

Confederate memorial rock may get new home soon

By MARK NOBLIN
of The Tribune's staff

The city's Confederate Rock remains homeless on a trailer at the old airport park, but a move is under way to give it a new resting place on the Boone County Courthouse lawn.

City Manager Terry Novak recently ordered the rock moved from its original site on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus at the intersection of Conley Avenue and Ninth Street after complaints from black students that the rock was a racist symbol.

Since then, the city has cleaned the rock, but it remains on a low boy trailer at the airport park.

Meanwhile, other interested persons are looking for a suitable site for the rock, donated to the city by the Daughters of the

American Confederacy.

A Steering Committee recently reviewed the idea of placing the rock in Nifong Park, but decided to give the matter further study after member Jack Matthews said he feels the rock should rest on county property.

Matthews, also a member of the Boone County Historical Society, noted that the plaque on the rock says it is "To honor the valor and patriotism of the Confederate soldiers of Boone County" — not just Columbia Confederates.

Presiding County Court Judge James Butcher said today Novak talked with him about the possibilities of placing the rock on the courthouse lawn. But Butcher said no formal requests have been made.

If a request is made, Butcher said the decision on the rock would be made in an open county court session.

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