

ACCEPTED JULY 8, 2014

**AFRICAN BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

**MACLEOD BOARD ROOM
PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

4:00 P.M.

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

Also Present: Dave Allen, Deputy City Manager; David Moore, Community Development Director

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. She then recognized Mr. Moore who provided a detailed up date on the fundraising efforts of the community volunteers working in support of the African Burying Ground Committee. He indicated approximately \$750,000 was raised to date and several outstanding grant applications were in progress, submitted or awaiting word from the granting source. He indicated the volunteers were continuing to track individual donations and, in general, raise awareness for the project in order assist in raising funds.

Mr. Moore provided an update on the entry piece sculpture, which is nearing completion. The Committee then decided to request that the City Manager enter into another contract with Mr. Meadows for an additional piece of artwork. This was agreed to unanimously and Mr. Moore said he would follow-up, indicating the next logical piece to fabricate would be the eight community figures.

Mr. Moore then took the Committee through a series of topics related to final design details that were being worked on by staff along with the Landscape Architect and Mr. Meadows. He obtained input and guidance from the Committee on selection of phrases for the Petition line and reviewed potential construction-related easements and related issues, including the agreement of the utility providers to relocate a key utility pole at the project site. Based on feedback from the State of NH Archaeologist on the plan set for the project, he solicited input on appropriate replacement plantings for the planters. He noted that this issue raised by the Archaeologist was the State's sole issue with the plan set as presented and noted that he would soon have the final approval from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).