

Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery

Historic Columbia Foundation, 1601 Richland Street, Columbia, SC

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2010, 6:00pm

Attendees: Carlos L. Smith-President, Cornell H. Boyd-Treasurer, Maeward Belk-Secretary, Keilah Spann, Staci Richey, Robin Waites, Rebekah Dobrasko, Emily L. Manigault, Richard Eunice, Mark J. Lynn, J. McIntyre, Aida Pugh, Perry Pugh, Tam Davis, and Harriette Harvey

Call to Order

President Carlos Smith called the meeting to order.

February 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were distributed and reviewed. The minutes were approved with corrections noted.

Treasurer's Report

Cornell Boyd reported the balance at First Citizens Bank at the end of February was \$2,126.58. The only transaction since then was an automatic draft payment to the City of Columbia in the amount of \$19.20 for storm water drainage at the cemetery. The treasurer's report was accepted as information

Budget Information

Robin Waites reported on the usage of state funds awarded to the CRBRC. Total Income as of February 28, 2010 is \$512,647.00. Total expenditures as of February 28, is \$216,738.13. Net income as of February 28 is \$295,908.87. She stated that much work at the cemetery has been done but there is still much to be done.

Donation Letter

A donation of \$100.00 has been received from Mrs. Geneva S. Richburg of Columbia in response to the contribution letters mailed to prospective donors

Request for Purchase of Accounting Software

A request was made by Maeward Belk for the approval to purchase accounting software for the purpose of accurate record keeping and for reporting to the IRS. The request was approved.

Donation Letter

The Committee has received a \$100.00 donation from Mrs. Geneva S. Richburg of Columbia in response to the contribution letters mailed to perspective donors in February.

Status of Property at 1623 Richland Street

Carlos reported that the locks have been changed on the house at 1623 Richland Street. The next step is to have the house appraised and placed on the market for sale. He hopes to have the appraisal done by the next meeting. It was also brought out that the house may be eligible for state and/or federal income tax credit. All work must be completed before any tax credit can be taken.

Status of Property Tax Exemption

A refund of property taxes paid in 2007 and 2008 has been requested from Richland County.

Status of Restoration Project

Keilah reported that Kreilick Conservation has completed restoration of the 34 monuments identified as having the most extensive damage as noted in phase I of the restoration project. The monuments are located in the area where the 10 reconstruction era persons are buried. Before and after pictures were shown of the damaged monuments and an explanation given of the repairs made to each. It was pointed out that the monument of Sara Smith, the reportedly first black female pastor in Columbia, was among the monuments repaired. Sara Smith was the pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church on Lyon Street. She reportedly migrated from Savannah, Georgia to Columbia. It was also pointed out that intentional vandalism is a major problem at Randolph Cemetery. The cemetery has a lot of African burial customs. Also, artifacts found are believed to belong to B. F. Randolph. Phase II of the project will begin as soon as a contract is awarded.

Other

Emily Manigault, Social Studies Coordinator for Richland School District Two, spoke with us about curriculum development. She said her job is to develop age-appropriate curriculums for teachers to bridge the gap between the students and the community. The Committee expressed a desire to have local school districts develop curriculum surrounding Historic Randolph Cemetery. Also, the Committee expressed a desire to have something placed in the next South Carolina History textbook about Randolph Cemetery.

Next Meeting

April 22, 2010, place to be announced.

Adjournment

Carlos Smith, President
Maeward S. Belk, Secretary