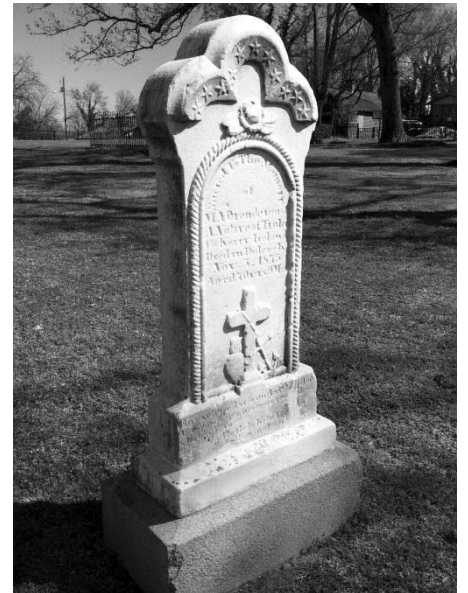


City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board 2015-2016 Annual Report and 2016-2017 Board Work Plan



City Cemetery



O'Rourke-Catholic Cemetery



Mount Hope Cemetery



RALEIGH Parks,
Recreation *and*
Cultural Resources
parks.raleighnc.gov



Mayor and Members of the Raleigh City Council,

As you well know, it is an exciting time to be in Raleigh. Our city consistently ranks among the highest in the nation for innovative economic growth and livability for retirees, new families, recent graduates and young professionals. These marks are a testament to engaged leadership at the elected and community level.

Seven years ago, the Raleigh City Council saw fit to establish the City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (the Board) to work with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) staff to implement the recommendations of the 2008 report by the Chicora Foundation, Inc. on the conservation and management of the city's historic cemeteries. Along with PRCR, the Board benefits from its partnership with the friends group and non-profit organization, Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc. (RCCP), which work to educate the public through workshops and tours and raise fund for improvements.

In November 2014, the voters in Raleigh approved a Parks Bond to improve the city's existing parks, greenways, and neighborhood infrastructure. Out of that bond referendum, \$500,000 was allocated to the City's three historic cemeteries: City Cemetery, Mt. Hope Cemetery, and the O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery.

The Board and its partners have worked tirelessly to repair the damage done by tornadoes, hurricanes, and ice storms. City Cemetery now has a new refurbished shed, landscaping, and improved fencing. Much of the work in City Cemetery is complete or currently being implemented. Monument repair is about to begin in Mount Hope Cemetery.

While preserving the past, the Board is focused on the future.

The City's three historic cemeteries are some of our oldest cultural resources. Ironically, they are located in areas that are projected to contain our newest residential and commercial development.

With the leadership of the City Council and the vote of confidence from the citizens of Raleigh, we are able to preserve and protect these cultural assets.

Enclosed in the 2015-2016 Annual Report and 2016-2017 Work Plan, you'll find the dedicated work of the Board and its partners; especially the staff and volunteers with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, and our friends at Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc.

Thank you for this opportunity. We hope you will continue your commitment to the Board's stewardship.

Very truly yours,



Barden Culbreth, Chair
City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board

The City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (CORHCAB) is pleased to present the annual report for the period of March 1, 2015- March 31, 2016.

Background

On September 2, 2008, the Raleigh City Council accepted the Strategic Plan for the Inventory, Conservation, and Management of Raleigh's Historic Cemeteries prepared by the Chicora Foundation, Inc. and authorized the establishment of a stakeholder group to work collaboratively with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) staff on the implementation of the plan. The Board was established by Council in January 2009 and has met regularly since March 2009.

CORHCAB continues its partnership with the friends group and non-profit Raleigh City Cemeteries Preservation, Inc. (RCCP). RCCP has been very supportive of historic preservation efforts in terms of volunteer time, fundraising efforts and restoration work in the city's historic cemeteries. RCCP, Inc. has hosted several maintenance workshops, led by historic preservationist Dean Ruedrich, which City cemetery staff attended to learn best practices in headstone repair and maintenance.

Highlights

Security Efforts

With funding received from FEMA after the 2011 tornados, much time and effort has gone into repair and restoration efforts of the City's three historic cemeteries. RCCP has also fundraised for the restoration of Peace family plot as well as other headstones/grave markers of historical notoriety.

A desire to preserve and protect these valuable reinvestments led to a decision to close access entrances at City Cemetery (New Bern Avenue and Hargett Street entrances), thus directing all pedestrian access to two main entrances on East Street.

With the rise in residential living options near the cemeteries, the decision was made to install "No dogs permitted" signs in all cemeteries to prevent off-leash dog activity.

Due to continued problems with homeless activity occurring in City Cemetery, a monitored security camera will be installed to aid City police in monitoring and promptly address after-hour activities.

Since its inception, several Cemetery Watch volunteers actively patrol City Cemetery, providing minor maintenance activities, and report their findings.

Bond Funding Allocation

Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) was allocated 7/1/2015 as a result of the passage of the 2014 Parks Bond. A detailed spending plan was established and approved by the Board for the restoration of the historic cemeteries. Highlights of repair work include:

City Cemetery:

- Restoration of the perimeter fencing and foundation walls
- Implementation of the Landscape Plan
- Mausoleum stabilization and repairs
- Replacement of non-historic perimeter fence
- Repairs to/replacement of plot fencing
- Monument repair and restoration
- Security system installation/monitoring

O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery:

- Wall cap repairs
- Monument repairs
- Plot fencing maintenance

Mount Hope Cemetery:

- Mausoleum and arch stabilization and repair
- Entry column repairs
- Road widening
- Repairs to surface vaults
- Implementation of the Landscape Plan
- Monument repair and restoration

Partnership Agreements

In Summer 2015, City staff and RCCP members discussed development of a Memorandum of Understanding between RCCP and the City to codify roles and responsibilities of each entity to provide management, oversight, fund raising and educational promotion of the City's Historic Cemeteries. The agreement is being executed by both parties at this time.

First Board Retreat

The Board held its first retreat on March 14, 2016 at the Mordecai Visitor's Center. Topics of discussion included accomplishments, lessons learned, trends in cemetery management, vision and goals for the future, partnerships, Board structure, and next steps. The Board will continue its discussion over the next year and work to formulate and implement recommended changes.

Annual Work Plan Accomplishments

Conversion and upfit of maintenance building at City Cemetery



To reduce expenditures, renovations and storage improvements were made an existing maintenance storage building at City Cemetery for the purpose of securely storing loose cemetery artifacts and other funerary materials found in the City's historic cemeteries.

Until now, these loose funerary items were stored in a Mobile Mini unit until repairs were authorized. After the upfit and conversion work was completed, the Mobile Mini unit was removed from Fire Station #3 property.

Storage of Interment files

City staff and the Board consulted with Ernest Dollar, Director of the Raleigh City Museum, and several interns to digitize and store the original interment records of the City's three historic cemeteries. The original paper records are stored in archival boxes in the basement of the Raleigh City Museum.

RCCP has incorporated the electronic interment records into their website at <http://rccpreservation.org/cemeteries/>

Development of Cemetery Landscape Plans

City Cemetery

The Board finalized and adopted a Landscape Plan and Guiding Principles document for introducing new landscaping within and adjacent to City Cemetery. The Landscape Plan was shared with the local CAC, the nearby Hunter-Thompson neighborhood, and was review by the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC).

The Landscape Plan for City Cemetery addresses erosion problems along New Bern Avenue proposes landscape improvements along the site's perimeter, and proposed landscape changes at the East Street main entrances. Re-landscaping was made to the main entrances (East Street) and along the eastern perimeter boundary in fall/winter 2015.

Main Drive renovations



Prior



After

Morgan Drive renovations



Prior



After



Eastern perimeter- during installation



Eastern perimeter-After landscaping installation, facing southeast



Eastern perimeter-After landscaping installation, facing east-northeast

Per the adopted Landscape Plan, a section of non-historic fencing near Fire Station #3 (along the northern cemetery boundary adjacent to the fire station and parking lot and a short section along New Bern Avenue) was replaced in winter 2016.



Mount Hope Cemetery

In Spring 2016, the Landscape Committee began its work to develop a Landscape Plan the final historic cemetery-Mount Hope Cemetery. Mount Hope Cemetery has experienced a significant canopy loss since Hurricane Fran in Sept 1996, by the December 2002 ice storm, and the April 2011 tornados. Replanting of tree canopy will likely be proposed for this site. Mount Hope Cemetery also had an original road bed system which the Committee would like to acknowledge in future landscaping and public interpretative efforts.

Local Historic Designation of City Cemetery and Mount Hope Cemetery

The City's smallest historic cemetery (O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery) received Local Historic Designation in 2010. The Board continues to partner with RHDC staff to review the merits and implications of obtaining Local Historic Designation for both City Cemetery and Mount Hope Cemetery. Both sites have already been designated as National Historic Landmarks.

Staff and Board members continue to consult with RHDC staff to discuss the development of a programmatic Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). A draft programmatic COA will be drafted for O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery. If the COA document works well, the programmatic COA will be expanded to both City Cemetery and Mount Hope Cemetery.

CORHCAB 2015–2016 Work Plan– Proposed

Goal #1: Continue inventory and stabilization efforts within City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task A: The Board will initiate an assessment of headstones and other cemetery elements to determine need for stabilization.

Task B: The Board will assist the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department with prioritization of repairs to monuments, plot fencing, above ground vaults and associated items at City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task C: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with repairs/restoration of the mausoleums located at City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task D: The Board will assist the department with the initiation of a protocol for the collection, inventory, and storage of unsecured items within City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Goal #2: Secure and protect existing cemetery data and records.

Task A: The Board will take a lead role in the facilitation of shared interment records between the City of Raleigh Museum, HCAB and the department.

Goal #3: Annual Retreat Review and Follow-up

Task A: The Board will review discussion from and ideas generated at it 2016 annual retreat to determine appropriate direction related issues such as bylaws revision, board membership, emerging industry trends, etc.

Goal #4: Expand Outreach Efforts Including Public Awareness and Education

Task A: The Board will promote the implementation of strategies for all three historic cemeteries as mentioned in Raleigh’s Comprehensive Plan.

Task B: The Board and the department will promote all three historic cemeteries as a component of the “Downtown Experience”.

Task C: The Board and the department will develop and support workshops and seminars related to the preservation and maintenance of historic cemeteries; including a statewide workshop in the Fall of 2016.

Goal #5: Develop and implement landscape plans for the three historic cemeteries to address tree replacement, screening, fence restoration and replacement, and general grounds repairs utilizing historically appropriate species and materials.

Task A: The Board will continue to assist department staff with the implementation of the landscape master plan for City Cemetery.

Task B: The Board will continue to assist the department staff on a landscape master plan for Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task C: The Board will assist the department with planning for continued restoration of the historic perimeter fence at City Cemetery.

Goal #6: Discuss Local Designation for City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task A: The Board will assist the department with an assessment of the need to seek local designation for City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Goal #7: Priorities and Expenditure Plan

Task A: The Board will work with department staff to establish priorities and develop cost estimates and schedules related to recent bond funds allocated for historic cemetery restoration.

2015–2016 COR HCAB Board Members

Mr. Jimmy Thiem, Chair
Ms. Jane Thurman, Vice Chair
Mr. David Brown
Mr. Danny Coleman
Mr. Barden Culbreth (term commenced September 2015)
Mr. Jose Fraser (term ended April 2015)
Ms. Terry Harper
Ms. Jenny Harper
Mr. Wayne Schindler, Ex Officio Member and Board Secretary
Mr. Danny Morgan, Ex Officio Member



*Back row: Danny Morgan, Wayne Schindler
Middle Row: Jimmy Thiem, Terry Harper, David Brown
Front Row: Barden Culbreth, Jenny Harper, Jane Thurman
Not pictured: Danny Coleman*

