

## Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary Meeting #3 on February 12, 2013

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

### Overview

At Meeting #3 we continued our concurrent conversation of *Understanding the Present and Honoring the Past*. This was accomplished through a presentation on the components of a Master Plan with examples from three City of Raleigh parks and a presentation on the work of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the necessary components for successful historic preservation work.

About half of the meeting was spent walking through an updated project schedule and discussing how the Chavis Conversation Process is going. Time was also spent going through the project website, <http://chavisconversation.skeo.com>, so the entire group would know what resources it contains.

Meeting Summary #1 was unanimously approved with revisions.  
Meeting Summary #2 was unanimously approved.

### Group Discussion Summary

- Community Outreach
  - How are PLG members reaching out to other community members about this project?
    - Ms. Williams gives monthly reports at the Central CAC meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at Top Greene Community Center.
  - We don't want to get to the end of the process and have the public say that they never heard about the project. It is the PLG's role to inform friends, family, neighbors, CACs, community groups, congregations, etc.
  - A handout summarizing the project has been developed and could be updated and posted to the website for the PLG to distribute.
- John Chavis Memorial Park
  - Chavis Park was dedicated on March 19, 1938 as the John Chavis Memorial Park. This information was first shared by Alisa Hefner during her Chavis Timeline presentation at PLG Meeting #1 (see slide 3). Staff distributed the Commissioner's Meeting Minutes that dedicate the park as the John Chavis Memorial Park.
  - The PLG can consider whether it would like to rededicate the park as John Chavis Memorial Park or continue with the name Chavis Park.
  - The Lenoir Street entrance to the park needs a new 'tract id' sign (Chavis Park entrance sign). The new sign could read "John Chavis Memorial Park".
  - A programmed event should occur if Chavis Park is rededicated as the John Chavis Memorial Park.
  - Will the community recognize Chavis Park if it is called the John Chavis Memorial Park?
  - History of Chavis Park is larger than John Chavis.



# Chavis Park

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- Celebrating John Chavis
  - Educational information must be a part of what is shared with the community.
    - This could be done through the staff at Chavis Community Center.
    - Provide copies of the John Chavis brochure at the front desk.
  - The Community Legacy Awards will be held on Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.
    - James Williams has been working with a group of young people on a play about John Chavis.
  - Need a memento in the park to memorialize/remember John Chavis.
  - Previously there was a book signing by Dr. Helen Chavis Orthow, granddaughter of John Chavis, at the Raleigh City Museum.
- Park Maintenance
  - Maintaining the park so it is clean and green all year around with seasonal plantings.
  - The community should be involved with planting and maintenance.
  - This work is something that could happen immediately.
  - Consider sharing the Parks Division's current maintenance schedule with the group
  - There need to be volunteer opportunities for service work at Chavis.
    - Past service groups have not wanted to go to Chavis because of a negative perception that it is unclean and smells bad and there are no outdoor restrooms.
- Thoughts on the Chavis Vision Statement
  - Incorporate the vision statement from the SPERNA Heritage Walk Plan into Meeting #4's discussion on visioning
  - Create space for new residents
  - Ownership and stewardship
  - The value of a beautiful, well-maintained park should be included.
  - Chavis Park is part of the downtown Raleigh community and adds value to the downtown.
  - The former carousel building could be converted into a museum or photo historical archive.
- PLG discussed pace and structure of project:
  - Improvements can be made to PLG meeting structure:
    - Meetings should end at 8:30 to ensure all PLG members can participate however longer meetings are needed.
    - Adhere to agenda at future meetings out of respect of PLG members' time.
    - PLG decided that future meetings should begin at 6pm and end at 8:30pm.
  - Overall, a majority of the PLG felt the pace of the process is fine while a few members felt that it was rushed and others felt it too slow.
  - Overall the PLG felt comfortable with the structure for meetings #4 and #5, but any public event should not occur on May 4 or 11.
  - Several PLG members suggested the need to collaborate outside of monthly PLG meetings:



# Chavis Park

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- Consider using second most popular date from Doodle poll conducted in October as a potential meeting time for informal PLG meetings.
- City staff shared that the PLG is a publically appointed body and must adhere to public meeting standards if a quorum of PLG members attends. (Meetings would need to be advertised, posted to the City's calendar at least 48 hours in advance. Meetings would be open to the community.)
- City staff is committed to the idea of supporting small working groups.

### Additional Information Requests

#### Questions from Meeting #3

**Question:** How can we begin using the full name of the park?

**Response:** The first step is to use the Five-Point Consensus Vote process to determine if the PLG wants to recommend use of the full name of the park, John Chavis Memorial Park, or to continue to use Chavis Park.

**Question:** Can we add a Park Tour to the project schedule? Will tour include Chavis?

**Response:** Yes, we plan to do a walking tour of Chavis Park prior to the March meeting and a driving tour of multiple City of Raleigh parks prior to the April meeting.

The focus of the walking tour is to allow PLG members to understand the topography and environmental features of the site; to provide a visual understanding of what amenities are currently in the park, their condition, and their spatial relationship to one another; to understand how the park connects to the surrounding neighborhood; to see how the community uses the park; etc.

The purpose of the driving tour is to see other examples of amenities similar to those currently at Chavis Park as well as amenities in other parks that the PLG and the greater community would like to see added at Chavis Park.

- Well-maintained riparian corridor
- New pool and bathhouse
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Stand-alone restroom building
- Multipurpose field
- Little league field
- Skate park
- Wayfinding signage
- Signage updated to meet the Department's 2006 signage standards
- Playground equipment
- Museum/historical or photo archive

**Question:** Is there a one-page document that summarizes the Chavis Conversation project that could be shared with community members?

**Response:** Yes, the *flyer* created for the Groundbreaking Event for the new Chavis Carousel House and updated for the Kickoff Public Forum. Staff will update the *flyer*, post it on the website, and share it via email with the PLG. PLG members can request hard copies of the *flyer* from staff.

**Question:** Does the State Archive have school minutes that could help determine the location of the school where John Chavis taught?



# Chavis Park

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

**Response:** We have not yet researched this question. Let Emily know if you would be willing to do the research.

### Questions from Meeting #2

**Question:** Where in the process are Chavis funds?

**Response:** Funds have been proposed to City Administration to be included in the FY 2013-2014 Capital Improvement Program. The amount that might be included in the City Manager's proposed budget (to be presented in May) would enable some design to begin on a phased approach to implementing a Revised Master Plan.

**Question:** Have funds already been set aside for upgrading the Chavis pool as described in the 2008 Aquatic Study?

**Response:** No funds have been appropriated or proposed at this time, but the proposed renovation described in 2008, which was general in scope, was estimated to cost \$3.2M. The scope of work for Chavis pool and the Park in general will be refined through the Revised Master Plan. More accurate project scope and costs, as well as phasing within the Park and the City's overall Aquatic Program can occur with the Master Plan effort.

**Question:** Why was Chavis' Allan Herschell Carousel dedicated as a Local Landmark but not the building?

**Response:** The landmark designation report for the Chavis Park Carousel was drafted by a consultant in 2001; at that time, the architectural historian considered the carousel house a historic element in the carousel's designation. The landmark designation process was delayed due to limited resources and the report was revised by another consultant in 2008. It is our understanding that in 2008 the City determined not to designate the carousel house because of the 1994 Council-adopted Master Plan, and confirmation by the 2004 Carousel Task Force report to move the carousel to a new climate controlled structure located in the Park Core.

**Question:** How does Chavis Park fit within the Department of City Planning's Downtown Vision Plan?

**Response:** At this time the Downtown Vision Plan is only a well formulated idea; therefore, how Chavis Park fits within the plan has not yet been defined. According to David Diaz, President & CEO of DRA, *"We have not even started to write a scope of work for [the Downtown Vision Plan]. In general, this plan is meant to attract more investment to downtown. We look forward to working with our partners in SE Raleigh to give us ideas. We will reach out to the community at the appropriate time"*

Downtown Raleigh Alliance is working closely with the City of Raleigh to develop a 10-year strategic **vision plan** for downtown. The planning process will provide an opportunity for DRA stakeholders and the community to actively participate in defining a vision, identifying catalytic projects, and pinpointing action steps. DRA will play many roles in the process—partner, implementer, advocate, and catalyst. Thus far, DRA has raised **\$250,000** to contribute to the planning process.

The Downtown Vision Plan developed out of the 2003 Livable Streets Plan – 5 in 5 years.

Learn more here: <http://www.raleighnc.gov/business/content/PlanUrbanDesign/Articles/LiveableStreetsPlan.html>



# Chavis Park

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

**Question:** Do Shaw University and St. Augustine's College have documentation about Chavis Park?

**Response:** St. Augustine's College does. Angela Jackson-Mann met with Frederick Sills, Jr. on Monday, February 11 and he shared with her some of the history he knows and introduced her to the college's archives. (Office of the Dean - Prezell R. Robinson Library on Saint Augustine's University - 1315 Oakwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27610, Phone: 919-516-4148, Fax: 919-516-4757, Email: [fsill@st-aug.edu](mailto:fsill@st-aug.edu)). Seddrick Hill is working with Dr. George Debnam, a member of the Shaw University Board of Trustees, to research this topic and will share their findings with the PLG.

### Next Steps

- Post an updated project handout to the website
- Post 1938 meeting minutes with original name of park to website (completed) and provide a copy to PLG members not in attendance.

### Announcements

- If you were unable to attend the February 7 Budget Kickoff Meeting in Council Chambers, consider contributing your thoughts online: <http://www.raleighnc.gov/home/news/content/CorNews/Articles/RaleighBudgetPriorities.html>.
- A dedication ceremony and grand opening for the Chavis Park Carousel House will be held on Saturday, April 20 beginning at 2 p.m. The carousel amusement ride will be installed the weeks of February 18 and 25.
- If you want a hard copy of the National Trust article, 'Preserving African American Historic Places' please email or call Emily (919) 996-4796.
- The Walking Tour of Chavis Park will take place on Saturday, March 9 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 12 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please meet in front of the Chavis Community Center.
- The PLG Charrette will be held on Tuesday, April 9 from 5:00 p.m. and will run until 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. The work that comes out of the charrette will be shared with the public the afternoon of Saturday, April 20 in conjunction with the dedication ceremony for the new Chavis Carousel House.
- The Driving Tour of City of Raleigh parks will occur on either Saturday, March 16 or Saturday, March 23.

### Meeting Evaluation Feedback

- In order to be respectful of everyone's time, the group needs work on better time management at each meeting.
- The PLG is an inclusive group working toward a common goal. The language used at PLG Meetings should reflect this. For example do not use 'us' vs. 'them'.
- The Working Groups are a good idea but each group needs to set a clear vision, goals and objectives and report back to the larger group after each session. The entire PLG needs to be on the same page throughout the process.
- About half of respondents feel that implementing some form of the working groups after the charrette is comfortable while the other half is neutral.



# Chavis Park

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- During the next PLG meeting the group should come up with goals and objectives for the project and discuss next steps in moving forward with wants and needs for change within the park.
- The facilitators need to work on balancing speaking time by individual PLG members.
- PLG Members should refrain from discussing items that are not related to the Master Plan.
- Is the group on the right road to meet its goals and objectives?
- Some members had trouble hearing the speakers and fellow PLG members.
- Some members would prefer additional time on the agenda for questions and discussion.
- The snacks at Meeting #3 were the most satisfactory to date.

### Attendance

**PLG Members Present:** Richard Bostic, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Eyvonne Dailey, Joseph Ellerbee, Jacqueline Howell, Lorenzo Jackson, Vivian Lee, Hallie Mittleman, Rhonda Muhammad, Virginia Stanley Tally, Geraldine Williams, James E. Williams, F. Lonnette Williams, Rob Wylie, Cecilia Zuvic, Jonathun Muldrow, Margo White, Seddrick Hill, Angela Jackson-Mann, Bennie A. Mack, Jr.

**PLG Members Absent:** Bishop Victor Glover, Jaquan Bennett, Cecilia Zuvic, Geraldine Williams

**Staff & Guests:** Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, Irvin Henderson, Christy Perrin, Denise Saunders, Al Byrd, Martha Hobbs Lauer, Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, David Shouse, Emily Ander, Diane Sauer, Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, Morgan Jackson-Mann