

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

November 27, 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, Mr. Burke, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Davis, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. James, Ms. Libron, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Moore, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Shuck, Mr. Smith

Facilitators present:

Mr. Delbridge, Dr. Maris-Wolf

ExPRT Meeting Minutes:

- The seventh ExPRT Meeting held on November 27, 2018, at Virginia Union University began with approval of the October 23 meeting minutes introduced by Secretary Marilyn Campbell. A motion was made to receive the minutes. Minutes were properly seconded by Al Smith. The motion was carried.
- Facilitator Alan Delbridge provided a data report of volunteer participation in Evergreen Cemetery. In the month of November, an estimated 300 persons assisted. Inclusive were groups and individuals from Henrico (Delta Chapter), Richmond and the Tuckahoe community. The maximum volunteer capacity manageable at the site is estimated at 100-150 persons. It was noted that working in Evergreen Cemetery with large groups is one of few volunteer opportunities in the city. Anticipated for December is an estimated 400 volunteers.
- Media Outreach chair Ms. Viola Baskerville gave a report of recent activity planned for presentations to local churches. She met with Fourth Baptist Church representatives, who have a history committee but were unaware of their prominent ties to Evergreen Cemetery. Ms. Baskerville informed them of the monument erected of the church's early minister, Rev. Payne. This is one aspect of reaching out to the community and educating community members on historical ties. She has extended an invitation for congregants to tour the grounds. It has been suggested to review messages on spreading info to reach audiences, with use of promotional info and index cards to capture two or three ideas stakeholders would like to see at Evergreen. She encouraged us to recognize the importance of expanding and connecting with other areas (cities, states, etc.) with similar projects and touch on points of interest. Future plans include representatives to appear on the Gary Flowers Radio Program (WREJ) in January 2019.
- Member Updates
 - Team member Mr. John Shuck announced the airing of a recent story on WRIC-TV 8 and WWBT-TV 12 of 25 buckets of weed killer and three truckloads of brush dumped on Woodland Cemetery grounds. The story, although describing negative activity, has drawn attention to bring in the forefront of the plight of African American cemeteries.
 - Team member Mr. Maurice Hopkins provided feedback of his experience with the WTVR-TV 6 airing of Memorial Day recognition of veterans laid to rest at

Evergreen Cemetery. Challenges unforeseen were shared regarding another organization's perspective of the effort to recognize veterans.

- Team member Ms. Libron reminded us of how history used to be taught and a resurgence of that may should be inclusive in our programming. Those history points were taught to students at varying stages of educational levels: Richmond History, Virginia History, United States History and World History.
- Facilitator Mr. Maris-Wolf circulated maps that Ms. Cameron referenced in the October 23 meeting. The maps constructed included the diagram and aerial views of Historic Evergreen Cemetery. It was noted that a portion of the original map has not been located or included.
- Team member Mr. Hopkins led discussion with members of the reality of the vision and mission in restoring Historic Evergreen Cemetery. The history and memory of a people should exemplify and honor them in our work toward a restored Evergreen Cemetery. (i.e., Breaking through the barriers and tapping the leadership of established churches and other groups). Continuity in our efforts and continuous outreach is a must, to build the success in this journey.
- Facilitator Mr. Delbridge briefly discussed the restoration planning first-steps and will forward to members the data gathered from the Community Conversations held in October, 2018.
- Closing remarks by Dr. Maris-Wolf was that we reach out to someone not here this evening to come to the upcoming and last meeting of the year on December 18.

Agenda Items:

- VCU presentation on Evergreen “existing conditions,” community engagement, etc.
- Information on other cemetery restoration efforts in Virginia and beyond
- Mapping out the new year: six months to a master restoration plan
- Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.