

Cradock Civic League



Laura Somers, President

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Portsmouth City Council
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To the Honorable Mayor Holley and Madam Vice-Mayor Randall, and the Members of the Portsmouth City Council;

This year mark's the 90th Anniversary of the founding of Historic Cradock in 1918. Cradock was one of the nation's first government--built planned communities along with the neighboring Truxtun. Conceived as a model community, it incorporated many of the most advanced planning techniques of its day. The construction was funded through an act of Congress in 1918, which allowed the Federal Government to build housing projects related to the wartime efforts.

The Cradock Community is focusing on revitalization, preservation and capital improvement projects within Historic Cradock and Afton Square in preparation for it's 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2018. The Cradock Community is asking for assistance on much needed capital improvements projects and is asking that the items listed below be included within the City of Portsmouth's 2008-2009 CIP Budget:

1. Restoration of Afton Parkway's tree canopy along the mediums from George Washington Highway's entrance to Victory Boulevard's entrance and in Afton Square. Hurricane winds, Dominion Power and City of Portsmouth's pruning efforts have all but destroyed the once lovely shade tree canopies. Cradock residents desire that the above ground power lines be relocated below ground along Afton Parkway and within Afton Square in order to successfully maintain the restored tree canopy. Eventually all above ground power lines would be relocated below ground within greater Cradock.
2. The existing dated overhead streetlights and poles should be removed and replaced with historic lighting fixtures at pedestrian level below the tree canopies. The existing overhead streetlights provide minimal lighting at sidewalk level due to the existing tree canopy which blocks the light from reaching the side walks. By providing lighting below the tree canopy the sidewalks are illuminated and it provides for better visibility and security.
3. Install new curbing and or restore existing curbing along Afton Parkway and in Afton Square. Years of repaving have all but covered a majority of the street curbing along Afton Parkway and within Afton Square. By providing adequate curbing and street gutters, many of Cradock's flooding and drainage problems will be alleviated.
4. The existing mediums dividing Afton Parkway need to be rebuilt and built-up, curbed and landscaped similar to Afton Parkway's sister cross street ,Prospect Parkway in Cradock.
5. Restoration of Afton Square back to it's original purpose of community square/park by removing all existing parking locate within the middle of the square.
6. Extend all existing sidewalks along AftonParkway to be continuous sidewalks from George Washington Highway to Victory Boulevard.

The Cradock Civic League voted Tuesday, February 5, 2008 to support the items under it's "Cradock Beautification and Restoration Initiative". The Cradock Civic League and residents are asking that the City of Portsmouth support the Initiative by adopting and incorporating the above six (6) items into the 2008-2009 CIP. We are asking the City of Portsmouth to celebrate Cradock's 100th Anniversary with us in a beautifully restored Afton Square. The Cradock Civic League and residents support this effort and believe it will enhance and strengthen the progress already made by the City of Portsmouth, Cradock Civic League, Cradock Watch and many Cradock Residents in revitalizing the Cradock Neighborhood.

This effort will confirm the City of Portsmouth Council's commitment to the Cradock Neighborhood. It will plant seeds of trust and encourage everyone to invest their future and finances into Cradock. This initiative can change the face of Southeastern Portsmouth.

The Cradock Civic League submits this letter of support to the Portsmouth City Council and asks the City Council to publicly and financially support this by voting yes. Please help Cradock to restore its historic streetscapes and build a strong community by investing in the Cradock Beautification and Restoration Initiative. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Laura Somers, President

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*2008 Celebrates Cradock's
90th!*

*2018 Celebrates Cradock's
100th!*