

ACCEPTED DECEMBER 1, 2014

AFRICAN BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

OCTOBER 9, 2014 SEACOAST AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER 2:30 P.M.

Present: Vernis Jackson, Chair; Councilor Dwyer, Kelvin Edwards; Valerie Cunningham

Also Present: David Moore, Community Development Director; Stephanie Seacord; Jerome Meadows (via telephone)

Absent: Mary Bailey (e)

Chairperson Jackson opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance and noted the presence of Stephanie Seacord, a Community Volunteer on the project who has performed many roles and provided much assistance throughout the project. The Committee adopted the minutes from the September 29, 2014.

She then recognized David Moore to provide some updates on the project construction and next steps. He noted that work was continuing on site, architectural materials were being delivered, and the construction team and abutters continued to work well together. He noted staff was preparing for the visit of Jerome Meadows at the end of October and there was a discussion about updating the City Council on at its meeting on October 20th.

Next, Chair Jackson moved on to consideration of the latest draft of the information marker that Stephanie Seacord had prepared using input from other committee members since the last meeting. The Committee went through the text line by line and made suggestions in preparation for another draft.

Chair Jackson then introduced the next meeting topic which was a discussion of how the site would be handled when it came to the timing of the reburying of the human remains. At the last meeting, the Committee discussed with Jerome Meadows the rationale and potential for installing the sculptural components at the same time as the remains are to be reburied at the site. This would mean that, at the time that the project was readied on site (granite site work completed, seat walls installed, railing installed, bluestone installed) by the end of the fall, the sculptural elements and human remains would not be. However, they would be installed in preparation for or in part of the reburial ceremony. The Committee recapped its discussion over the last several weeks and expressed its comfort with the plan summarized above noting that the timing of the spring 2015 reburial ceremony would be later determined along with related details of the ceremony.