

Margie Wells

From: Dolph's Domain <oaklandxx@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 2:09 PM
To: Margie Wells
Cc: James Elensky; Auburn Taylor; Terrell Griffin; Loyd Stewart
Subject: Re: HISTORIC OAK-HILL CEMETERY
Attachments: OAKLAND HIGH ALUMNI - HISTORIC OAK HILL CEMETERY - 2023.docx

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Ms. Wells,

*****SUGGESTIVE OR PRELIMINARY TEXT TO BE INSCRIBED ON BOTH SIDES OF MARKER**

Please understand the preliminary text submitted to Florida Division of Historical Resources is attached **(see attached)** and see below.

Note the text is subject to review and approval by the "State Historical Marker Council."

HISTORIC OAK-HILL CEMETERY

In the early 20th century African American church, New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and adjacent cemetery were located on this site. Later that century the church relocated to its current location, 713 N 8th Street, Haines City, FL... Born into slavery buried in the cemetery: Ms. Ethel Mae Coleman, January 30, 1846 – April 3, 1931 & Mr. Willis Beal, February 5, 1855 – May 12, 1930. Missing records and illegible headstones prevent definitive confirmation of others; however, there are many former slaves buried at this solemn site. Burials ended at the cemetery in 1951. The cemetery is referenced or referred to by residents in colloquial terms as "The Cemetery on the Hill" or "The Old Cemetery." Early in the 21st century the cemetery upkeep and maintenance transferred to the city of Haines City. At this point, the cemetery officially renamed "Oak-Hill Cemetery."

Also note the **State Historical Marker Council** provide assistance, advice, and recommendations to the Division of Historical Resources by evaluating proposals for official Florida Historical Markers.

In words, this is the body that review and approve test

*****FUNDING FOR "HISTORIC OAK-HILL CEMETERY" MARKER:**

Please understand historical markers cost for calendar year 2023 has increased to **\$2,420** (i.e., from \$2,100 to \$2,420); an increase of nine (9) percent. Again, the alumni **request** the city cover 50% of the cost i.e., **\$1,210**.

Q: How much does a Florida Historical Marker cost?

A: The cost of Florida Historical Markers is determined by the amount of text. For a single-sided marker with the same text on both sides of the marker, the cost is **\$2,420**.

*****LOCATION OF HISTORIC MARKER**

Please understand we always clear the erection site of the markers. Note in recent years we consulted with Mr. Terrel Griffin on site approval.

And also understand the alumni are pleased with how the city maintain "OAK-HILL CEMETERY." And of course, If there are any questions or concerns, please, do not hesitate to contact me...

DOLPH

-----Original Message-----

From: Margie Wells <Margie.Wells@hainescity.com>
To: 'Dolph's Domain' <oaklandxx@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Apr 21, 2023 10:54 am
Subject: FW: HISTORIC OAK-HILL CEMETERY

From: Margie Wells
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:53 PM
To: 'Dolph's Domain' <oaklandxx@aol.com>; Auburn Taylor <Auburn.Taylor@hainescity.com>; Terrell Griffin <Terrell.Griffin@hainescity.com>
Cc: James Elensky <James.Elensky@hainescity.com>; Loyd Stewart <loyd.stewart@hainescity.com>
Subject: RE: HISTORIC OAK-HILL CEMETERY

Good afternoon Mr. Howard - City Manager Elensky is favorable to signing the authorization form, but has a couple of clarifying questions prior to doing so. He would like to know the funding source and verbiage for the historical marker and he also would like you or a member of your alumni to meet with City staff to discuss the location of the marker once it is produced to ensure it is placed in an acceptable and approved area.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the above request. Thank you sir!

Thank you!

Margie Wells
Senior Executive Assistant