

Dr. Charles Bellinger Stewart Project

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR COMING!

1. Introductions and the Purpose of the SRT
2. Introduction to all organizations, CRT, DRT, and MCL
3. Describe Dr. Stewart's life achievements
4. Explain what got us to this point.
5. Project split into two pieces – Phase I Grave Site, Phase II Memorial
6. Give Status of events to-date:
 - a. Meeting with Property Commerce
 - b. Council Meeting on June 12th at 7:00 pm
 - c. TX DOT call by Martin
 - d. Conversations with Gertie Spence, Mont. Historical
 - e. Pat Spackey, Direct Descendant is on board and ready to go!
 - f. Letter of Support already received from David Dewhurst

Our Needs:

NOW:

- 1) \$\$\$\$ Is up front on the list! 13 Grant requests have been sent and more to follow. We might need to come up with fundraising activities.
- 2) We need every politician and organization possible in the loop and to issue a letter of support for the project.
- 3) Media attention is very necessary.
- 4) We need brochures hanging everywhere – especially genealogy and historical groups. Town halls, City halls, library's. Copies here and on the website
- 5) Clearance for the project from AHJ's – City of Montgomery, mostly (permits, etc.)
- 6) Continue to pursue negotiations with Property Commerce
- 7) Ideas, thoughts together and to an Architect for Phase 1 grave site

LATER:

- 1) Architect completes ideas and designs for Phase 1 (around November, 2007)
- 2) Prepare drawings and scope of work for the contractors (Around November, 2007)
- 3) Find contractors willing to participate (start lining up around December, 2007)
- 4) Coordinate with Cemetery curator and groundskeepers for landscaping ideas.
- 5) Procure volunteers (or perhaps a company) to do landscaping (spring of 2008)

Our Needs:

Proposed Timeline as of today:

Submit Grant Proposals	June 7, 2007 to February 31, 2008
Expected Grant Notification	Some will come in immediately, others will trickle in through the middle of 2008
Scope of work written for contractors	November 1, 2007
Write Request for Proposal	December 1, 2007
RFP Deadline for Bids	January 15, 2008
Award Work	February 15, 2008
Tentative Completion of Memorial	12/1/08 depending on construction – This is timed to occur as the center opens for grand opening
Tentative Completion Grave Site	September 1, 2008
Dedication of the Memorial	Approx 12/15 depending on construction – timed to occur with grand opening
Dedication of the Grave Site	October 25, 2008

Detailed Timeline Attached

Volunteer Assignments:

Volunteers for:

Coordination of the media and press releases: _____

Assistant Coordinator: _____

Developer Point of Contact: _____

Government POC for contact/letters/invitations: _____

Assistant Government POC: _____

Contractor Coordinator and General Contract: _____

Assistant Contractor Coordinator: _____

Fund Raising and supporters:

SIGN Statement of Support!

Be sure to provide all contact names and information on the sign in sheet

Minutes of the Meeting:

BOLD indicates action necessary

Eight people were in attendance: John Meredith, John Cox, Dick Seeger, Randy Montgomery, Terry Williams, Nicole Homman, David Martin, and John Homman

Mr. Homman reported that this project as a whole just grew legs on its own. Initially, the LSSRT was just looking at the cemetery project. Then the group ran into Dick Seeger who had put so much effort and time into a memorial project on 2854 at 105 that they just adopted it. We decided the Dr. Stewart Memorial Project would be broken into two parts. Volunteers were asked which phase they wished to work on, in order to keep people from excessive work loads. The two parts are:

Phase One – Cemetery, improvements, flag pole, electrical work (to light the flag), historical Marker, landscaping work, and grave site improvements

NOTES FOR PHASE 1: Mr. Stewart's gravesite needs a lot of work. His fence is all torn up and the ground is not level. Phase one would be helping to clean it out and see what we could do with a landscaping company. Mr. David Martin mentioned that Sergio Rodriguez from the Texas Department of Transportation had checked out the road signs and said that he had found the sign and there was no reason for a new one. He must have seen the sign for the old cemetery and missed the fact that there was not one for the new cemetery. Mr. Martin also mentioned that they would put a sign up with the name of the cemetery on it but that they would not put up one with Mr. Stewart's name on it. The question arose asking if we could just change the name of the cemetery. **Mr. Homman will dispatch a letter to the Association of the cemetery**, inquiring about this and further cooperation. A letter needs to be received from them agreeing to allow work to be done in writing. We also need to secure a **letter from Pat Spackey**, giving us permission to improve the site and a biography on Dr. Stewart. **Mr. Homman will follow up with this.** Mr. Montgomery recommended using Carroll Brincefield, a known expert in Cemetery associations and laws to assist. She comes with a fee of \$150 plus expenses. She will help in marble monuments and other areas. It was agreed to make initial contact with her. **This will be done by Mr. Homman.**

Bob Peel is the President of the Cemetery Association and Harriet Cummings is the Treasurer. **Mr. Homman will contact Sonya Clover for assistance with Architectural work – Ms. Clover's** husband is an architect.

Assigned to Phase 1 is John Homman and Randy Montgomery said he might be able to help. More Help is needed on Phase 1. Mr. Williams indicated his support as soon as he is able to get his son better who is ill at this time.

Phase Two - would then be the memorial the augmenting the existing marble marker and flag pole on 2854 just before Highway 105. This phase requires more construction and work.

NOTES FOR PHASE 2

Mr. Martin mentioned the idea of having metal detectors go through the site of the future memorial of Mr. Stewart and seeing what they could find. If they did go through with that and find a historical artifact then whoever did it would have to report it to the state and then the state would take over the site and shut Property Commerce's (with Home Depot as its chain store) ideas down. Mr. Homman had lunch with these guys to see whether or not they would be very cooperative with us, and he felt a compromise might be reached. He approached them with four ideas he had in mind:

1. Allow the Memorial to be built (part of it does intrude onto their property).
2. Assist with building the memorial (whether it be financial or the use of their subcontractors)
3. Rename the center to include the "Stewart" name.
4. Allow metal detectors to be used in checking the property.

Mr. Homman reported that we likely will get 1, 2, and 3. But 4 is not likely to occur as Property Commerce is afraid it will shut down the project if something is found. Mr. Homman wanted to present at least a partial answer from Property Commerce on this issue, but a voicemail, message, and an email were not returned in time.

A meeting has been scheduled with the Montgomery City Council on June 12th at 7:00 pm for a question and answer scenario. They want more information on what we are doing in order that we both might pursue the same goals together. **Mr. Homman, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Cox (at least) will attend this.** It is requested that **Pat Spackey attend** this as she is a direct descendant. **A member of the Local Daughter's and/or Children is also requested to attend this meeting.**

Dick Seeger is to get the contractors list he worked with previously to John Homman.

Gertie Spence with the Montgomery Historical Association needs to be contacted (**Mr. Martin**) to find out when their next meeting is. Mr. Martin will advise so many people can attend.

Mr. Homman is to contact John New of Eagle Distribution for possible assistance. **Mr. Homman will also contact Ms. Bevins** – local history teacher in the Montgomery ISD for historical support.

Mr. Homman has issued 11 grant proposals for funding of approximately \$55K to make this happen. More Grants will be dispatched in the coming days and weeks.

Mr. Homman has dispatched a letter to every single elected official (state, local, and national) inviting them to attend the dedication of Phase 1 on October 25, 2008. He also requested a letter of support from them all.

Mr. Cox sent an email to Mr. Homman about a meeting of the Lake Conroe Community Network to be held on July 31st and the Montgomery High School Cafeteria. All of the local and state elected officials are supposed to be at this meeting. **Mr. Homman will attend.**

The meeting was adjourned with follow up meetings in the future.

IT IS STRONGLY requested that every interested party spread the word using the Dr Stewart Brochure that is posted on the Lone Star Sons web site. www.LoneStarSRT.org