

Committee for the Beautification and Restoration of Randolph Cemetery

Modjeska Simpkins House, 2025 Marion Street, Columbia, South Carolina

Summary Board Minutes

May 21, 2009

Attendees:

Dr. Carlos L. Smith-President, Maeward Belk-Secretary, Robin Waites, Staci Richey, Keilah Spann, McKenzie Falvo, Agnes H. Perez, Chris Jenkins and Shawn Patch.

I. Call to Order/Prayer

President Carlos Smith called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

II. Review of the April 16th Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 16th meeting were distributed and read by Keilah Spann. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Robin Waites and seconded by Maeward Belk. The body approved the motion.

III. Treasurer's Report

Cornell Boyd, the Treasurer, was absent. Carlos is to remind Mr. Boyd to consolidate the BB&T and First Citizens bank accounts into one account with First Citizens bank as approved at the January 29, 2009 meeting.

IV. President's Update

A. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Results

Mr. Shawn Patch of New South Associates gave a comprehensive report of his findings as a result of the GPR survey. The following is a summary of his report and recommendations: Randolph Cemetery is estimated to be approximately 5.6 acres. The total number of graves in the cemetery is estimated to be approximately 2,312, with a range of 1,988 to 4,046. The true number of graves is probably in the middle of the range. There are a high number of unmarked graves, there are multiple and/or overlapping graves, there are exposed human bones in some areas; there is evidence of graves beneath the paved cemetery road, etc.

"New South recommends that cemetery officials carefully evaluate the possibility of prohibiting future burials. There is a strong probability that any future interments will directly impact existing graves. Stakeholders should be made aware of these issues and informed of the potential conflicts."

Specific information may be found in the May 20, 2009 Draft Report—"Identification of Unmarked Graves at R. F. Randolph Cemetery Using GPR" prepared by Shawn Patch of New South Associates

Carlos asks the members to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss burials and restrictions for burials at Randolph Cemetery. He also recommended that our next meeting be a planning meeting with stakeholders to discuss and make future plans for the cemetery. This meeting will be held August 20 at the Modjeska Simpkins House. A call will be put out notifying stakeholders of this very important meeting.

B. Follow-up on 501(C)(3) Application

Robin Waites recommended that Carlos call Emma to follow-up on the status of the 501(C)(3) Application and to get copies of the application and all other documents Emma filed with the application. Robin and Keilah will review the documents and complete any additional work that needs to be done. At this point the cancelled check submitted with the application has not cleared the bank.

C. Recent Remains Found at Randolph Cemetery

As reported in item IV-A above, there are exposed human remains in some areas of Randolph Cemetery. As required by South Carolina Law, New South Associates and members from the CBRRC contacted the Richland County Coroner and reported the remains. The presence of human remains on the surface is not uncommon at Randolph Cemetery.

D. Landscape Service Providers to Replace Current Service Provider

Keilah Spann reported that she contacted Outing Services as a potential replacement to perform landscaping services at Randolph. Outing will cut the grass, remove hard debris, and remove old flowers at a cost of \$600.00 per month. In addition, they will fill sunken graves at a cost of \$150.00.

Robin suggested that we notify Mrs. Lawry that her services are no longer needed. Keilah and Staci will work on a contract with Outing Services. Carlos will notify Mr. Boyd to contact Mrs. Lawry to let her know of the group's decision not to use her services any longer.

E. Lecture at Robert Mills House on Friday and the Gravestone Cleaning Saturday

Keilah has made arrangements for a "Preservation Weekend" at Historic Randolph Cemetery. This event will include a lecture on "cemetery preservation" by Mr. Phillip Acheampong. The lecture will take place at the Robert Mills Carriage House located at 1616 Blanding Street, Friday May 22 at 6:00 pm and last for approximately one hour. Refreshments will be served. This will be an excellent event for individuals, churches, and organizations interested in preserving private-owned cemeteries. Admission is \$5.00 per individual, and \$2.00 for students.

In addition, Saturday, May 23 from 8:30 am until noon, marker and monument cleaning at Randolph Cemetery will take place. Volunteers and students are invited to participate in cleaning targeted cemetery markers. A demonstration will be given at 8:30 am for all volunteers. Participants are asked to bring their own spray bottle and a 5 to 10 gallon bucket.

F. Cemetery Clean-up Day June 20, 2009 8:00 am-noon

The Committee for the Beatification and Restoration of Randolph Cemetery will host a community clean-up day at historic Randolph Cemetery, Saturday June 20 from 8:00 am to noon. Carlos will assess the areas that need cleaning. Individuals and volunteers from various groups and organizations will be asked to help with this endeavor.

V. Other Business

Maeward Belk notified the group the Housing Authority sent a letter advising that a re-inspection of the house at 1623 Richland Street would take place June 10. The letter states if all deficiencies are not completed as stipulated on the deficiency list by the re-inspection date, the Housing Authority will abate assistance payments as of the first day following the deadline. Some discussion ensued and the consensus of the group was to contact the Housing Authority and ask for an extension of the deadline. Carlos agreed to contact the Housing Authority for a deadline extension.

VI. Next Meeting: August 20, 2009 at 6 pm at the Modjeska Simpkins House.

VII. Adjournment: Dr. Smith adjourned the meeting.

Recorded by Maeward S. Belk, Secretary