PARKS, RECREATION & GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 16, 2017
MINUTES

The Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) met on Thursday, March 16, 2017, in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, with the following members present:

Amy Simes, presiding
Richard Bostic
Patrick Buffkin
Christopher Dillon
Kendall Harris
Dexter Hebert
Brad Johnson
Dr. Carol Love
David Millsaps
Dave Toms
Charles Townsend
Jennifer Wagner

Absent & Excused: Clodagh Lyons-Bastian
Shane Mellin
Jennifer Hoverstad

Staff Present: Diane Sauer, Scott Payne, Ken Hisler, Brenda Hunt, Giavonia Harris, Shawsheen Baker, Jason Simpson, Chris Moore, Liz Houck, Luke Wallenback, Wayne Schindler, Debra Bradsher, Kristen Shea

Chairperson Simes called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. Discussion followed with actions taken as shown:

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

No public comments were received.

PRESENTATIONS

HARVEY KARSEVAR AWARD – PRESENTED TO COACH BRANDON KING

Jason Simpson, Athletic Program Director, and Chris Moore, Recreation Facility, Program Supervisor II, were present to present the annual Harvey Karsevar Award for Coaching Excellence. This year's recipient is Coach Brandon King, Junior League Basketball at Halifax Community Center. Mr. Simpson reviewed the purpose of the award. He indicated Coach King

is in his second season of coaching noting Mr. King believes youth sports taught him about life in his youth. Staff has been impressed with his coaching skills and demeanor and he is always kind and respects others.

Ms. Karsevar presented the trophy to Coach King noting it is always an honor to present the annual award each year to these deserving coaches. She stated she applauds these coaches for what they do and was impressed that he coaches while he doesn't have children participating.

Coach King thanked his students and coaches who were present noting without them he couldn't do coaching. He felt it is an honor to coach the youth and to teach them basketball and life skills through basketball.

ERINSBROOK PARK MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION – REFERRED TO APRIL MEETING

Liz Houck, Landscape Architect, introduced Brian Starkey and Jon Blasco who developed the Master Plan.

Mr. Starkey indicated this item was on the agenda in order to present the Master Plan for Erinsbrook Park noting it has been in the planning for several months. He introduced Michael Alderman and Mike Zaccardo who had also worked on the plan. He thanked the City staff for giving them the opportunity to put this together as well as the CPC who were very engaged in the planning. He indicated the members were very responsive and provided a lot of direction during the process. Mr. Blasco indicated this plan was a 3 phase process and had been presented to the Northwest CAC and received unanimous approval from them. Mr. Blasco presented and explained slides outlining the background, location of the park, locations of other parks in the area, surrounding land uses, etc. The park is 13.3 acres, mostly wooded with hardwoods and pines, 8% slope and a stream. The character of the site and locations of residential areas in the vicinity were reviewed. Mr. Blasco reviewed the process to this point, public outreach opportunities, development diagram and surrounding homeowner associations. Details of the plan were reviewed in detail. Mr. Starkey reported the CPC did a great job and felt the plan provides a successful, responsive and an implementable park.

Public Comments:

No one asked to be heard.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Buffkin indicated the Master Plan speaks for itself reflecting back to the first meeting when ideas were first raised. He noted it was a real challenge doing all things desired and do it in 13 acres and not disturb the trees on that space. The consultants hit the mark on every point and were impressive in their work and dealings with the CPC. He indicated at the next meeting he would heartily recommend the plan for the PRGAB's adoption.

Mr. Millsaps indicated the design is beautiful.

The plan was referred to the April meeting of the PRGAB for action.

JOHN CHAVIS MEMORIAL PARK SCHEMATIC DESIGN – APPROVED

Shawsheen Baker, CIP Administrator, reviewed the project background noting the revised Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in May 2014. Phase One project funding was included in the 2014 Parks Bond and available July 2015. Phase One Strategic Implementation Study was approved in June 2016. The Schematic Design and public input process took place from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017. The consultants have been working diligently on this plan. Outreach included three public meetings including youth input and presentations were provided to the Central and South Central CACs. Much input was received and much of that input was incorporated in the design. There is $100,000 set aside for public art and the artist is on board.

Fred Bell, Clearscapes, provided a presentation of the design. Phase 1 in the heart of the park included a new and expanded community center, new multi-functional central plaza, new and expanded playground area and renovated original carousel house.

Eric Davis, Landscape Architect, reviewed the playground area. He reported the words used for this area at the committee meeting included fun, authentic, unique and inviting. The playground included amenities such as two shaded seating, drinking fountain and trash area at Heritage Plaza, a hammock farm, aromatic garden, two interpretive opportunities areas, story circle, trees included n the wood decking and two natural play areas. Discussion took place regarding the drop off area with Ms. Baker explaining this will be through the parking lot as the existing drop off area is safe. Other parking areas will be provided through parking spaces and not a drive through. Dr. Love stated the south parking area is at the carousel level and lower entrance level and includes a ramp from the parking lot.

Public Comments:

Rick Clark, President of Circle of Friends Senior Club, expressed excitement about what is occurring and this has been a long time coming. He stated the park construction needs to get going with no more delays. He indicated citizens in the area are tired of waiting for this project.

Margaret Edgerton indicated she has been a resident of the Chavis Community her entire life and played in Chavis Park her whole life. She noted she belongs to the Chavis Circle of Friends and lives in the Chavis Town Houses and sees a lot of activity going on in the park and participates in some of them. She stated she is happy about the plan and looked forward to seeing it grow and seeing more action there. She urged that the project get going so the children can enjoy the same things she enjoyed.

Sandy Cummings expressed excitement about the park and loves the track, tennis courts and the nostalgia of the carousel. She liked that things can be built so other things can be added later. She stated she is excited about this plan and urged that we don’t lock ourselves out of more improvements in the future.

Virginia Talley, 2200 Atkins Drive, stated she worked on the committee and is excited about the master plan. She and her brothers and sisters also spent a lot of time during her childhood at this park and there are many activities there. She stated they had so many amenities there but wants to see some wow factors included. She urged that the construction get started on the plan that had been worked on so diligently.

James Utley, 8704 Den Court, stated he does not reside in the area but grew up in that area and Chavis Park had a great impact on his life. When he grew up there there was an airplane that enticed him to spent 20 years in the U. S. Air Force. He expressed enthusiasm for this project and hoped the PRGAB approves it.

Gretchel Carter-Hinton, a member of the PLG, indicated her home is in this area and she also went to school nearby. She noted she is very passionate about this park and excited about the plans she has seen. She felt the consultants did an awesome job and echoed others that had spoken. She thanked everyone for their efforts. She stated when people walk up to the community center, the wow factor will be easy to see and felt this will be a park that Raleigh will be proud of. She noted this is the Downtown park and so many people have not known it is there and this will be a park for everyone to enjoy. She asked that the PRGAB adopt this beautiful plan and thanked the team for putting in all this work.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Bostic expressed appreciation to the staff and the consultants for listening to the committee and incorporating their comments and applauded their efforts for working with everyone involved.

Dr. Love indicated she had been involved in this for 2 ½ year and expressed appreciation to the community for coming to the meeting to let the PRGAB know they they feel.

Mr. Harris stated it is about time and is a long time overdue. He stressed it is time to do something for this community of people that have asked for it.

Mr. Bostic moved that the PRGAB approve the schematic design and forward the item to City Council for their approval. His motion was seconded by Dr. Love, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

BRENTWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN SITUATION ASSESSMENT AND CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC) RECOMMENDATION – APPROVED

Luke Wallenbeck, Park Planner, and Susan Hatchell, Landscape Architect, were present to review this item noting the park is located at 3315 Vinson Court within the Brentwood Neighborhood. The park is adjacent to Brentwood Elementary School and bordered by .33 miles of greenway along Marsh Creek. The 2014 Raleigh Parks Bond allocated $2,000,000 to pay for the master plan, schematic design and implementation. The Situation Assessment will be presented at this meeting of the PRGAB and next week will go the City Council if approved this

evening. Following approval by City Council the public engagement process will be launched that will include 3 meetings with the public and CPC meetings.

Susan Hatchell, Landscape Architect, indicated there has been a lot of excitement in the Brentwood Neighborhood regarding this project. She reviewed the site context noting this is a great opportunity and a great location consisting of 19.5 acres with a combination of mature trees and open areas that are well used. There is 6.71 acres of dedicated greenway. Benson Court is the access to the park. The current amenities were reviewed with Ms. Hatchell stating there are a lot of good things at this park and it is well used. The hydrology was reviewed in detail that included floodplain and floodway areas and the stream that overbanks regularly was noted. Site limitations were pointed out. Existing infrastructure was checked and is okay. The buildings are old but are okay as well. Site conditions included two tennis courts, ball field, open play areas and basketball court, all of which are in pretty good condition. The greenway includes an assortment of conditions and is in good shape. The playground is older and it is time to replace that as a result of the heavy use. Community outreach and future outreach were reviewed. Key issues identified as a result of outreach were as follows:

- Safety & security
- Accessibility
- User orientation/sense of place
- Opportunities for natural flood storage
- Neighborhood gathering spaces
- Destination quality

Ms. Hatchell stated the Brentwood Garden Club is very involved in ornamental gardening. Fourteen citizens have been selected to serve on the CPC and one PRGAB member is needed. They are still in the process of finding more members. The selection criteria was reviewed.

Mr. Toms volunteered to serve as the PRGAB representative on the CPC. Mr. Millsaps stated he is familiar with the Brentwood Garden Club which is very active. He noted there are a lot of Hispanics in this area with Mr. Wallenbeck pointing out he has four other names to serve, two of whom are Latinos but had not confirmed their availability yet.

Mr. Townsend moved that the PRGAB recommend approval of the Situation Assessment and the CPC recognizing staff will make efforts to assure membership on the CPC matches the demographics of the area. His motion was seconded by Mr. Millsaps, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2017 & FEBRUARY 16, 2017 – APPROVED

Members had received copies of the January 19 and February 16, 2017 minutes prior to the meeting. Mr. Townsend moved approval of the minutes. His motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

COMMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Parks Committee:
Neighborhood & Community Program: Mr. Buffkin reported the Parks Committee met the first week of March and received an update of the program and began consideration of drones in parks. The Committee will not meet in April and will meet again in May.

Fletcher Volunteer Awards Committee:
Ms. Sauer reported the Committee met and 12 recipients were selected. She indicated Ms. Hoverstad will be sending out a request asking for volunteers to hand out the awards.

GWUT/Greenway and Urban Trees Committee:
Mr. Millsaps reported the Committee has not met but the goal is to meet in April. The greenway staff has results from the citizen survey to review and need to discuss the next steps.

CITIZEN PLANNNING COMMITTEES:

Barwell Road Park CPC:
Mr. Hebert reported a meeting will be held on March 20 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. At the last meeting the Committee wanted to hear more about teen engagement. Last night staff met with teens and will present what the teens came up with for the design at their next meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Fees and Charges:
Ms. Sauer reported the City Council approved the fees and charges recommended by the PRGAB and this item can be removed from the agenda.

LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:

Arts Commission and PADB:
Mr. Johnson reported the Commission approved the process for façade grants. They are in the middle of grants season. The Commission is discussing lobbying the City Council to increase the per capita for arts. The next meeting will be March 21.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission:
Ms. Simes reported the Commission will meet on March 25.

Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board:
Mr. Schindler made the following report:

Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board
3/16/17 Meeting Summary for PRGAB

The Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board met on Monday, March 13.

Board Chair, Barden Culbreth introduced and welcomed new board member Joe Dillon.

Under old business, the board reviewed quotes and confirmed priorities for monument restoration work at two of our historic cemeteries. This initial phase of work involves three (3) monuments at City Cemetery and four (4) monuments at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Staff will solicit a minor revision from the contractor and then proceed with contracting the work.

The Landscape Committee has completed the first draft of a guiding principles document for the development of a landscape master plan for Mt. Hope Cemetery. Staff was directed to make several revisions for review at the next committee meeting.

The Outreach Committee played a short excerpt of the recently completed audio walking tour of City Cemetery narrated by Betsy Shaw. Staff will investigate how best to establish a web presence for the tour.

Staff recapped a recent planning meeting for the second annual statewide Cemetery Workshop to be hosted by and held in Wake Forest this coming October

The board discussed ideas for filling two newly created board seats resulting from the recent revised bylaws adoption by City Council.

The annual walking tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery will be held on Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 a.m. (rain date is April 29 at 10:00 a.m.)

Under new business, the board reviewed its current work plan and items from its retreat in March 2016 in preparation of its annual report to City Council. Several changes to work plan goals and related tasks were discussed and staff was asked to provide a draft revision for consideration at the next board meeting.

The next meeting of the Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board is scheduled for April 10 at the Tucker House.

Historical Resources and Museum Advisory Board:
Ms. Simes reported the Board met on February 22 and worked on ideas to include in the 10 Year Strategic Plan. The 130th Pullen Park Anniversary will be March 25. The next meeting of the Board will be March 22.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – TO BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE

Ms. Sauer indicated the Director's Report would be sent out the following week.

CHAIR REPORT – RECEIVED

Mr. Johnson indicated there is interest in there being some sort of social event members can enjoy together and the thought was there may be an outing scheduled. There had been discussion of combining that with the mini tour and meet at The Brewery and a bus could take the PRGAB to 4-5 parks. The tour could end back at The Brewery and the PRGAB would discuss what we want to get accomplished. He stated the PRGAB will begin working on a work plan in the next few months. He asked that members send him their preference between Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. or Saturday morning/afternoon. He reported this could take place in late April or early May. Mr. Toms indicated his preference would be Friday afternoon. Ms. Wagner stated either would be fine with her. Dr. Love stated her preference of Friday afternoon. Ms. Sauer indicated staff would send out a Doodle poll.

BOARD COMMENTS – RECEIVED

Dr. Love stated she is happy with the Chavis Park Plan and was excited about the vote for approval at this meeting. She also stated she was pleased so many residents showed up.

Mr. Buffkin reported Joslin Gardens will be open in the next 3-4 weeks noting this is a very special place and is only open 3-4 days per year. He felt this is a unique addition to the parks system.

Mr. Harris questioned the status of Sorrell Park with Ms. Sauer stating the City Council approved the renaming and the park is being renovated. Once the park is completely ready there will be a dedication ceremony.

Mr. Johnson referred to the events being planned for Dix Park and suggested that members refer to the website where the City is putting out a lot of information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Hunt