CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

# Manager's Update

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April 8, 2022

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#### Budget Work Session Monday, April 11 - Council Chamber

Reminder that Council will meet in the final scheduled budget work sessions on **Monday** at **4:00 P.M.** The agenda for the work session was published Thursday:

http://boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/board.nsf

The Monday work session is the third of three budget work sessions scheduled in advance of the *City Manager's Proposed Budget* presentation in May.

#### **City Offices Closed in Observance of Good Friday**

City administrative offices will be **closed** next **Friday**, **April 15** in observance of the **Good Friday** holiday.

# **INFORMATION:**

#### Voter Participation Initiative Commences

Staff Resource: Tiesha Hinton, Office of Community Engagement, 996-2707, tiesha.hinton @raleiqhnc.qov

The Office of Community Engagement has kicked off the Vote Local Raleigh initiative, established in response to the recommendations received from the Study Group on City Council Terms and Compensation in 2021. The purpose of Vote Local Raleigh is to improve the awareness of local elections and increase voter

participation. In partnership with Raleigh Neighborhood College and other City departments, phase one of this effort will include a three-part mini-series about the basics of local government. The mini-series will be held April 12, 19, and 26 from 6:30-7:00pm each date. The virtual series topics will cover:

My Local Government Session 1: City and Council Government 101 My Local Government Session 2: City Budget Management and Finance Overview My Local Government Session 3: Stormwater Service Unit Overview

The goal of this initiative is to share information with residents about how local government works and how decisions made at the local level directly impact them. Research shows that when people understand how and why things work, they are more likely to become involved in decision-making processes. Public outreach is listed below.

- Webpage updates to include <u>Voter Registration Information Link</u>
- Service page that describes <u>council -manager form of government</u>
- News article about <u>My Local Government</u> virtual event
- Social Media campaign for My Local Government
- Flyers distributed at each City Community Center
- Video series "My Local Government" airs on social media each Monday

Phase 2 of Vote Local Raleigh will focus on continuing to provide residents with balanced and objective information to help them become active and informed voters. This will be completed by several public outreach and community engagement efforts, including but not limited to, social media campaigns, Get Out and Vote Local, tabling events, in-person information dissemination, etc.

#### (No attachment)

#### **Appearance Commission Abridged Annual Report**

#### Staff Resource: Keegan McDonald, Planning and Development, 996-4630, keegan.mcdonald@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is an abridged version of the Appearance Commission *Annual Report*, including expenditures to date for the current fiscal year. The Commission plans to present the Council with a comprehensive report and annual work plan later in the year, which will include an overview of the annual Sir Walter Raleigh Awards as well as the 2022 Annual Retreat.

City Council would be asked to approve the annual work plan at that time.

(Attachment)

#### Additional Enhancements - Utility Bill Payment System

Staff Resources: Gregory Jenkins II, Raleigh Water, 996-3475, <u>gregory.jenkins@raleighnc.gov</u> Patrick Eudy, Finance, 996-3230, <u>patrick.eduy@raleighnc.gov</u>

As staff with the Finance, Information Technology, and Raleigh Water departments continue to evaluate opportunities to improve the customer experience, two additional features will be launching to the utility payment system this weekend. The first feature will be the ability for a customer to utilize the Amazon Pay

payment method. The second will allow customers to make a one-time contribution to the Utility Customer Assistance Program (UCAP) via the Project Share Contribution Program portal. The billing system currently allows for monthly recurring contributions to UCAP; the enhancement will provide for one-time contributions to the UCAP.

The billing system, hosted by third party vendor *Paymentus*, provides Raleigh Water customers enhanced security and more payment options to make it easier to pay utility bills. When the system launched, customers gained the ability to make payments via PayPal, Venmo, eCheck, as well as scheduling recurring credit card payments. More than 700,000 transactions have been processed through the system, representing more than \$81.5 million in payments, since the system launched a little over one year ago.

Staff will be working to market all of the various payment options in cooperation with GoRaleigh transit buses as well as continuing to market payment options through more traditional avenues, including newsletters and websites. The system can be accessed by visiting the City website and navigating to the green tile labeled "Make Payments" or by direct access via <u>Raleighnc.gov/utilitypay</u>.

(No attachment)

# New Bern Avenue Station Area Planning: Community Check-In and Council Review

Staff Resource: Jason Hardin, Planning and Development, 996-2657, jason.hardin@raleighnc.gov

The New Bern Avenue Station Area Planning process is set to publish a project report with specific recommendations for adding housing options near transit; investing in and incentivizing housing affordability and economic development; and improving pedestrian safety. Before the report and related city-initiated zoning changes are delivered to Council, staff will host a community check-in to review the recommendations.

The community check-in will be an informal, drop-in event at the Tarboro Community Center from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20. An online Q&A will take place the same day and is scheduled from 6-7 p.m. A brief online survey will be published before the event and remain open for a week afterward.

Following the check-in, staff will make any needed adjustments and deliver the report, associated Comprehensive Plan amendments, and proposed zoning changes to the City Council. Delivery to City Council will initiate a neighborhood meeting for the rezoning case and subsequent Planning Commission review of all aspects of the plan.

(No attachment)

#### Weekly Digest of Special Events

*Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Special Events Office, 996-2200, <u>sarah.heinsohn@raleiqhnc.qov</u> Included with the <i>Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week. (Attachment)

# Council Member Follow Up Items

## Follow Up from the February 8 Work Session

#### <u>Shared Parking Opportunities - Lake Wheeler Road Corridor (Council Member Buffkin)</u> Staff Resource: Matthew Currier, RDOT, 996-4041, <u>matthew.currier@raleighnc.gov</u>

During the work session Council requested a report covering current rezoning cases along the Lake Wheeler Road corridor and whether opportunities exist for shared parking with future private development as it relates to Dix Park. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum highlighting potential opportunities.

(Attachment)

# Follow Up from the March 15 City Council Meeting

### <u>Capital Area Greenway Master Plan - Follow-up with Meredith College (Mayor Baldwin)</u> Staff Resource: Lisa Schiffbauer, Parks, 996-4785, <u>lisa.schiffbauer@raleighnc.gov</u>

During the meeting Council requested that staff meet with representatives of Meredith College prior to Council adoption of the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan to discuss approaches to mitigate concerns related to Master Plan recommendations surrounding area lighting and operational hours of the greenway system. Below is a summary of the meeting; the master plan is scheduled to appear on the April 19 Council agenda for consideration of adoption by the full City Council.

On March 30, 2022, staff met with representatives of Meredith College on the Meredith campus. Staff expressed it would <u>not</u> propose any changes to the hours of operation on the greenway segment located on Meredith College campus unless the college is fully supportive of the changes. Staff reinforced that safety of users and neighbors of the greenway system is the highest priority. Staff shared that the Council recently authorized funding for additional Police resources for the safety and security of Raleigh parks and greenways. City staff were provided a tour of the campus that included new construction projects underway as well as the section of the Reedy Creek Greenway Trail that is located on the outer limits of the campus property.

The meeting had a positive and productive outcome resulting in a better understanding by Meredith representatives of the Master Plan recommendations as pertains to the prioritization of safety, review of any potential implementation of lighting, analysis of any modifications to hours of operation, and trail expansion projects within and surrounding the Meredith Campus. As staff launches future studies for lighting or changes to operational hours, engagement with Meredith College and other institutions such as the Wake County Public Schools System, NC Museum of Art, NC State University as well as a broad array of other adjacent and interested landowners and greenway users will be essential. Staff is committed to working directly with all stakeholders, including Meredith College, during Master Plan implementation.

Beyond the subject of the Master Plan and general greenway overview, the meeting and discussion held with Meredith representatives was productive. Additional issues that arose during the discussion include the following:

- Meredith interests in the <u>City of Raleigh Strategic Plan</u> utilization of *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (<u>CPTED</u>);
- City staff establishing biannual meetings with Meredith to brief each other on important initiatives where work may impact one another;
- Meredith's participation with ongoing discussions regarding future plans for Hillsborough Street with the Transportation Department and the Hillsborough Street Community Services Corporation; and
- Meredith's participation in the Raleigh Cooperative Colleges meeting scheduled for June 12.

Staff remains committed to engaging with Meredith College staff on a more consistent basis regarding all City projects and strategic planning efforts that may impact the Meredith campus and the surrounding area.

(No attachment)



# memo

То	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager				
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director				
From	Keegan McDonald, Planning Supervisor				
Department	Planning and Development				
Date	April 8, 2022				
Subject	Appearance Commission – 2021 Abridged Annual Report				

The Appearance Commission was established by City Council in 1973 to provide guidance, advice, and recommendations regarding the visual quality and aesthetic characteristics of the City of Raleigh.

Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160D-962.A, "the commission shall, no later than April 15 of each year, submit to the governing board a written report of its activities, a statement of its expenditures to date for the current fiscal year, and its requested budget for the next fiscal year."

#### Activities

#### <u>Cases</u>

Text Change TC-19-19 became effective on June 17, 2021, and converted the former Administrative Alternate for Design process into a new Design Alternate process. In 2021, the Appearance Commission, performing the quasi-judicial duties of the Planning Commission (as designated by the City Council) reviewed 14 Design Alternate Cases and 18 legacy Administrative Alternate for Design Cases. In addition, the Commission provided comments on the Eastern and Western Corridors of the Wake County Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project.

#### Sir Walter Raleigh Awards

Due to the pandemic, and the desire for an in-person event, the 2021 Sir Walter Raleigh Awards will now be held on April 13, 2022.

#### Budget

Current expenditures for FY22 are attached. For FY23, the Appearance Commission is requesting a budget of \$10,000 for general expenses and \$25,000 for the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards and a future Legacy Project.

#### **Comprehensive Report**

The Appearance Commission plans to present the Council with a more comprehensive report and work plan this Summer which will include an overview of the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards and the 2022 Annual Retreat. The Council would be asked to vote on the approval of the annual work plan at that time.

Dept. ID	Program Code	Program Description	Account Number	Description	Balance	Expense	Encumbrance	Available Budget
2410	73801	Appearance Commission	708900	Contractual Svcs-Other	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 687.63	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 9,312.37
2410	2420	Sir Walter	701010	Operational & Maint Supplies	\$ 39,650.00	\$ 930.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 33,920.00

### Weekly Events Digest Friday, April 8 – Thursday, April 14

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

#### **Permitted Special Events**

#### Yappy Hour

Dorothea Dix Park, New Dog Park Saturday, April 9 Event Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. The new dog park on Umstead Drive will be used from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

#### We the People, North Carolina

Exchange Plaza Saturday, April 9 Event Time: 12:00pm - 5:00pm Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Exchange Plaza will be used from 10:00am until 7:00pm.

#### **Other Events This Weekend**

#### Hurricanes vs. Islanders

Friday, April 8 PNC Arena

Doc & Cover - PineCone Friday, April 8 Fletcher Opera Theater

#### Gershwin Piano Concerto - NC Symphony

Friday, April 8 & Saturday, April 9 Meymandi Concert Hall

#### The Magic Flute – North Carolina Opera

Friday, April 8 & Sunday, April 10 Memorial Auditorium

#### Explore Dix Park: Guided Walking Tour

Saturday, April 9 Dorothea Dix Park, Chapel

#### Mayor's Unity Day

Saturday, April 9 Moore Square

## Bon Jovi

Saturday, April 9 PNC Arena

#### **The Magnetic Fields**

Saturday, April 9 & Sunday, April 10 Fletcher Opera Theater Hurricanes vs. Ducks Sunday, April 10 PNC Arena

#### **Black Flea Market**

Sunday, April 10 Moore Square

#### Public Resources

<u>Pilot Text Alert Program</u>: Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

**Event Feedback Form**: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

**<u>Road Closure and Road Race Map</u>**: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

Online Events Calendar: View all currently scheduled events that impact City streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

# **Council Member Follow Up**



To:	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager		
Thru:	Michael Moore, Director		
From:	Matthew Currier, Parking Manager		
Department:	Transportation		
Date:	April 8, 2022		

Subject: Dix Park Edge Parking Lake Wheeler Corridor

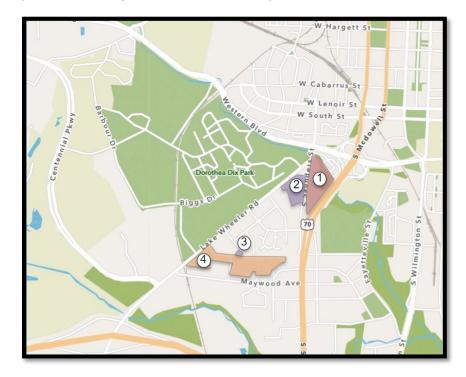
During the February 8, 2022, work session Council Member Buffkin requested a report from staff about the current rezoning cases along the Lake Wheeler Road corridor and whether there are any opportunities for shared parking with future private development as it relates to Dix Park.

Below is a summary of the current rezoning cases in the area including any known parking structures and sizing as well as staff's approach and process to encourage shared parking within the city.

#### Current Rezoning Cases along Lake Wheeler Road Corridor

Planning & Development staff have confirmed that none of the Dix Park area rezoning cases have included provisions or zoning conditions to require publicly accessible parking within their developments but will likely have some available for the public.

Below is a map and summary of the current rezoning cases along the Lake Wheeler Road corridor near the edge of Dix Park. Given the various stages that the potential projects are at, limited information may be available at this time. In the summary below, staff have provided either known information or likely assumptions given the proposed projects.



Municipal Building 222 West Hargett Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

One Exchange Plaza 1 Exchange Plaza, Suite 1020 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

City of Raleigh Post Office Box 590 • Raleigh North Carolina 27602-0590 (Mailing Address)

Map Rezoning Reference Case #		•	Project Name	Proposed Uses	Structured Parking	Developer/Contact	
	1	Z-32-18	32-18 Park City South Multi-Family Res, Office,		Yes - >1,000	Merge Capital/Kane Realty	
	2	Z-60-20	Hammell	Multi-Family Res, Office, Retail	Yes - Unknown #	Mack Real Estate Group	
			Multi-Family, Retail likely	Unlikely	Live Oak Assets		
			Multi-Family Res, Office, Retail	Likely - Unknown #	JPB Holdings		

#### Staff Approach for Publicly Accessible Parking in Private Developments

As a part of the normal development process, Transportation staff are made aware of projects that may include structured parking and engage with Planning & Development staff to review the project layout, plans and the proposed mix of uses within the development. Staff provide comments on projects in areas of interest to engage with the developers to discuss the proposed operational conditions within parking structures. The intent of these discussions is to educate developers on the parking conditions within the City and to encourage shared publicly accessible parking and early investment in parking deck equipment that can be flexible to changing conditions.

Staff sees opportunities for shared parking along the Lake Wheeler Road corridor at the edge of Dix Park that is mutually beneficial for both the mixed-use developments and visitors of the park. As with city owned parking decks in downtown, most of the parking demand is during the daytime hours, Monday-Friday with lower demand in the evenings and on weekends when office workers are not commuting. High parking demands for Dix Park are anticipated to be during the evening hours and on weekends providing opportunities for those visitors to utilize parking with nearby private developments. This can provide a steady flow of potential customers to restaurants and retailers at the mixed-use developments when visitors to Dix Park arrive or depart the park.

As the projects that have gone through rezoning traverse the development process, staff will continue to engage with these developers to educate and encourage opportunities for shared publicly accessible parking in close proximity to the park.

#### Existing Parking within 1 mile of Dix Park

In addition to privately developed parking structures, there are existing parking structures and surface lots in and near the park to support both recreational and event driven visitors. The below map shows the parking spaces currently available within about a mile of the center of the park.

