

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

January 22, 2019

**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. Lauderdale, Ms. Libron, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Moore, Ms. Orton, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Shuck, Mr. Smith

Facilitators present:

Mr. Delbridge, Dr. Maris-Wolf

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introduction
 - The ninth ExPRT Meeting held on January 22, 2019 at Virginia Union University began with approval of the December 18, 2018 meeting minutes introduced by Secretary, Marilyn Campbell. A motion was made to receive the minutes. Minutes were properly seconded by Loucressa James. The motion was carried.
- Update on Evergreen community volunteer efforts (Mr. Delbridge)

Mr. Delbridge reported on local community volunteer participation, which includes high school and college students, fraternities and sororities, softball teams (Chesterfield and Henrico). Artifacts were found. Monumental day at the MLK Day whereas, he received tremendous feedback, emails, calls, photographs. Delbridge encouraged all to contact him if persons have interest in volunteering. Volunteers responded to the MLK format of the event. Alan says we want to do more value added volunteering where programming is offered at the end of the day, thereby coordinating volunteers around events. Photos were shared from the experiences of others. Any month is open to schedule. Team applauded Delbridge for coordinating volunteers for MLK Day. Ted Maris-Wolf extended extra thanks for support provided by ExPRT members with handling the day, greeting, sharing rides, and hosting at tables.
- ExPRT member updates.
 - Al Smith reported that he found gravestone of friend of wife buried at Woodland. Interest in Woodland Cemetery has picked up and will be starting cleanup at Woodland. John Shuck found Cheryl Burke's relatives at Evergreen. John had photographed prior and could direct to location. Ms. Libron expressed thoughts that the MLK Day should be an annual event.
 - Ajena Rogers expressed it has been three years of participating in a clean up followed by having the Maggie Walker House open from 12-5 p.m. Ms. Campbell expressed the idea to develop a calendar spread over months of Day of Service activities.
 - Grace Covenant Baptist Church from Asheville, South Carolina of 50-60 middle school agerss participated in a clean-up that was significantly eventful. They were very well-versed in African American history. The group uncovered slate headstone

by entry way. Kids were very excited of the find. The kids also visited the Black History Museum with a debrief session. They stayed at the Richmond hostel (if volunteering, stay in the hostel for free). Most had never visited Richmond. Came with the original intent to visit Maggie Walker House and center around the theme, “Be the Change.”

Motion: Alan Delbridge moved that we make MLK Day as an activity versus a clean up. (Motion was left on floor)

- Maurice Hopkins suggested that MLK Day is designated for an activity of some sort but not a clean up. Reminded, all that Maggie Walker’s birthday is on July 15. Recommends that the ideal suggestion is to put that with Evergreen in conjunction with Arthur Ashe, born July 10. Use opportunity to promote and educate the public. Virginia Outdoors Foundation provided the largest gift given nationally of \$400,000 and this effort could have a ripple effect.

ViolaBaskerville: We should think about having something uniquely Evergreen where could be an annual event instead of tying it with Martin Luther King.

John Mitchell: Says we should have Evergreen days of service by attaching a map and timeline to show progress.

Maurice Hopkins was very shocked about the attendance; cold weather factor and noticed the kids did not care about the temperature.

Veronica Davis: Commented on the traditions she would like Evergreen to hold on to:

Open up with “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (written from someone in Virginia)

Place Message on the Virginia Tourism website – most value

Leaf Laying Ceremony (possible media interest)

United Way example - show progress with a thermometer (funds generated)

News 12 – Virginia Cemetery title was on Goggle listing re: Evergreen

“Woman out the grave” – in past used as gimmick; event pairing up with a program

- Call for Membership Subcommittee Members (members to meet soon)
- Call for Master Planning Committee Members (members to meet soon)
- Recap of MLK Day of Service at Evergreen
 - Times Dispatch coverage, three major networks in Richmond
 - Participation was high and NPR, Style Weekly, Richmond Magazine links incoming
 - Thank you extended from Facilitators
- Review of VCU’s “Existing Conditions & Community Engagement Strategy” Report of the
 - P. 27 recommendations
 - Chapter 3 case studies analysis
 - What does restoration look like and feel like? (Internalize this question)
- Review of Virginia Department of Forestry’s “Community Forest Management Plan”
 - Consider location of plantings -azaleas, rosebushes, fruit trees, etc.
- Mapping out the new year: six months to a master restoration plan
 - Formation of a Master planning committee – commence end of January
 - Charette on preliminary design thought – tentatively Feb. 19-21

- Planning for public meeting for ideas and input on initial restoration design ideas: tentatively: first or second week of March; In May, other public engagement
- Timeline – communication about the process and identifying local artisans
- Venue – suggestion offered, 4th Baptist Church

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- Future meeting dates from 5:30-7:00 p.m.:
 - Tuesday, March 26, 2019
 - Tuesday, April 23, 2019
 - Tuesday, May 28, 2019

- Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

A special meeting was held January 9, 2019 from 6- 7:30 p.m. in the L. Douglas Wilder Library, VUU Campus to plan and review details for the MLK Day event.

Subcommittee Meetings Held:

- Membership Committee: February 7, 2019; 5:30 p.m., VUU Campus, L. Douglas Wilder Library.
- Master Planning Committee; 4:15-5 p.m., January 31, 2019, and February 14, 2019. Conference call.

An announcement was sent of membership meeting date change from Tuesday, February 26, 2019 to Tuesday, February 19, 2019 because Andrew Kohr, Master Plan manager will conduct a site visit the week of February 18-21, 2019.