

**Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary
Meeting #9 on September 10, 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. The PLG could not reach consensus on a location for the aquatic/community center and requested that the project team further explore the Creekside and Entrance options in order to bring two concepts back to the group at the October 8 meeting.
2. The PLG came to consensus on moving forward on the ideas of a wheeled train and honoring the miniature train through public art for further exploration by the project team.

Overview

The goals of Meeting #9 were to review preliminary scenarios, determine a bundled aquatic/community center location, and prioritize options for the train.

Vernice began the meeting with a summary of Meeting #8 and recognition that the group would need to approve meeting summaries #7 and #8. (Summary #7 was not approved at the last meeting due to a concern over the straw poll tally.)

Meeting Summary #7 was approved with the understanding that the straw poll vote was non-binding and that the summary will be updated to accurately reflect the straw poll tally in the two places it appears in the document.

Meeting Summary #8 was approved with the following corrections:

- Under *Overview* in the third sentence in paragraph two, remove the term *Concept* from *Heritage Walk Concept Plan* report and replace *Skeo team* with *PLG* so that the sentence reads: *Lounette Williams* asked if the City had received the Central CAC's request to share the *Heritage Walk Plan* report with the *PLG*.
- In the third question and response under *Additional Information Requests*, amend the question to read: *Did the City receive the Central CAC's request to share the elements of the Heritage Walk Plan related to John Chavis Memorial Park with the PLG?*

Announcements

- *Neighborhoods 10th Anniversary Celebration*
 - *Leigh Bragassa*, *Neighborhoods Coordinator*, made a brief presentation
 - Event will be held on *Saturday, October 12* from *8:30-Noon*
 - *Volunteers* will meet in *Chavis Park*
 - Projects include *tree planting* throughout the community surrounding the park, *planting annuals* within the park and *removal of invasive plants* along the *greenway*.



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- Homeowners will be contacted and asked if they would like to participate. Trees will be planted in front of homes where the owner has agreed to provide day-to-day maintenance of the trees. Neighborwoods staff will provide pruning and tree trimming maintenance throughout the life of the tree.
- Staff will be available to sign off on participating student's service learning forms.
- 75th Anniversary Celebration of John Chavis Memorial Park – Denise Saunders
 - Friday, September 27 – Reception and Jazz Concert
 - Saturday, September 28 – Shaw Marching Band, Chance to break the Soul Train Dance Line world record, inflatables, John Chavis Memorial Park scavenger hunt, food trucks, games and activities, information tables, carousel rides
- RHDC Study List Application Update – David Shouse
 - Video recording of the oral histories has been added to the contract.
- Process Evaluation Interviews – Emily Ander
 - The Natural Resources Leadership Institute, directed by Dr. Lou Addor, has been evaluating how well the Chavis Conversation planning process aligns with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Comprehensive Public Participation for Park Planning program, and will be reaching out to members of the PLG for your participation in a phone interview about how the process is going. The information gained from these interviews will help the Department improve its planning processes and how to better engage citizens within those processes.

Bundled Aquatic/Community Center Location Small Group Discussion

PLG members broke into two groups to discuss the pros and cons of and select a bundled aquatic/community center location.

- The majority of PLG members 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, events 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.

PLG Meeting # 9 – Aquatic/Community Center Discussion Notes

A. Original Option		B. Creekside Option		C. Entrance Option	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrated with all amenities ● Parking doesn't 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss of CC staff jobs and programs during 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current CC space can be used for another use with good view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss of pool during construction ● No skyline view ● Safety of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View of creek ● Visibility from road, you know there is a park here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View from MLK and Chavis Way could be of the back of



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<p>separate CC from rest of park</p>	<p>construction</p>	<p>of downtown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything is connected • View of creek • Environmental education due to proximity • Would draw people into the park • Center should be centrally located and this location is the actual center of park (when looking at the map) 	<p>pedestrian and cyclists crossing road connecting parking lots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two play areas, hard for parents to supervise. • Access to stone step/ amphitheater might be difficult • Second creek crossing “dead ends” at back of building and inhibits flow into park • Access (service vehicles) would be challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to MLK Memorial Gardens • Main focus • Flexibility • Allows for contiguous play • The Center is a “Wow” factor and would be highly visible from MLK Blvd. • Better integration of natural and play areas • Courts by track could support rec events. 	<p>a building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center surrounded by parking creates safety concerns for pedestrians • Further separates the Center from the park, especially the original carousel area. • Play is not highly visible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of CC during construction was seen as the major “con” for this option 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New option: centralize play areas in current CC location and consider other features around original carousel building (such as courts) • Proximity to creek and potential to improve creek management was seen as a major “pro” for this option 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contiguous play area and highly visible Center as a wow factor were seen as the majors “pros” for this option 	
<p>Center Location Straw Polls</p>					
Straw Poll Group A	1		1		5
Straw Poll Group B	0		2		4
Straw Poll Large Group	0		3		9
Consensus Vote			1 (3) *2 (0)		1 (8) 2 (1)



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		3 (0)	3 (0)
		4 (5)	4 (0)
		5 (4)	5 (3)
		(*one "4" moved to a 2 on second vote)	

Bundled Aquatic/Community Center Location Full Group Discussion

- Putting the building on the corner will not encourage people to come into the park. Instead the park's keystone feature should be located on the corner to draw people into the park. Consider making the building dynamic.
- Don't put the pool beside the street. Children should be in the center of the park. The through street between the two parking lots creates a safety issue.
- We have an opportunity to place major elements within the park but right now we are only discussing the Aquatic/Community Center. Keep in mind that the 'potential location map' is not drawn to scale and the building does not have to be right along the edge.
- The building design could be the greatest 'Wow' factor.
- This is a design principle, building design as 'Wow' factor, which can be incorporated into the revised Master Plan.
- Concept C allows for natural play to easily be integrated thanks to its relation to the creek. Imagine the views of downtown from the rooftop of the community center building. A waterslide/aquatic play features that can be seen from the road would draw people into the park. Placing courts in-between the Center and the track opens up space for the track to expand.
- If an Aquatic Center is built in this park people will come. Keep in mind that the building we are talking about has a 50-60 year lifespan.
- One thing to keep in mind with Concept A is that there would be no community center and the services it provides during construction, which could take 18-24 months.
- Visually being able to see the creek would allow environmental education with students and children.
- Think about the good of the City.
- The PLG needs to come across as united to the public.
- Don't shut down the community center during construction.
- Parking is based on use.
- Consider vehicular patterns to service the pool and event catering.
- With Option B play could be located on the corner where parking is shown on MLK.
- The Community Center **IS** the center of the park.

Train Discussion

- Take two train options forward for the Project Team to investigate.
- Wheeled train meets accessibility and Heritage Walk Concept Plan.
- Parents and children together.
- Train must have movement. This is a preferred design principle.



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- Could the wheeled train go on city streets? It could be used to transport people from parking to events. This question will need to be researched by staff.
- Based on a straw vote followed by a consensus vote the PLG decided to move forward the idea of a wheeled train, that could move park users throughout the park on paved surfaces without the need for a fixed track, as well as memorializing the miniature train through art.

Train Ideas Straw Poll	Total	Round 1	Round 2
A. Interactive, climbable train	4	4	0
B. Miniature train	3	0	3
C. Memorialize with art	5	1	4
D. Wheeled Train	12	7	5
Consensus Vote		C. 1 (4) 2 (5) 3 (1) 4 (0) 5 (0)	D. 1 (11) 2 (1) 3 (1) 4 (0) 5 (0)

Group Discussion Summary

- Needed more time for discussion of bundled community/aquatic center than the train.
- We will spend time at the October 8th meeting reflecting on the tour of the creek.
- Staff from the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department discussed the idea of themed play at John Chavis Memorial Park. Currently Raleigh does not have any playgrounds that are themed. Staff’s discussion centered around a train-themed playground as a potential way to honor the miniature train. Vernice suggested using the life and work of educator John Chavis as the theme for this park going forward.

Additional Information Requests

Question: In terms of consensus (building) process, at what point does the majority vote take precedence, in order to advance this overall process?

Response: At no point does majority vote take precedence in a consensus building process. That is one thing that makes it so challenging.



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Meeting Evaluation Feedback

- This meeting did not flow as well as past meetings.
- Small group discussions continue to be appreciated.
- The discussions and passion although we need to be objective.
- Personal views being greater than the mission we are all in.
- The 5's not agreeing to move to at least 3's during the bundled aquatic/community center location consensus vote.
- We went over the time of the agenda.
- I need a schematic option that shows me where everything should be located in the true form that it represents. It is difficult to make a good decision by looking at a map.
- We need to discuss how, visually, we will be honoring John Chavis.
- More discussion is needed regarding the train.

Attendance

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

PLG Members Absent: Eyvonne Dailey, Hallie Mittleman, Bennie A. Mack, Jr., Seddrick Hill, James E. Williams, Angela Jackson-Mann

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

Staff & Guests: Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, David Shouse, Denise Saunders, Diane Sauer, Jo Howell



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APPENDIX

Volunteers are invited To Plant Trees To Celebrate 10th Anniversary



NeighborWoods 10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 12
8:30 AM - Noon

At John Chavis Memorial Park
505 MLK Jr. Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27601

Help us plant 50+ trees in one of Raleigh's historic parks and neighborhoods. We will also remove invasives and plant at the park.

Please wear loose, comfortable clothes suitable for any weather and sneakers that you don't mind getting dirty.
The event will occur RAIN OR SHINE.
All supplies and tools will be provided.

Volunteer Registration Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

All volunteers must pre-register!

Email: cindy.trumbower@raleighnc.gov

Or Call 919-996-3292 for details.



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