

A QUICK REPORT

DATE: March 5, 2004
TO: W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager
FROM: Curtis Brooks, Landscape Architect/Urban Forester
SUBJECT: Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Task Force
March 4, 2004

Attending: Council Member Dorothy Verkerk (chair), Jill Coleman, Rebecca Clarke, Catherine Frank, Paul Kapp, Steven Moore, Kirk Pelland, Bruce Runberg, John Sanders, Faison Sessoms, Bland Simpson, Catherine Williams Absent: none.

Staff Attending: Curtis Brooks.

On Thursday, March 4, 2004 the recently established Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Task Force had their first meeting. Council Member Verkerk convened the meeting with an overview of the Town Council process that initiated the Task Force. Each of the Task Force Members then introduced themselves and provided some background information about their interests in the Cemetery. Curtis Brooks provided a brief history of the Cemetery, emphasizing the process used to develop the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Master Plan, adopted by the Council in 1987, and describing the components of the plan that have been completed and those that are yet to be done. Task Force members then suggested goals for Cemetery improvements. These goals, which will be discussed in more detail at future meetings, included:

- Continued marker restoration work
- Renovation of interior walls and ornamental fencing
- Turf and planting improvements
- Pedestrian level lighting improvements
- Improved interpretive exhibits and materials
- Reprinting of the Cemetery directory

Mr. Runberg suggested that there may be value in the Committee reviewing the University's plans for improvements along the Cemetery's northern edge associated with construction of the Cobb Deck and Chiller Plant and task force members agreed to set aside time for him to present the plans at a future meeting. Other issues that were raised included concerns about vehicular access into the cemetery and inappropriate use of the area by students and others. Several Task Force members noted the improved overall maintenance of the Cemetery in recent years with particular attention being paid to the perimeter stone wall restoration work currently being done by University masons.

The Task Force's next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2004 at 2:00 pm. We will be meeting at the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery gazebo and touring the site. For further information, I can be contacted at 968- 2800 ext. 122.