

ACCEPTED ON OCTOBER 21, 2010

**AFRICAN BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

**PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MacLeod Board Room**

4:00 P.M.

Present: Vernis Jackson, Chair; Mary Bailey, Vice Chair; Valerie Cunningham;
Councilor Christine Dwyer; Kelvin Edwards

Also Present: Nike Speltz; David Moore, Community Development Director; Cindy
Hayden, Deputy City Manager

Absent: Suzanne M. Woodland (Ex-Officio); Steve Parkinson (Ex-officio)

Chairwoman Jackson opened the meeting and recognized David Moore to review the recent progress related to fundraising for the Burying Ground project. Mr. Moore reminded the Committee that over the past several months the Committee had researched various strategies for fundraising for capital projects and had discussed the messaging and communications strategies with community members involved in successful past campaigns. The Committee discussed the need to empower a group of volunteers who would be responsible for implementing a fundraising campaign with the Committee serving as a steering Committee. The Committee agreed to identify lead volunteers who would lead the effort.

The Committee then discussed the upcoming City Council meeting in which the Committee would be given time to present the status of the project to the City Council. The Committee discussed the need to speak in support of the Trust document, which will be considered as well as to discuss the need for a substantial lead gift for the project.

The committee then reviewed the draft messaging and communications strategy document produced from the August 11th meeting. The committee members shared initial thoughts and agreed a more in-depth conversation was needed prior to finalizing the document.

The Committee also agreed to host a reception with project sculptor and artist on September 21st at the Seacoast African American Cultural Center.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.