

**AFRICAN BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE**

**MAY 18, 2010**

**MACLEOD BOARD ROOM  
PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**3:00 P.M.**

Present: Vernis Jackson, Chair; Valerie Cunningham; Councilor Christine Dwyer;

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

Absent: Mary Bailey, Vice Chair; Suzanne M. Woodland (Ex-Officio); Steve  
Parkinson (Ex-officio)

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Chairwoman Jackson opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the Committee's Fundraising Focus Group discussion. She particularly thanked the invited guests who included Doris Burke, Mary Ellen Jackson, Bill Dunlap, and Nike Speltz. Chairwoman Jackson, then recognized Councilor Dwyer to provide an overview of the meeting's goals. She reviewed the Burying Ground project generally and described the phases of discovery, memorial design, and fundraising efforts to date. She said the meeting was designed to provide an opportunity for the Committee to learn about other successful fundraising campaigns.

Chairwoman Jackson then recognized David Moore who provided an overview of the project, which focused on the memorial design and components. Ms. Hayden followed Mr. Moore's presentation by discussing the previous efforts the Committee and staff have made to identify project funding. Chairwoman Jackson and Valerie Cunningham provided input on project significance from their perspective, which included the need to recognize the accomplishments of all Africans and African Americans throughout Portsmouth history and how tangible memorials help people to more fully understand history.

After the invited guests shared their initial thoughts about the project, a lengthy discussion about the characteristics of other successful fundraising efforts took place. The group also discussed the organizational structures used in those efforts as well as realistic project fundraising goals and approaches.

Chairwoman Jackson, Ms. Cunningham, Councilor Dwyer and City staff thanked the invited guests for their valuable input and insights. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.