

Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary Meeting #7 on July 9, 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.

Major Outcomes & Decisions

1. Consensus was reached on the Vision Statement. The PLG decided to remove "sustainable" from the second paragraph, second sentence and affirmed that the concept of environmental and economic sustainability will be incorporated as an operating principle in the body of the master plan document.
2. A Straw Poll of the PLG resulted in the following:
 - a. Aquatic Center
 1. Should the future pool be leisure, competition, or a combination (12 of 13 votes for combination)?
 2. Should the future pool be indoor, outdoor or a combination (12 of 13 votes for combination)?
 3. Should the future pool be one of several park features (13 of 13 votes for one of several park features) or the primary park feature?
 4. Which size of aquatic facility is most appropriate for Chavis Park? Community Center model (11 of 13 votes for Community Center model)
 - b. Community Center
 1. The existing Community Center should be replaced with a new building (12 of 13 votes support replacement).
 2. The existing Community Center should be enlarged (13 of 13 votes in support of enlargement).
 3. The existing Community Center should be relocated within the park (9 of 12 votes in support of relocation noting that maintaining the views of downtown are an important consideration).
3. The following PLG Members volunteered to serve on the John Chavis Memorial Park 75th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee:
 - a. Angela Jackson-Mann
 - b. Jonathun Muldrow
 - c. Lonneta Williams
 - d. Vivian Lee
 - e. Rhonda Muhammad
 - f. Virginia Stanley Tally

Overview

The goals of Meeting #7 were to discuss ideas and options for major park features, aquatics and community center, and review the draft Vision Statement.

Vernice began the meeting with a summary of Meeting #6. State Representative Rosa Gil, who represents the South Park area, was present and made a few remarks in support of the work of the Public Leadership Group. She was followed by brief introductory remarks made by Michelle Lanier, Director of the NC African American Heritage Commission and Mary Ruffin Hanbury who is a consultant working on the RHDC Study List Application for John Chavis Memorial Park. Emily shared that Geraldine Williams and Jaquan Bennett have voluntarily withdrawn from the PLG. David provided an update on the 75th Anniversary Celebration and requested 2-3 PLG volunteers to participate with staff to plan the event.

Terri Stroupe, Aquatics Director, gave a comprehensive presentation on aquatic facilities in Raleigh. Afterwards the PLG divided into two breakout groups to discuss aquatic facility options and tour and discuss the Community Center. The group came back together for a straw poll and further discussion on future considerations for aquatics and the community center at John Chavis Memorial Park.

Meeting Summary #6 was approved.

Narrative Vision Statement Discussion

The Project Team provided a recommendation on how to handle the term sustainable within the Vision Statement, in response to the PLG's concern at Meeting #6. The recommendation was to remove 'sustainable' from the narrative Vision Statement and discuss integrating the concept of environmental and economic sustainability as an operating principle throughout the body of the master plan document. The PLG was comfortable with the recommendation and unanimous consensus was reached on the Vision Statement.

Group Discussion Summary

- The PLG is interested in having an additional opportunity to discuss *Honoring the Past* with Kofi Boone, Michelle Lanier and Kim Curry-Evans.

Aquatics Discussion

- Can parking for a new aquatic facility be accommodated along the street? No, sufficient parking is required as part of city code and street parking does not factor into the calculation.
- Let's consider a parking deck.
- What about other undeveloped portions of the park, for example the land on either side of Chavis Way between Lenoir Street and the track? These are possible location for parking.
- Has a usability study been done? How much of the park is available for development? This information will be provided at Meeting #8.
- Can features that are currently built on-site be moved around? Yes.
- Where, within the Raleigh Parks and Recreation system, do competitions occur? Pullen and Optimist are set up for year round competition. Everywhere but John



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Chavis Memorial Park pool are set up for lap and/or fitness lanes that can support some type of competition.

- Does an indoor facility have to be temporary like Optimist? No.
- Does the bundled model include therapy pools? Therapy pools could be included in the bundled model. The features in each model are not predetermined.
- Does a water feature fit under aquatics or general park planning? It can fit under either depending on the intent, design and location of the water feature.
- Two locations were discussed in detail for a bundled community center: 1) the current community center location, which could include moving the ballfield to the track field to accommodate a larger building footprint and 2) the current pool / playground area with special consideration needed for the stone step amphitheater area and original carousel building. Another option included keeping the community center in its current location and replacing the current pool with an indoor pool facility. A parking deck would provide additional parking in less space, but public safety might be a concern.
- Additional ideas shared during the breakout group discussions include: park features should be distributed throughout the park rather than clustered all in one area, some parking near pool and community center is practical and convenient, a stone splash pad, natural play area and public art could be located near the stone steps and original carousel building to provide a picturesque backdrop for special events, a playground could replace existing tennis courts and the tennis courts could be relocated to the existing pool location.

Community Center Discussion

Current Features	<u>Working Well</u>	<u>Needs to be Improved</u>
Gymnasium		10
Dance Room	2	8
Club/Computer Room	3	6
Community Room	1	8
Large Meeting Room		9
Game Room	2	7
Warming Kitchen		9
Locker Room with Showers	1	8
Art Room	2	7
Fitness/Weight Room		9
Restrooms	1	8
Water Fountains	1	8

If the community center is expanded, please select the top three features that should be added:

Top Features

1. Full Service Kitchen 6
2. Multipurpose Rooms 5
3. Pool 4

Other Features

- Additional Gymnasium Space 3
- Additional Indoor Basketball Courts 2



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Large flexible meeting room	2
Indoor track	2
Indoor theater	2
Other: <u>Replace with bundle</u>	1
Rock Climbing Wall	0
Museum	0

- Front entrance needs to be improved to allow for security for camp check-in/check-out.
- The view from the Dance Room and the Fitness Room is the best in the building.
- Everything needs to be new and improved.
- The warming kitchen does not allow for cooking only warming up or keeping food warm.
- The community center is approximately 19,000 square feet.
- Fitness room is small.
- Membership has doubled since the Fitness Room was remodeled.
- Viewshed of the downtown skyline from the existing location is important to keep in mind when considering relocation of the community center.
- Consider a two-story community center.
- Consider placing the community center in the center of the park with a parking deck.

PLG Straw Poll

4. A Straw Poll of the PLG resulted in the following
 - a. Aquatic Center:
 - i. Should the future pool be leisure, competition, or a combination?
 1. Leisure/recreation = 0 of 13 votes
 2. Training/competition = 1 of 13 votes
 3. Combination of leisure and competition = 12 of 13 votes
 - ii. Should the future pool be indoor, outdoor or a combination?
 1. Indoor = 1 of 12 votes
 2. Outdoor = 0 of 12 votes
 3. Bundled Indoor/Outdoor = 12 of 13 votes
 - iii. Should the future pool be one of several park features or the primary park feature?
 1. One of several park features = 13 of 13 votes
 2. Primary park feature = 0 of 13 votes
 - iv. Which size of aquatic facility is most appropriate for Chavis Park?
 1. Neighborhood Family Pool = 0 of 13 votes
 2. Medium Family Pool = 0 of 13 votes
 3. Large Family Pool = 0 of 13 votes
 4. Community Center = 11 of 13 votes
 5. Training = 1 of 13 votes
 6. Competition = 1 of 13 votes (All indoor facility)
 - b. Community Center
 - i. Should the existing Community Center:



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1. Be renovated/enhanced? 1 of 13 votes
 2. Be replaced with a new building? 12 of 13 votes
- ii. Should the existing Community Center:
1. Be enlarged? 13 of 13 votes
 2. Remain the same as the existing center? (to balance with other park needs) 0 of 13 votes
- iii. Should the Community Center:
1. Stay in the same location? 4 of 13 votes
 2. Be relocated within the park? 9 of 13 votes being considerate of the downtown skyline viewshed

Additional Information Requests

Question: Can we organize another tour of parks and facilities? Suggested locations include The Dream Center and the Holly Springs Community Center.

Response: Yes. Emily will send out an email/letter request to find out who is interested and where PLG members are interested in going.

Question: How does Michelle Lanier's work impact something like the Chavis Conversation?

Response: The NC Department of Cultural Resources and the African American Heritage Commission provide technical assistance. We can help the PLG figure out how to tell the story and point you to monies that are available.

Meeting Evaluation Feedback

- I think we need to focus on what the kids want. Change is good!
- Thank goodness the Vision was approved.
- PLG Members liked visitors, Mary Ruffin Hanbury and Michelle Lanier, and appreciated their ideas and their willingness to share their knowledge and help the PLG.
- Presenters were thorough and concise and took the time to answer questions.
- The PLG continues to enjoy the small group work and interaction.
- I love the meetings; it's always interesting and a learning process.
- The PLG needs to focus on what land area can be developed and used in order to determine what should or should not be in John Chavis Memorial Park.
- PLG Members need to speak up when they make comments or ask questions so everyone can hear.

Attendance

PLG Members Present: Angela Jackson-Mann, Jacqueline Howell, Vivian Lee, F. Lonnette Williams, Jonathun Muldrow, Eyvonne Dailey, Seddrick Hill, Joseph Ellerbee, Virginia Stanley Tally, Richard Bostic, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, James E. Williams, Rhonda Muhammad, Cecilia Zuvic (via Skype)

PLG Members Absent: Margo White, Rob Wylie, Lorenzo Jackson, Hallie Mittleman, Bennie A. Mack, Jr.



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Withdrawn PLG Members: Bishop Victor Glover, Geraldine Williams, Jaquan Bennett

Staff & Guests: Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, David Shouse, Emily Ander, Tania Tulley, Terri Stroupe, Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Michelle Lanier, Nina Jackson-Mann, Diane Sauer, Dick Bailey, Mary Lou Addor, Ken Hisler, Ivan Dickey, Pheby Helen Jones, Weldon Jones, Minnie Adams, the Honorable Rosa Gil

APPENDIX

Public Comment from the Central CAC's July 1st Meeting

Chavis Park Public Leadership Group: Public Comments for Input in the Chavis Park Master Plan

Park Features and Amenities Suggestions

- I liked the idea of the train on the raised platform, which would allow passengers a view of the city skyline.
- Train. Red Tail Plane. Bathrooms, stair rails, better lights, no dogs in park, keep park grass cut and clean.
- Return WWII Airplane. Return Train. Bathrooms. Olympic size pool. Joint favorable track.
- Socialize with groups – to come together to discuss new ideas, change the environment
- I would like to see a large swimming pool. Nice bath room. Somewhere to buy snacks with somewhere to sit in the shade. We like a train and airplane.
- Train. Plane. Lighting. Water Fountain. Concessions.
- Water fountains. Rest rooms. P-51 Plane. Lighting. Concessions.
- More light in park and around the track. Chavis Park should be as nice as Pullen Park. We pay taxes too. We want our plane back. Chavis Park should be family friendly. Need public restrooms. Bring our train back. Need picnic area.
- Designate Chavis Park as a Special Park due to its long history. Include more recreation activities. Consider having activities for toddlers.
- Bring the train back to park because it was historical and it was enjoyment to many people, visitors, etc. If necessary, elevated rails. Plane can be reused to express the Tuskegee WWII airmen. Up date War Mother's bench. Revise old carousel to art display or perhaps a diner featuring memories from the past. Bathroom. Water Fountains.
- A visual/audio photo-video display (show on screen) with the info from archives, NCSU project, for all to watch, enjoy and learn. 10 minutes long. (It can be also on DVD, websites). The Annual Chavis Way Parade – a celebration for a vision (1937-2037); from Moore Square (Person Street) to East Street to Martin Street to Chavis Park. SPERNA interns program through Parks and Recreation to offer tour guide / park volunteer to neighborhood youth (17 and up). Spring-Summer-Fall (coordinate with NCSU program and COR). RTN Program – the park in the south (stories, events, interviews) about Chavis Park. A coloring book about people that have related to the park and its history. Extend R-Line to corner of Chavis Way. The Chavis Games -intergenerational

Plane Replica Research

On July 2, 2013 Emily Ander contacted Jaime Johnston with Arizona Model Aircrafters to learn more about the company, their products, and potential cost for design, fabrication, and installation of a replica P51 Tuskegee aircraft at John Chavis Memorial Park. Although the company started 19 years ago making model planes, 15 years ago a request was made for a museum piece. Today Arizona Model Aircrafters creates full-sized and scale replica airplanes.



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They have experience replicating P51s. The P51 can be designed from a photograph or after a specific pilot or can be a generic Tuskegee plane. Is there a Tuskegee pilot in the area the plane could be designed after? AMA provides a website for each plane they are building so the client can monitor the construction progress. Photographs are updated regularly.

Public Art:

- Plane would be constructed of aluminum and painted with airplane grade paint.
- The plane must be metal if it will be located outdoors.
- Designed as a monument to sit on a pedestal 12-13 feet above the ground
 - This involves a structural engineer and architect.
- The propeller can be fixed or move with the wind.
- Heaters are recommended to be included in the design if the area regularly receives annual snow or ice.
- One, full week is needed for installation.
 - AMA staff comes to site, assembles plane, and works with contractor to mount and install the plane.
 - Crane and cable are needed to lift plane into place.
- Maintenance
 - Repaint every 10 years.
 - Wash and clean the plane (as you would an automobile) 2-4 times a year.
- A replica plane is NOT recommended to be located on the ground as it will become a play structure. Replica's are NOT designed to be played on.
- Cost of design, fabrication, shipment, assembly and installation is approximately \$230,000 and takes approximately 6 months with 6-8 employees working 6 days a week. It would cost an additional \$30,000 to include landing gear and would take up to an additional 6 months to build.
- In comparison, locating and rehabilitating an original P51 would cost a minimum of \$2 million.

Play Structure

- A full-scale metal replica plane is NOT recommended as a play structure.
- Scaled models with 3-4 foot wing spans made of solid fiberglass and resin could be designed as play structures and located within the playground or within the park.

If you would like to see one of Arizona Model Aircrafts models, please visit the Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro. There is a half-sized model of the Wright Brothers plane.

Contact Information for Plane Replica Companies

- 1) Arizona Model Aircrafters, <http://www.arizonamodels.com/>, Jaime Johnston, 602 463 4182, 13814 N. 56th Place - Scottsdale, AZ 85254
- 2) Storyland Studios, Mark Harrington, 951-965-8480, markh@storylandstudios.com
- 3) Cameron Aircraft, www.cameronaircraft.com/, Coeur d'Alene, ID, 208-640-1620