



Chavis Park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary Meeting #2 on January 8, 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

The focus of Meeting #2 was *Understanding the Present*. This was accomplished through a series of presentations on the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department's park planning and development process, the park and greenway funding process, and types of and options for historic designation including cultural landscapes, local landmarks, and the National Register of Historic Places. At the end of the meeting we broke into Working Groups to begin discussing what the groups want to accomplish and what information they need to do so.

Group Discussion Summary

- Park classification and community experience
 - *Has Chavis Park lost acreage over time?* No, the acreage of Chavis Park has not changed. It has been about 30 acres over its 75 year history.
 - *Where is the land that the train was on? Did it go away?* The current pool is located where the train used to be. This piece of land has always been part of Chavis Park.
 - Chavis Park has remained the same size over time, new features have been added where former features were once located.
- City budget and park planning – how master plan fits into funding process
 - New city council will be elected in October. Their first council meeting will be December.
- Role of PLG as advocates for the park
- Historic designation opportunities and constraints. Presentation available here: <http://chavisconversation.skeo.com/plg>
- Cultural landscape opportunities and constraints and SPERNA Heritage Walk Concept Plan. Presentation and plan available here: <http://chavisconversation.skeo.com/plg>
- *What was the relationship between Ligon High School and Chavis Park?* Ligon High School and Chavis Park shared recreational resources. Ligon High School used the baseball and football fields at Chavis Park and Chavis Park used the tennis courts at Ligon. The 1971 Master Plan called for regulation football and baseball fields, tennis courts and multi-use courts to be provided at Ligon.

Worksheet Feedback

What are some key constraints in planning for the future?

- Budget
- City Council
- Youth involvement
- Team work
- Acreage, spaces not as able to be purposed because of topography
- Human capital, if only older generations, have buy in to the history.
- Budget, securing funding with little public awareness
- Truly knowing how much money will be allocated for the expansion growth.
- Budget and getting focused on what will make the park great and important.
- Raising awareness and getting people, especially downtowners, to understand how this park will benefit them even if they live elsewhere
- Access and connectivity to downtown (hard to find, hard to get to) + link to a relation corridor
- Politics – competition of funds especially related to Dix
- Coordination with Heritage through Marketing =>beyond that funding opportunities for educational opportunities related to cultural history...like a museum or community center focused on elements of growth(?)

What are some important opportunities?

- Gathering history NOW for the future
- Pool is nearing life expectancy. Could be updated or restored to original location and size.
- Park Redevelopment would lead to renewed interest in SE Raleigh for development and investment.
- Carousel house repurposed and documented for historical significance.
- Subgroups should meet when possible and true productive meetings to bring back to monthly meetings.
- Evaluate cost/benefit of Historic Designation
- Getting on City Planning's radar for Downtown Vision Plan, slated to begin soon
- Carousel to café or some merchant activity
- Event space – mention of amphitheater, so many downtown events and more each year and not enough good event spaces (factor this into the design)
- Economic Development – This can be leverage to get on City Council's radar
- Invite the NC State Historical Preservation Department to the next meeting
- Invite the NC Department of Cultural Resources to the next PLG meeting
 - We have a unique opportunity to design a project similar to the Roanoke Festival Park. <http://roanokeisland.com>.
 - <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/documentsites/Committees/HouseAppropriationsGenGov/Interim%20Meetings/2012/04-25-12%20mtg/RIC%20Gen%20Gov%20Presentation%20April%2025%202012%20-%20Final.pdf>



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Additional Information Requests

Question: Does the 2008 Aquatic Facility Study include considerations for Chavis Park (parking needs, pool condition)?

Response: Yes, the Aquatic Study does not get into schematic-level detail like adequate parking on individual sites. There are code-driven issues that will be explored when a specific project is proposed. The 2008 Aquatic Facility Study has been posted to the project website and is available for download here: <http://chavisconversation.skeo.com/reference>

Question: Where in the process are Chavis funds?

Question: When will we see plans realized?

Response: This depends on the priorities, and the phased implementation. Some small changes could be immediate (first year) but more realistically even immediate funding carries a 1-2 year implementation, which must be balanced against the entire City's resources (staff, consultants, permits to carry it out.

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

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

Question: Could Chavis Park be classified as a Nature Preserve?

Response: No, the park does not fit the adopted NP criteria, but there are managed "natural" landscape elements, especially the stream corridor that should be integral to the revised plan.

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

Questions not answered to date will be addressed at PLG Meeting #3.

Working Group Updates

Working Groups and potential topics were revisited. The PLG broke into Working Groups to meet subject matter experts and to discuss opportunities they want to explore further, to identify what additional information they need to explore those opportunities, and future meeting times and dates. PLG members are reminded that they may be part of more than one Working Group.

Working Group Breakout Session (Asterisk* indicates PLG member who is interested in this Working Group but did not sit in on the breakout session.) Completed worksheets by Working Group are attached after the attendance section of the summary (See page 5).

Riparian Corridor

Vivian Lee
Geraldine Williams
Rob Wylie

Public Art

Jonathun Muldrow
Gretchel Hinton-Carter*
Virginia Stanley Talley*

Programming

Cecilia Zuvic

Historic Preservation

Joseph Ellerbee



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Rhonda Muhammad*
Eyvonne Dailey
Lonnelle Williams*
Richard Bostic

Lonnelle Williams
Gretchel Hinton-Carter
Virginia Stanley Talley

Amenities

Lonnelle Williams*
Jacqueline Howell
Jaquan Bennett

Safety

Jaquan Bennett*

Communications & Marketing

Jacqueline Howell
Gretchel Hinton-Carter*

Economic Development

Hallie Mittleman*

Next Steps

- Schedule Working Group meetings for Historic Preservation, Programming, Riparian Corridor, Amenities, and Communications.
- Schedule Park Tour (**BRING YOUR CALENDARS PLEASE**)
- Provide an updated contact list to the group
- **Question:** Should PLG members who do not attend meetings still be considered part of the PLG? (**PLEASE REFER TO THE PLG CHARTER IN THE "RETREAT" SECTION OF YOUR NOTEBOOK.**)

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. Lonnelle Williams, Rob Wylie, Cecilia Zuvic, Jaquan Bennett

PLG Members Absent: Bishop Victor Glover, Jonathun Muldrow, Margo White, Seddrick Hill, Angela Jackson-Mann, Bennie Mack Jr.

Staff & Guests: Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, Mary Lou Addor, Denise Saunders, Al Byrd, Ivan Dickey, Martha Hobbs Lauer, Kofi Boone, Mark Senior, Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, Melissa Salter, David Shouse, Emily Ander, Dick Bailey, Diane Sauer, Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, Stephen Bentley, Kim Curry-Evans



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Working Group Breakout Session (worksheet feedback)

Riparian Corridor Working Group Worksheet (for staff or working group representative)

During the breakout session, please discuss the following questions and summarize responses below.

Working Group Focus Area: **Riparian Corridor**

Who will be the primary lead for the working group? **Rob Wylie**

Other members: **Vivian Lee and Geraldine Williams**

Subject Matter Experts: **Mark Senior and Melissa Salter**

When can the Working Group meet?

Day of Week: **Saturday (corridor tour) or Weekday evenings (meetings)**

Time of Day: **noonish (Sat), 7pm (weekday evenings)**

Meeting Location: **Chavis Community Center**

What additional information do you need?

- Riparian corridor tour with Mark and Melissa (perhaps before next PLG meeting)
- Background information on easement (history) and ownership (3 owners mentioned)
- What can or cannot be done within easement?
- Who is responsible for the management and beautification? Clearing of underbrush? Flower planting?
- Other park examples with similar easements and/or riparian buffers (examples could include large trees limbed up or flower plantings)
- Understanding of stream flow, source/head waters, watershed area that feeds creek. Map of watershed.
- Why has stream flow decreased over time (40-50 years ago, stream had deep pools used for swimming)?
- What are the sources of litter/pollution (dumping and over land)?
- Can portions of the easement be modified?

What opportunities would you like to explore?

- Identify priority areas within easement to explore different management opportunities (examples: beautify with flowers, prune back vegetation around shelters)
- Aesthetics - beautify corridor
- Park safety - improving sight lines through easement, prune back vegetation from shelters
- What we can do now in the corridor and what can we do long-term
- Improving stream flow and depth (storage areas)
- Access to creek
- Educational programs focused on the creek (sampling, environmental education)
- Activities in / around creek
- Awareness and stewardship (role/function of buffer, foster stewardship to keep creek clean)
- Minimizing pollution and litter



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Programming Working Group Worksheet (for staff or working group representative)
During the breakout session, please discuss the following questions and summarize responses below.

Working Group Focus Area: Programming

Who will be the primary lead for the working group? Cecilia Zuvic

Other Members: Eyvonne Dailey, Richard Bostic

Subject Matter Experts: Al Byrd, Denise Saunders

When can the Working Group meet?

Day of Week: Monday-Friday, not the first Monday of the month

Time of Day: after 6pm

Meeting Location: Chavis Community Center

What additional information do you need?

- What programs are currently offered?
- Rules, regulations, limitations, parameters for RPRD programs
- Safety concerns
- Are free carousel rides possible as a draw?
 - Downtown Home Tour

What opportunities would you like to explore?

- Intergenerational programming
- Use entire park
- Heritage
- Arts
 - Arts Fest will be held at Chavis in May (Carolina Mixed Media Artists Guild)
 - SparkCon @ Chavis?
- Raleigh Downtown Home Tour
- Technology
- Reasons to come to park
- Block party at Chavis
- How to make ALL areas programmable?
 - 3 on 3 soccer (10 minute games)



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Amenities Working Group Worksheet (for staff or working group representative)

During the breakout session, please discuss the following questions and summarize responses below.

Working Group Focus Area: Amenities

Who will be the primary lead for the working group? Jackett Howell, Jaquan Bennett

Other Members: Seeking others

Subject Matter Experts: Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little

When can the Working Group meet?

Day of Week: Monday

Time of Day: 5:30-6:30

Meeting Location: Chavis Community Center

What additional information do you need?

- 2008 Aquatic Study
- What are typical sizes of amenities, Olympic Sized Pool?

What opportunities would you like to explore?

- Being part of the swim meet rotations
- Newer play equipment
 - Separate ages
 - Eliminate metal elements—metal slides are hot during the summer
- (2) Outdoor basketball courts
- Outdoor bathrooms like Oakwood dog park
- Repurpose old carousel house
 - Museum or an interactive feature
 - Epcot Center—“ride through history” —use of existing video
 - Entrepreneurial enterprises like concessions, concert hall with museum along the walls
- Emergency phone towers
- Lighting
- Better sidewalks—connectivity to activities for wheelchairs
- Need signage to direct visitors to parking. There are enough spaces, but visitors don’t know about the parking in the back.
- Pedestrian connectivity
 - People are uncomfortable with walking through the tunnel
- Dog waste stations
- Playground should be more central to the relocated carousel
- Skateboard park
- Keep pool slide
- Need swim lessons
- Buffalo Rd. Aquatic Center is a good example



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- Keeps athletic fields for private kickball league
- Flexible spaces—athletic fields that double as concert space

Historic Preservation Working Group Worksheet (for staff or working group representative)
During the breakout session, please discuss the following questions and summarize responses below.

Working Group Focus Area: Historic Preservation

Who will be the primary lead for the working group? Joseph Ellerbee

Other Members: Rhonda Muhammad, James Williams, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Lonnette Williams, Virginia Stanley Tally

Subject Matter Experts: Janette Coleridge-Taylor, Kofi Boone, Martha Lauer, Tania Tulley

When can the Working Group meet?

Day of Week: _____

Time of Day: _____

Meeting Location: _____

What additional information do you need?

- Site designation criteria
- More about special significance
- Cultural landscape/archaeological survey
- Designating Chavis Park as a whole – making the case
- Cultural tourism/economic development/activities
- How can Chavis be preserved into perpetuity

What opportunities would you like to explore?

- How and what can be considered as historic to meet criteria?
- Photo archival project
- Access SPERNA archival materials
- Learning the formal process for achieving historic designation of Chavis Park and/or its structures
- Resources identified for consultant to prepare and evaluate Chavis Park as a historic site



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Communications & Marketing Working Group Worksheet (for staff or working group representative)

During the breakout session, please discuss the following questions and summarize responses below.

Working Group Focus Area: **Communications & Marketing**

Who will be the primary lead for the working group? _

Other members: **Jackee Howell, Rhonda Muhammad, Hallie Mittleman**

Subject Matter Experts: **Cara McLeod**

When can the Working Group meet?

Day of Week:

Time of Day:

Meeting Location: **Chavis Community Center**

What additional information do you need?

What opportunities would you like to explore?

- Think about events to prompt economic development
- Consider opening up the PLG Meetings to the whole community
- Raise awareness by developing strategies to let people know and fight the feeling of not being forgotten
- Would like to work on ways to make Chavis Park become more connected with the community and city
- Promotion and Awareness of:
 - What the PLG is doing
 - About the process and the project
 - Increase the visibility of Chavis Park and the Conversation project