

**Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary
Meeting #8 on August 13, 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. Several PLG members requested a creek tour with Mark Senior to better understand the stream conservation easement restrictions and vegetation management strategies.

Overview

The goals of Meeting #8 were to review potential location options for new development in the park, prioritize creek crossings and riparian management strategies, and prioritize youth 'wow' factor ideas.

Vernice began the meeting with a summary of Meeting #6. PLG members who participated in the park tours shared the most innovative or insightful thing they saw on the tour (park tour itinerary is provided in Appendix A). Lonnelle Williams asked if the City had received the Central CAC's request to share the Heritage Walk Concept Plan report with the Skeo team (see additional information requests). PLG members also provided an update on the 75th Anniversary Celebration tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, September 27 (adult event) and a family-focused event during the day on Saturday, September 28.

Meeting Summary #7 was approved but additional clarification is needed on the community center tallies on pages 4-5.

PLG members broke into three groups to discuss new development in the park, prioritize creek crossings and riparian management strategies, and prioritize youth 'wow' factor ideas. Key items are summarized below:

- Majority interest in seeing the entire park revitalized in the revised master plan
- Openness to rethink greenway alignment through park core
- Majority interest in a combination of vegetation management strategies
- Majority interest in additional pedestrian creek crossings. A majority felt that a pedestrian bridge crossing (aligned with the sewer line) could be artistic and interpretive. There was also concern among several PLG members that an informal stepping stone crossing might not be safe or easily accessible. Several PLG members suggested adding a third crossing type for a train.
- Majority indicated interest in a hybrid playground approach.
- Majority interest in all youth wow factors listed, some participants did not want to see motorized rides in the park.



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Options for New Development

- Majority expressed interest in seeing the entire park revitalized in the revised master plan, including the outlying parcels east of Chavis Way and the greenway area south of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- PLG members explored the idea of realigning or extending the greenway across the creek through the park core.
- PLG members also discussed expanding the practice field inside the track into a multipurpose/flexible field space that could accommodate a range of sports, event and performance space. There was also interest in relocating the baseball field to the track field and reusing the baseball field area for something new.

Creek Visibility and Access

- Creek crossings: in general the PLG is interested in additional creek crossings. Key principles related to creek crossings are usability, visibility, safety and aesthetics.
 - A pedestrian bridge should be artistic, functional and provide an opportunity to share the park's history.
 - Stepping stone crossing – some PLG members expressed concerns about the safety and accessibility of this type of crossing, while other PLG members were interested in provided an alternate, secondary trail to cross the creek.
 - Train crossing – several PLG members indicated interest in adding a creek crossing to accommodate a train
- Vegetation management strategies: in general the PLG is interested in a combination of all three management strategies. Several PLG members requested more information on the conservation easement restrictions, if brush removal is possible and whether additional strategies were available. Specific locations for each strategy were discussed based on the desired goal:
 - Manage understory strategy to improve safety
 - Add windows to creek and across creek to improve connectivity
 - Enhance vegetation to improve aesthetics

Youth Wow Factors

- Types of play: the PLG is interested in hybrid play, the following non-binding tallies reflect PLG interest in the types of play most appropriate for the park and any additional comments.
 - Hybrid play (12 votes)
 - Traditional play (2 votes)
 - Nature play (0 votes), Chavis Park is not a nature park, perhaps elements of nature play could be incorporated in the form of play pockets.
 - Adventure play (0 votes), maybe only for special events
 - Pathways for play (2 votes), a centralized playground in addition to pathways for play, hybrid play pockets, skate spots, could be potentially difficult for parents to supervise
- Wow factors: An obstacle course should be added to the list of wow factors (course could be intergenerational and adults could use for training for Warrior Dashes, Mud Runs, etc.). The following non-binding tallies reflect which wow factors do not belong in the park?
 - Low tree house (4 votes)



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- Linear skate spots
- Interactive water feature
- Climbing structure
- Interactive/climbable public art
- Observation overlook/deck by the creek (1 vote)
- Motorized ride (4 votes)

Additional comments: incorporate spray misters, play areas must be accessible, include features for older children, provide shade and incorporate more seating for adults, provide play opportunities near picnic shelters (could be an interactive sculpture), skate park should on the greenway side of the park, skate park should in centralized area of the park

- Play principles: PLG members agreed with the principles and did not offer any edits (note third group did not discuss in detail).

Group Discussion Summary

- Breakout group facilitators provided a brief report out on the small group discussions.
- PLG discussed the conservation easement restrictions and requested creek tour with Mark Senior.
- PLG discussed a skate park versus skate spots and the interest from skateboarders for skate spaces that are accessible to a wider range of skills than a traditional skateboard park with ramps.
- Kofi Boone participated in the group discussions and provided the following analogy: the work of the PLG to develop a revised master plan is analogous to the film, "Back to Future" in that if the park is returned to what it was in the 1930s, the park won't fit the needs of today or future generations. The next phase of the process will include decisions and trade-offs to create a park for the future.

Additional Information Requests

Question: Does the 50 foot riparian buffer on either side of the stream begin at the center point of the stream or at the edge of the stream's bank?

Response: The buffer is 50 foot at the top of the stream bank, which is why the width of the buffer varies in width through the park.

Question: Can we organize a creek tour with Mark Senior?

Response: Yes. David or Emily will be in touch to schedule the tour. Tour was conducted on Thursday, August 29 from 4-6pm. Richard Bostic, Rob Wylie, Vivian Lee, Joseph Ellerbee, Virginia Tally, Mark Senior, Melissa Salter, Ivan Dickey, David Shouse, Wayne Schindler, Lisa Potts and Emily Ander attended the tour.

Question: Did the City receive the Central CAC's request to share the Heritage Walk Concept Plan with the Skeo team?

Response: No. Emily will follow-up with the Central CAC.

Meeting Evaluation Feedback

- The ease of discussions and understanding topics.
- Communication and viewing of each other's point of view for example sharing of the Park Tour experiences.



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- I liked the incorporation of the South Park Heritage Walk recommendations. It honors the work of the community.
- Presentation of Wow Factors/ features for children while illuminating features that were not conducive for children.
- I liked the sharing of Park Tour experiences.
- Be deliberate in how the small groups are formed because some members outshine others and that stays throughout the discussions.
- What amenities will actually be included in the recreational features?
- People to commemorate at Chavis. Did we ever talk about a sculpture for John Chavis? We do not have one outside.

Attendance

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

PLG Members Absent: Jacqueline Howell, Hallie Mittleman, Bennie A. Mack, Jr., Lorenzo Jackson, Seddrick Hill, James E. Williams,

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

Staff & Guests: Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, David Shouse, Dick Bailey, Ivan Dickey, Al Byrd, Denise Saunders, Melissa Salter, Mark Senior, Kofi Boone, Emily Ander (via Skype)



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APPENDIX

Driving Park Tour #2

- 1) June 30, 12:30-5:30pm with Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Vivian Lee, Lonnette Williams, and Emily Ander. The following sites were visited:
 - a. A.E. Finley YMCA
 - i. Separate aquatic programming by pool type
 1. Indoor Pool = camps, track out, swim lessons, competition swimming, therapy
 2. Outdoor Pool = free swim, parties, lap swimming
 3. Children's locker rooms are separate from adult locker rooms
 - b. The Dream Center – Body of Christ Church
 - i. Space can be rented by outside groups. Rentals can use the kitchen to warm food but not to prepare food.
 - ii. Full commercial kitchen
 - iii. All meeting/event spaces have an elevated stage area.
 - iv. Bleachers in gymnasium can slide in or out from the wall
 - v. Gymnasium also functions as an auditorium
 - c. Buffalo Road Aquatic Center
 - i. Provides indoor youth play all year long
 - ii. Saturdays the facility is full after 10am.
 - d. Marsh Creek Skate Park
 - e. Pullen Park Amusement Center
- 2) August 8, 5:45-7:45pm with Jonathun Muldrow, Virginia Tally, Lorenzo Jackson and David Shouse. The following sites were visited:
 - a. Marsh Creek Skate Park and Community Center
 - b. Buffalo Road Aquatic Center
 - a. The Dream Center – Body of Christ Church
 - b. A.E. Finley YMCA

Driving Park Tour #2

	Recreation Facility	Address	Phone Number	Contact	Acreage	Year Built	Building Square Footage	Tax Value of Building(s)	Amenities
1	A.E. Finley YMCA	9216 Baileywick Road, 27615	919-848-9622	Jeff Little, Aquatics	26.91	1992, remodeled 2007	73,349	\$ 6,630,619.00	Indoor Pool, Outdoor Pool, Weight Room with indoor track, Aerobics/Dance Room, Personal Training Room
2	The Dream Center - Body of Christ Church	5616 Fox Road, 27616	919-872-1931	Chris Jones, Team Leader	5.14	2007	27,360	\$ 2,173,241.00	Community Center - gymnasium with indoor elevated track, projector and screen, pull out bleachers, commercial kitchen, snack bar, weight room, meeting room, theater room
3	Buffaloe Road Aquatic Center	5908 Buffaloe Road, 27616	919-996-5600	Aaron Weaver, Assistant Aquatics Director	165.21	2011	16,570	\$ 1,618,147.00	3 lap lanes, water vortex, waterslide, water basketball & volleyball, lazy river, zero depth entry
4	Marsh Creek Community Center	3050 N. New Hope Road, 27604	919-996-4920	Heather O'Brien, Director	58.73	2009	24,407	\$ 2,097,386.00	Community Center with gymnasium, classroom space
5	Pullen Park Amusement Center	520 Ashe Avenue, 27606	919-996-6468	Marvin Howell, Park Manager	75.6	2011	9,957	\$ 992,487.00	Concessions Building, Restroom Building, Carousel House, Train Depot, Welcome Center, Playground
6	Holly Springs Cultural Center	300 W. Ballentine Street, Holly Springs, 27540	919-567-4000	Ralph Chambers	4.85	2006	10,000	\$ 800,000.00	Cultural Center, Theater