (New South Associates), the attendees voted on a contractor. Elaine put forth New South Associates as the best contractor, Keilah agreed that their proposal meet all the requirements and their cost and scope of work were the best overall. Carlos Smith called a motion to agree that the contract would go to New South. The motion was seconded by Dick Summers and all others attendees agreed. The GPR survey is scheduled to take place April 27<sup>th</sup>.