

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

**January 28, 2020 reporting / December 17, 2019 meeting**

**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, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Davis, Ms. Harrell, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Lambert, Ms. Lauderdale, Ms. Libron, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Shuck, Mr. Smith

*Facilitators present:*

Kelly Pratt, Genifer Ross

*Guests:*

Molly Brind'Amour, Carmela Hamm, Jim Shadoian,

*Meeting Agenda:*

**ExPRT Meeting Minutes: December 17, 2019**

- Welcome and Introduction
  - Facilitator Kelly Pratt opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.
  - The twentieth ExPRT Meeting held December 17, 2019 at Virginia Union University began with approval of the November 19, 2019 meeting minutes introduced by Facilitator, Ms. Kelly Pratt. A motion was made to receive the minutes by Ms. Campbell and properly seconded by Ms. Baskerville. The motion carried.
  - Introductions were given of all present.
  
- ExPRT member brief updates
  - Ms. Baskerville gave an update on the Governor's Excellence award. She thanked Alan Delbridge and John Mitchell for their assistance. The information was turned in on time. We should hear something in January or February about the award.
  - Ms. Baskerville also mentioned about the state budget being up. She stated that Evergreen is currently receiving \$1 per grave. She suggested that we all contact our state representatives and ask them to fund the historic African American cemeteries.
  - Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is starting a Richmond chapter.
  - Ms. Campbell gave an update on the AAHGS national project to assist the Embassy of the Netherlands to recognize 172 African Americans (AA) buried in the Netherlands. She requested that we assist with the genealogy research of those AA buried in the Netherlands. AAHGS may be offering workshop sessions to assist people who are working on this project.
  - Ms. Campbell stated that in 2020 the National AAHGS will be hosting a conference in Hampton, VA. Rick Murphy will be speaking at the event.
  - Mr. Hopkins informed us about honor flights offered to veterans of WWII. Veterans are inviting to spend a day twice a year in DC to tour all the museums. He attended one in October of 2019. Later, he attended an ice cream social at the VFW Post 175. He said that due to increased government funding, the VFW is increasing their membership by soliciting African American veterans. This is an opportunity for Black veterans to get opportunities that other veterans have been getting, of which Black veterans were previously unaware.

- Ms. Campbell said that the Greater Richmond, VA chapter of AAHGS hosts meetings every other month. The next meeting is January 25 at the Richmond Public Library at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Regina H. Boone.
- Mr. Shuck reported on a crime committed at Woodland Cemetery during a volunteer event on Saturday. A prostitute was sexually assaulted and dumped at the cemetery. Volunteers called the police and did capture the license plate on the truck that the man was driving. The woman did survive. The group discussed ways to increase security onsite such as security cameras, gates, owner involvement, helicopter patrols, drones. The police were unwilling to increase their patrol in the area. Apparently, the owner there is unreachable and burials are still happening onsite. The group discussed ways to alert descendant family of Woodland Cemetery burials to the state of the cemetery so that burials will decrease at the cemetery. The group discussed ways that someone could buy Woodland and begin a restoration process out there similar to Evergreen's.
- Ms. Rogers asked about the plots in Evergreen – if there are open plots or not. The group said that there are. Mr. Lambert stated that families would need to have a deed. Ms. Rogers stated that we need to work on a protocol for assisting families who own plots and would like to bury their family members at Evergreen. Mr. Lambert stated that there is a difference between having the rights to bury vs. having ownership of the property.
- Ms. Davis gave an update on her documentary project. She's been asked to write the treatment for 10 episodes in the next five years. She requested that ExPRT members communicate with Enrichmond about who wants to be on camera. The production company is named Resurrecting History.
- Update on operations, research and training programs
  - Genifer Ross, Volunteer Coordinator with Enrichmond Foundation, gave an update about the MLK Day event. This will be a six day event taking place from January 20-February 29. She mentioned several ExPRT members that she would like to connect with each day: Greek Life Day - Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Delbridge, African Day – Ms. Bell, Genealogy Day - Ms. Campbell, Ms. Orten, Speaking portions/biographies – Mr. Mitchell and all ExPRT members. Ms. Ross requested that everyone be involved as much as possible. Ms. Rogers stated that NPS would be willing to help with the tours. Ms. Ross also mentioned that we will be asking people to donate items to veterans as part of our volunteering efforts. She also stated that we need a trailer help us transport tools around the cemetery. The ExPRT members asked for Ms. Ross to get together a list of things we need at Evergreen/East End. ExPRT members suggested Enrichmond contact Dominion Power, Verizon, Chik-fil-a, Whole Foods. Ms. Davis requested that for MLK celebration, we hear a traditional version of Lift Every Voice and Sing. She also stated that it should be sung every time we have a gathering where there will be singing. Ms. Davis also wants to be considered for speaking at some of the events. The ExPRT members stated that they wanted the Feb. 29 event to be inside. They suggested that the tent used at last year's event is too small and caused condensation inside the tent. They asked us to reconsider the logistics of the event.
- New Member Introductions
  - Carmela Hamm – She gave a brief bio on herself. She came to Richmond in the 70s to attend VCU school of the arts. She's known Marilyn for since her freshman year. She worked for several different television and radio stations in the city. She's worked for PBS, the General Assembly. She directed Senate sessions about 9 years. She worked with attorney Oliver Hill on a documentary about his life. Her background is in graphic design but also has an interest in public relations. She'd like to assist with getting info on community calendars, news stations, getting interviews done, etc.
  - Motion to accept Ms. Hamm's membership by Mr. Hopkins. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned 7:32 p.m.

- Next meeting dates on Tuesday, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.:
  - January 28, 2020
  - February 25, 2020
  - March 24, 2020
  - April 28, 2020
  - May 26, 2020
  - July 28, 2020
  - September 22, 2020
  - October 27, 2020
  - November 17, 2020
  - December 15, 2020