

DMV Site Project Working Group- Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

Members Present: Tara Minter | Karen Haynes | Desmond Dunn | Anthony Pope | Dr. Shawn Singleton | Clark Rinehart | Helen Tart | Tolulope Omokaiye

Members Absent: Harold Mallette | Harolynn Coplin | Dr. Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway | Felts Lewis

Staff Present:

Community Engagement: Shakera Vaughan | Cam Phipps

Planning & Development: Ken Bowers

Housing & Community Development: Pat Dawson

- i. **Welcome & Meeting Invitations** (6:15 – 6:20 pm)
 - a. Staff requested that PWG members communicate any expected absences in advance of quarterly meetings.
- ii. **City Updates** (6:20 – 6:31 pm)
 - a. **Temporary Site Activation Update**
 - i. May 30th Community Cookout Recap
 - 450+ attendees, an increase over prior activation events; many attendees expressed interest in getting more involved.
 - Positive community reaction; outreach via social media and postcard mailers drove strong turnout and feedback.
 - ii. Staff presented the updated Temporary Site Activation Proposal, including estimated timeline, themes, and activities for programming from Fall 2026 through 2027:
 - October 2026 – New Bern Bazaar / Fall Harvest Market: vendor market with priority to local businesses, food trucks + DJ, pumpkin decorating, photo station.
 - February 2027 – "Raleigh Loves You" Community Appreciation Event: celebrating Raleigh residents and community reflections; department tabling, mobile flower bar, dessert station, heart-shaped reflection wall, health & wellness.
 - April/May 2027 – Spring/Summer Food Truck Rodeo: seasonal food truck rodeo, DJ, face painting, lawn games and seating.
 - August 2027 – Back to School Supply Drive (Tarboro Road Partnership): school supply giveaway and community resource fair, Advance Health mobile unit, Wake County Bookmobile, youth programming tabling, mobile barber.
 - October 2027 – Harvest Food Truck Rodeo: seasonal food truck rodeo, DJ, pumpkin painting, lawn games and seating.

- December 2027 – Winter Fest: welcoming seasonal atmosphere and activities; coffee/hot chocolate cart, gingerbread decorating and house-making, greeting card making.
- iii. PWG member Suggestions:
 - First Baptist Church (Wilmington St.) runs a "Bookbag Buddies" program for students – potential partnership opportunity.
 - Invite Boys & Girls Club to the back-to-school drive.
 - Consider selecting a partner school and supporting its teachers with classroom supplies for the year.
 - Coordinate with Cooperative Extension on youth program connections for the back-to-school festival.
- iv. Event prize ideas, additional recommendations, and partner organization suggestions to be emailed to Shakera.

b. Nearby Development

- i. A privately developed housing project (*829 and 831 Cotton Place*) is underway near the site; it is not affiliated with or funded by the City of Raleigh.

iii. Redevelopment Process Update (6:31 – 6:45 pm)

- a. Staff provided a redevelopment process update
 - i. City staff presented to City Council on May 5, covering the demolition and abatement update, temporary use of the property for BRT construction, temporary site activations, the market study findings, and a preview of the RFI.
 - Council gave direction to include the State Street parcels in the RFI and to coordinate with Martin Street Baptist Church.
 - Council member questions included the affordability approach, the viability of mixed-income development as an alternative to LIHTC, and whether surface-parked apartments should be considered.
- b. Request for Information Release
 - i. The Request for Information (RFI) for the DMV site, including the State Street parcels, was released June 1 with a due date of July 15.
 - Staff will analyze responses and report back to Council this fall with major findings and recommended next steps.
 - ii. The RFI requests input on affordability strategy, parking strategy, financial feasibility, use program, and site layout.
 - iii. A formal Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposal (RFQ/RFP) may be scheduled for January 2027.
- c. PWG Member questions:
 - i. When will RFI proposals come in?
 - Staff received one submission to date but noted submissions typically arrive close to the deadline but should be available after the due date.
 - ii. Should PWG members submit a separate request for information to Council?
 - Staff noted no – relevant information is available via the published RFI.
 - iii. For city-owned property, what does the rezoning process look like if the City wants to rezone?

- Staff noted the process is generally similar, with potentially fewer stipulations, and multiple reviewers are involved.
 - iv. Can the City rezone itself for a project?
 - Staff confirmed the City plans to rezone the site.
 - v. General discussion of the downtown Raleigh development process, including building height standards (buildings up to 5 stories).
- iv. **Project Working Group Open Floor (6:45 – 6:58 pm)**
 - a. July 9: The Southeast Raleigh CAC meeting was scheduled to begin shortly after this meeting
 - b. August 6: [Advance Health's Impact Night](#)
 - c. November 7: The Men of Southeast Raleigh's 5th Anniversary Celebration at Hilton Garden Inn Crabtree Raleigh
- v. **Closing Thoughts and Final Q&A (6:58 – 7:00 pm)**
 - a. Next PWG meeting: **October 8, 2026**