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AFRICAN BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

OCTOBER 7, 2015 MACLEOD BOARD ROOM PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY 3:00 P.M.

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

Also Present: David Moore, Assistant City Manager for Special Projects/Community Development
Director

Absent: Valerie Cunningham

Chair Jackson opened the meeting and moved straight to updates from City staff. Mr. Moore advised the Committee of a Governor's Art Award that was to be given to Anna Nuttal, art Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School and collaborator on many aspects of the African Burying Ground project. The award recognizes her contributions to the African Burying Ground tiles and coordination of the artist-in-residence program with Jerome Meadows. Mr. Moore also advised the Committee that the Mayor had named Vernis Jackson, the African Burying Ground Committee and fundraising Volunteers as the Grand Marshalls of the Holiday Parade and the Rotary had identified the African Burying Ground as the inspiration for the Annual Rotary Christmas Tree Ornament. The Committee also discussed a proposal for a Wreath Laying to follow the holiday parade that would tie the African Burying Ground Memorial site into the Parade festivities. Mr. Moore said he would follow-up with the Mayor's office.

The Committee discussed the creation of the final donor plaque for the project. Mr. Moore reported that the major donations had been settled and the work to fabricate could begin and locations were discussed. Mr. Moore indicated he would follow-up on the discussion, obtain more information and move toward fabrication and installation.

The Committee discussed the plan to produce a final report of the Committee's work since 2004 through to 2015. Mr. Moore proposed an outline for discussion purposes which included an introduction, description of charge, project timeline, fundraising totals and sources, donor listing, pictures of the events and construction, and recommendations for next steps. Provide guidance on any future requests for expenditure from the African Burying Ground Trust Fund; provide guidance on potential events requested to be held at the African Burying Ground and Memorial Park; provide guidance on any issues associated with maintenance, repair, or responding to other public concerns or issues raised about the African Burying Ground and Memorial Park; and work to ensure ongoing for the interpretation of the African Burying Ground and Memorial Park. It was agreed that the report drafting should continue based on the discussion and be prepared for submittal to the Mayor and City Council.

Finally, the Committee discussed strategies for distributing final archaeological reports from the project. The Committee wanted to be sure the City continued to act as a responsible steward of the

valuable information. As a result, all report copies are available to be viewed for free at the Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrott Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801. The Committee encourages the use and access to the reports by members of the community including academic and journalistic communities. Due to the sensitive nature of the archaeological reports (pictures of human remains) and the community's desire to be attentive and considerate stewards of the material related to the African Burying Ground, in consultation with the descendent community, these reports are requested to not be shared electronically.

The Committee meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:30 p.m.

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