




MEMORANDUM

August 3, 2010

TO: Board of Mayor and Alderman

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator 
Vernon Gerth, ACA-Community and Economic Development
Catherine Powers, Planning & Sustainability Director
Erin Reinders, Long-Range Planning Supervisor
Amanda Hall, Part-Time Planner

SUBJECT: Pursuance of Federal Preservation Grant for Historic Rest Haven Cemetery and City Cemetery

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) regarding staff's pursuance of a Federal Preservation Grant, as administered by the Tennessee Historical Commission, for the completion of National Register nominations for City Cemetery and Rest Haven Cemetery.

Background

As the recent flood has highlighted, historic City Cemetery and Rest Haven Cemetery are both in need of repair. It is imperative that timely restoration be considered for these cemeteries, for not only are most of the tombstones in disrepair, some are in immediate danger of breakage. The historic cemeteries are not eligible for federal monies for restoration work, however, due to the lack of federal designation via the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Franklin currently has 5 historic districts on the National Register as well as several other properties outside of those districts listed individually. In addition to honorific recognition and increased grant opportunities, National Register designation provides additional protection to selected properties, requiring any potential federal projects within the vicinity of the properties to undergo Section 106 Review by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. No property rights restrictions will be incurred by the placement of the cemeteries on the National Register.

Dr. Carroll Van West, director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University and the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, conducted a site visit of the two cemeteries with staff in late July. He believes that both cemeteries have great potential to be selected for official National Register designation if the cemeteries' social, architectural, and Civil War significance is demonstrated in a professional and scholarly manner within the nominations. Additionally, the Center for Historic Preservation has agreed to provide staff with a comprehensive preservation needs reports for both cemeteries, free of charge, by the end of the year. This report will aid in the nomination requests and in future restoration funding applications.



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Financial Impact

The current cost, as quoted by a regional preservation consultant, is estimated at \$4,000-\$5,000 for the completion of National Register nominations for both City Cemetery and Rest Haven Cemetery.

The Federal Preservation Grant requires a 60/40 match ratio and has an application deadline of September 1, 2010. The estimated cost to be incurred by the City, if it wins a grant, is \$1,600-\$2,000. It is important to note that National Register nomination proposals are ranked as high priorities by the grant administrators at the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Recommendation

No action is required at this time. This memorandum has been provided for information purposes only.