

*Adopted July 24, 2008*

**AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 26, 2008**

**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**5:00 P.M.**

Present: Vernis Jackson, Chair; Mary Bailey, Vice Chair; Valerie Cunningham; Councilor Christine Dwyer; Councilor Pantelakos; Jack McGee; Steve Parkinson (Ex-officio)

Absent: Suzanne M. Woodland (Ex-Officio)

Also Present: Cindy Hayden, Deputy City Manager; David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director; Jerome Meadows, Meadowlark Studio; Robbi Woodburn of Woodburn and Company (Consultant)

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Chairperson Jackson opened the meeting and welcomed Jerome Meadows back to Portsmouth. She then recognized Mr. Moore who reminded the Committee that the project design was interrupted in the spring, in order to conduct a search for an artist who would work with the Landscape Architect, Woodburn and Company, to complete the design for the African Burial Ground site on Chestnut Street.

Chairperson Jackson then recognized Mr. Meadows who expressed his gratitude to the Committee for being selected and reviewed his initial project concept. He then led a discussion in which his ideas were further clarified and Committee members responded to his concept and asked other questions about materials and layout. Mr. Meadows and Ms. Woodburn took notes on specific comments of the Committee members and worked to insure the design team had enough guidance from the discussion to return to the Committee with a further developed concept at its next meeting.

Mr. McGee moved that the Committee direct Mr. Meadows to incorporate the 1779 petition into the "entrance" of the site. Councilor Pantelakos seconded the motion. The motion failed 3 -2 with Ms. Bailey, Ms. Cunningham, Councilor Dwyer and Chairperson Jackson voting against and Mr. McGee and Councilor Pantelakos voting for.

Two points of particular interest were the "entrance" to the Burial Ground site at State Street and the "reflective" area at the Court Street end of Chestnut Street. The design team will take the guidance received from the Committee on these two points and all others and revise the design concept accordingly.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Moore asked committee members to review a proposed schedule of three future Committee meeting dates. Committee members reviewed the dates and all agreed they were acceptable. Those meeting dates are July 24, August 14, and September 4<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m..