

Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary
Meeting #11 on November 12, 2013
John Chavis Community Center

Materials from the meeting are available for download here:
<http://chavisconversation.skeo.com/public-leadership-group/>. A project binder with hardcopies of all documents is located at the John Chavis Community Center; please check with the front desk.

Major Outcomes & Decisions

1. The Public Leadership Group unanimously approved the Draft Integrated Scenario by consensus vote, accepting it as the Concept Plan to be used in/for the revised Master Plan.

Overview

The goals of Meeting #11 were to vote on a revised concept plan, review the Draft Master Plan and prepare for the Public Forum.

Vernice Miller-Travis began the meeting by recapping Meeting #10. The group then spent a few minutes highlighting items of importance since Meeting #10. The group reviewed meeting summaries from Meeting #9 and Meeting #10. Meeting Summary #9 was approved. Meeting Summary #10 was approved with the following revisions:

- The last bullet under Public Leadership Group Process should read, *We were told that nothing would happen in the park until the Master Plan was adopted. Making any changes prior to adoption could create obstacles for the Master Plan.*
- Adding a definition for rip rap on page 4 under Creek. *Rip rap is rock or other material used to armor shorelines, streambeds, bridge abutments, pilings and other shoreline structures against scour, water erosion.*

Emily Ander let the group know that the oral histories for the Study List Application are underway. Gretchel Carter-Hinton and Lonnette Williams are two of ten community members being interviewed. Emily reminded the PLG about the Process Evaluation being conducted by the Natural Resources Leadership Institute and provided contact information for Mary Lou Addor and Christy Perrin. Interviews are currently being scheduled and conducted. The Public Leadership Group was made aware of the Downtown Living Advocates upcoming Mixer at Jimmy V's on November 20 from 5:30-7:30PM and encouraged to attend to share their Chavis work with this group. Dick Bailey provided an update on the Little Rock Creek conservation easement.

After an introduction by Alisa Hefner, the group reviewed, discussed and came to consensus on a Concept Plan for the revised Master Plan. Vernice introduced the Draft Master Plan report and Alisa provided an overview of the report and a framework for reviewing it with the group, which was agreed to. The group walked through the document and shared their feedback and concerns. The meeting ran long so there was not time for a fuller discussion and preparation for the Public Forum. A sign-up sheet was circulated for PLG members to choose their top two choices for Public Forum station roles. Conference calls will be scheduled to fully discuss roles with each station team prior to the Public Forum.



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Public Leadership Group Check-in

- Ms. Tally met with Councilor Russ Stephenson. She shared information about the Public Forum with him and let him know that the PLG would be looking to the Council to support the revised Master Plan and its implementation.
- John Chavis Memorial Park needs more activities like the 75th Anniversary celebration throughout the year.
 - These types of events provide the opportunity for fellowship and for students to learn more about John Chavis. One option for students could be shadowing Venessa Chavis Harrison, President of AT&T North Carolina and a member of the Chavis Family who grew up in the neighborhood around JCMP.
 - There was community buzz around the 75th Anniversary.
 - Potential for concert series and events include:
 - JW Ligon 50th Class Reunion to be held on the 4th of July. Richard Costello could help with programming.
 - Washington High Reunion on Labor Day
 - Chavis Heights annual reunion
 - Career fair for students
 - Partnering with local universities
 - The Master Plan could also be on view to the public during these events.
- Continue to outreach to the community through WSHA and WAUG radio stations. What about WUNC as well?
- We should also consider hosting a presentation at the Urban Design Center on this process and outcomes.

Creek Update

City staff met with Greensboro park staff and a staff member from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) to gather additional background information on the conservation easement. The City of Greensboro has conservation easements within 32 of their parks. They have strong management regimens that address pruning of mature vegetation, bridges over streams, and opening up the vegetation around bridges. Twice a year they contract with a management company to remove invasive species from the conservation easement area. The State would need to see a specific plan for a pedestrian bridge across Little Rock Creek in order to decide if a bridge is appropriate within the easement area.

In order to rescind the conservation easement approval would need to be granted by the Council of State. This is a group consisting of the ten popularly elected, State executive officials that meet a few times a year. If the Council of State approved rescinding the conservation easement within the park, the City would need to repay the State for its investment in the stream restoration, approximately \$1,000,000.00 calculated at \$600 per linear foot. The conservation easement on Little Rock Creek is approximately 1800 feet in length.

Question: Can maintenance begin before the Master Plan is approved?

Response: A test area can happen at any time. The City would need to have this area reviewed by NCDENR for approval.

Question: Did you talk about the rip rap suggestion?

Response: That level of detail was not discussed at this meeting. NCDENR will need to see specific plans so they have something to respond to.



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Question: Can we prioritize the Lenoir Street entrance for the test?

Response: There is an area south of Lenoir Street that is not under conservation easement that could be managed at any time to improve visibility.

Question: Where would the money/appropriations come from to repay the State?

Response: The PLG should not let money limit this as an option. The PLG should establish a priority list for improvements and determine where rescinding the conservation easement falls. It doesn't hurt to continue to ask to rescind the easement while we prioritize our needs.

Parking Lot Issues

The parking lot is a flip chart used to document ideas and issues that are not relevant to the current discussion but are relevant to the project. Listing these ideas in the parking lot ensures that we don't forget them and revisit them at a later, assigned time.

- P51 Mustang- Red Tail Plane commemorates WWII influence and contributions by Tuskegee Airmen.
 - Is there consensus about the PLG recommending a specific plane?
- Picnic tables in play area
- Picnic shelters under Basic Amenities
 - Original shelters should be maintained for historic preservation?
 - Add larger picnic shelter in Park Core
 - Consider relocating shelters 3 & 4 so that additional parking isn't needed

The PLG decided to discuss these items during Meeting #12 on January 14.

Review of Revised Concept Plan

- Does the Conceptual Plan reflect ALL circulation routes? No, it only shows the main routes.
- Incorporate picnic shelter in park core within the play areas.
- The Public Leadership Group approved the Draft Integrated Scenario by unanimous consensus vote, accepting it as the Concept Plan to be used in the revised Master Plan.
 - 13 of 13 voted a 3 or above to approve the Draft Integrated Scenario
 - 12 voted a 1
 - 1 voted a 2
 - 0 of 13 voted a 3 or below for the Draft Integrated Scenario

Review of Draft Master Plan

The PLG spent the majority of the meeting reviewing the draft Master Plan beginning with general feedback on the overall content, aesthetics and layout followed by a specific review of each section and theme. The following summary captures the PLG's comments shared during the meeting. These comments and those received through November 22 will be summarized into a table with responses from the Project Team and distributed to the PLG for review and discussion at Meeting #12 in January. Comments received from the Public Forum and general public feedback on the Master Plan will also be reviewed at Meeting #12.



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General Comments

- It was lots of reading but good work.
- I can't believe we did all of this.
- It captures what the group wants to see in the park.
- The plan is the culmination of what the PLG has been working towards. All the pieces are finally coming together. Our work is no longer fragmented.
- User friendly. Great readability.

Executive Summary/Plan Process/Park Overview

- Page 3. 'Wow Factors' should be inside the community center in addition to the architecture of the structure being a 'Wow Factor'. Wow inside and out!
- Page 6. Bennie Mack is not listed as a PLG Member.
- Page 6. Kermit Bailey is representing SPERNA, not NCSU
- Page 7. South Park (not SPERNA) Heritage Walk
- Page 7. December **2013** not December 2012
- There is no mention of a sculpture of John Chavis but it needs to be included. However, no one knows what he looked like. Perhaps something should be used to represent him rather than using a likeness. Consider how to incorporate the original State Highway Marker. Dr. Helen Chavis Othow, Melvin McCray, Ben Chavis, the Presbytery of Virginia, and Washington and Lee are good resources for learning more about John Chavis.

Clarifications and Additions by Theme

Honoring the Past

- Page 23. Clarify 'Plays' instead of 'play' in the Amphitheater section.
- More conversation needs to happen around the reuse of the original carousel house building with a prioritization of the ideas
- Need to highlight the historical importance of music in the park and to the community
 - Jukebox + dancing in front of original carousel building
 - 75th Anniversary – Soul Train Line happened across the Worth Street bridge and dancing to DJ music occurred in front of the original carousel building
 - Teenage Frolics
 - Need to highlight the park's musical history and culture + special events but don't limit these to the area around the old carousel building
- Potential for surround sound – pipe music throughout the park. Provides another form of connectivity.
- Permanent outdoor space dedicated to music
- Page 24. Credit SPERNA for train and slide photos (James Autry)
- Page 24 #9. P-51 Mustang, specify what the plane represents, the actual plane the Tuskegee Airmen flew in WWII

Aquatic/Community Center

- Page 28. It is for all ages. Remove 'youth'
- Rentable spaces should be designed to pass the 'wedding reception test'. The interior should not feel institutional.
- Incorporate fitness and wellness activities including group fitness classes.

Sports and Fitness

- Page 29. Take out 'consider' in regards to night lighting at tennis courts. We definitely want lights!



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- Rethink Disc Golf south of MLK. It causes damage to trees, potential user conflicts, not an appropriate activity for sites with lots of people, takes up considerable amount of space. Do not highlight it within the draft. Remove photos of Frisbee golf.
- Page 29. Add seating at tennis courts.
- Page 29. Track and Field should be artificial turf within the field and lighting should be updated. Majority of the PLG agreed based on straw poll. Consider adding to revised Master Plan.
- Page 30. Clarify what skate spots are and where they'd be located.

Play

- Consider picnic tables and shelters.
- Incorporate traditional play equipment including swings, slides and climbing equipment.
- Ensure accessibility for playground equipment.

Circulation and Creek Management

- Add that a function of the wheeled train can be used to shuttle people into the park during events. The shuttle would be around, not through, events. The wheeled train needs to be accessible transport.
- Include more information on the Little Rock Creek conservation easement and Neuse River Stream Buffer Rules.

Basic Amenities

- Provide permanent grills at picnic shelters
- Potential for rentable fire extinguishers from John Chavis Community Center
- Picnic shelters should have access to restrooms
- Expand parking throughout the park
- Add lighting in picnic shelters and around track
- Provide access to restrooms from the carousel.
- Separate water fountains for dogs and humans. There are mixed feelings about whether or not to include a hose bib/spigot at the bottom of drinking water fountains for pet use.

Event Facilities

- The Community Center IS an event facility.
- Include WiFi accessibility in event spaces
- Larger shelter facility to accommodate 100+ people or more, not just small gatherings. This could occur in the Central Plaza.
- Add language that includes shelters in park core. 'Consider/investigate' combining shelters 3 & 4 and relocate to center of park.
- Dedicated area for a permanent stage
- Concession Stand should have dedicated space and be open all the time. It should be included under Basic Amenities. It is not specifically addressed.
- Consider solar fans in picnic shelters.

Operations

- Consider a JCMP app to market the park. Use 21st Century Technology throughout the park. This includes solar fans, WiFi, etc.



Chavis Park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Public Forum Preparation

A quick overview of and a draft format for the Public Forum was provided to the PLG. A sign-up sheet circulated the room for members to select their top two choices for stations roles at the Forum. Follow up calls will be scheduled with each team to discuss logistics and roles and to answer any questions.

Ideas for Spreading the Word

- Yard signs for PLG members
- Hotlink for the Master Plan
- Hardcopies in libraries
- Churches
- Community Services CAC mailing lists
- 103.9 The Light (local radio station)

Meeting Evaluation Feedback

- The meeting was successful; we were able to express our thoughts and ideas. Each thought was well listened to.
- There was great feedback from all.
- One of the best meetings so far. Kudos on the lovely plan ☺
- It was a good meeting that covered a lot of ground/information.
- I liked the great detail of the information discussed at the meeting and the opportunity to review prior to the meeting.
- Keep the above on the front burner!! (solar fan and job training opportunities for young adults)
- There has been previous discussion of having a P51 Mustang plane replica in the park as a memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen and African American service members' contributions during WWII.
- The PLG feels that the Draft Master Plan report accurately reflects the group's work and decisions.
- The group thinks that the Draft Master Plan addresses the issues brought forward by the community to date.
- The group appreciated the PLG Check-In at the beginning of the meeting.
- The group feels comfortable with the Public Forum format, their roles and the information they're sharing with the community.

Attendance

PLG Members Present: Jacqueline Howell, Lorenzo Jackson, Vivian Lee, F. Lonnette Williams, Joseph Ellerbee, Richard Bostic, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Rhonda Muhammad, Cecilia Zuvic, Margo White, Eyvonne Dailey, Angela Jackson-Mann, Virginia Stanley Tally,

PLG Members Absent: Rob Wylie (due to birth of his son), Jonathun Muldrow, James E. Williams

Withdrawn PLG Members: Bishop Victor Glover, Geraldine Williams, Jaquan Bennett, Bennie A. Mack, Jr., Hallie Mittleman, Seddrick Hill

Staff & Guests: Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, David Shouse, Denise Saunders, Ivan Dickey, Dick Bailey, Emily Ander, Jo Howell, Morgan Jackson-Mann, Matthew Keough