

**Historic Evergreen Cemetery
Executive Planning and Review Team Minutes**

June 5, 2018

**5:30–7:00 p.m., Seminar Room #1, Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center,
Virginia Union University**

Team members present:

Mr. Archer, Ms. Baskerville, Ms. Bell, Mr. Brinkley, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilpin, Mr. Harris, Rev. Heckstall, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. James, Ms. Lauderdale, Ms. Libron, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Moore, Dr. Ritter, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Shuck, Mr. Smith, Rev. Taylor, Mr. Waller

Facilitators present:

Ms. Cameron, Mr. Delbridge, Dr. Gough, Dr. Maris-Wolf, Mr. Watkins

Meeting Agenda:

Team members met for the Inaugural Executive Planning and Review Team (ExPRT) Meeting.

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction facilitated by Ted Maris-Wolf, Caretaker of Evergreen. Ted also outlined the goals of the meeting, including:

- Get to know each other + our different connections to Evergreen
- Discuss Evergreen Restoration Project and Role of this group
- Consider additional areas of input

The group then went through a series of introductions facilitated by Alan Delbridge and were asked to:

- Provide their name
- Share their connection to Evergreen
- And in one word, offer an answer to: “What does Evergreen mean to you?”

The series of introductions from ExPRT members allowed for the sharing of stories, including memories and life experiences with Evergreen, as well as individual’s hopes for the cemetery. Some of the stories and anticipated outcomes shared included:

- There are historic African American cemeteries in Hampton, VA which are undergoing similar restoration projects.
- Evergreen holds so much history about Richmond’s founders who built this city.
- One member described memories of Evergreen and how there were many magnolias and it visually looked like Hollywood Cemetery.
- Another person mentioned their hope was to identify every grave.
- Evergreen should be nationally recognized.
- “Honor, not memorialize” ancestors interred in Evergreen.
- Another commented that 60 acres is the size of a town.
- The adjacent Paupers Cemetery also holds much history to be discovered.

Many of the one-word responses included the following terms:

- History

- Legacy
- Family
- Resilience
- Hope
- Change
- Mother
- Truth
- Story
- Memories

Ted then outlined the ExPRT Charter and FAQs for Evergreen.

The inaugural meeting concluded with an overview of the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 26th. The next meeting will launch discussions on the community engagement strategy including a Plan of Action for moving forward in the project.