

A QUICK REPORT

DATE: April 9, 2004
TO: W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager
FROM: Curtis Brooks, Landscape Architect/Urban Forester
SUBJECT: Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Task Force
April 8, 2004

Attending: Council Member Dorothy Verkerk (chair), Catherine Frank, Paul Kapp, Steven Moore, Bruce Runberg, Faison Sessoms, Bland Simpson, Cat Williams Absent: Jill Coleman, Rebecca Clark, Kirk Pelland, John Sanders.

Staff Attending: Curtis Brooks.

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery Task Force met in the Council conference room at 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 8, 2004. Curtis Brooks initiated the meeting with an update on the clean-up efforts the Town and University staff have recently undertaken around the perimeter of the Cemetery and the pending bank stabilization project along South Road. Following up on an issue that was raised at the last Task Force meeting, there was then considerable discussion about the Town's responsibility and/or authority to make improvements to individual plots. Council Member Verkerk suggested that the task force may want to consider establishing some written policy regarding ownership and responsibility issues and it was agreed that this would continue to be an issue for consideration at future meetings.

Council Member Verkerk then asked each of the Task Force members to review and comment on a list of categories for possible improvements using the available \$150,000 in funding. The initial recommendations of Task Force members present indicated a primary interest in the following three potential project categories:

1. **Archives and Public Outreach** - Improvements to the Cemetery brochure and directory, better collection and preservation of cemetery historical information and documents, improved public access to interpretive information. It was agreed that this issue would be the primary topic of discussion at our next meeting.
2. **Lighting and Pedestrian Flow** – The installation of pedestrian level lighting to help direct people through and around the cemetery after dark and to discourage ongoing problems with vandalism.
3. **Ornamental Fence Restoration** – Repair and/or restoration of the cast iron fences around the Dialectic and Philanthropic Society plots. Bruce Runberg indicated that the University would seek private funding to assist with these improvements if the Task Force recommended that some of the available public funding be used for this purpose.

The Task Force's next meeting was not specifically set but is expected to be scheduled for the second week of May. For further information, I can be contacted at 968- 2800 ext. 122.