

Project: John Chavis Memorial Park
Raleigh, NC
Number: 2014-0170

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Type of Meeting: Public Meeting #3: Schematic Design Launch & Social

Date of Meeting: March 1st, 2017, 4:00-7:00 pm

Date of Report: March 9th, 2017

Reported by: Sonny Patel, Clearscapes, PA

Present at Meeting: Shawsheen Baker, PR&CR
Kim Curry-Evans, PR&CR
Luke Wallenbeck, PR&CR
Ken Hisler, PR&CR
Denise Saunders, PR&CR

Eric Davis, Rachel Watson (Surface 678)

David Wilson (project artist)

Steve Schuster, Fred Belledin, Sonny Patel, Emily Morgan (Clearscapes)

Attachments: 1. Public Input Comment Cards

This report is the writer's interpretation of the events, discussions, and transactions which took place during the meeting. If there are any additions and/or corrections, please inform the writer within three (3) days.

Action	#	Items Discussed
	1.000	Introduction
	1.001	Shawsheen Baker welcomed participants and presented the format for the launch and social. After doing so, an audience member asked for a similar presentation to earlier meetings outlining updates from the last meeting. SB agreed and Steve Schuster of Clearscapes presented the schematic design progress. Some of the updates from the previous meeting included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further design refinement of the playground • Elimination of the ice skating rink infrastructure in the central plaza • Several refinements to the community center including: reorganization of the administration and reception area, relocation of the elevator from a central location to the front entry, updated locker and toilet room layouts, enlarged warming kitchen, and infrastructure for future concessions in the main lounge overlooking the park

	1.002	<p>After presenting the schematic design details, SS opened the floor to general questions and comments, which were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When will the project be completed and what is the estimated start/finish date for Phase 2? <i>The project schedule is still tracking consistently with what has been discussed at earlier schematic design meetings:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction documents will wrap up in Winter 2018• Project will be out to bid in Winter 2018• Construction will start Spring 2018• Park open late Summer 2019<i>In terms of future phases, there is not a determined date for the start of this part of the project. All the phases after Phase 1 are contingent on funding and bond referendum, which are inherently unpredictable. SS emphasized the value of the community speaking with their city council members about the scheduling for future phases.</i>2. Where is the replica P-51 mustang plane in the design? <i>The master plan provides opportunities for a plane in future phases, however it is not included in Phase I. The cost research can be found in the Strategic Implementation Study. The design team acknowledges the importance of the WWII veterans and Tuskegee airmen to the history of JCMP and are working with the project artist (David Wilson) to incorporate a similar motif into the art of the park.</i>3. Where are the activities for the young adults aged 13-18? <i>Currently the design is focused on providing activities for all age groups. For the teens and young adults, there are various amenities within the building which will be available such as the gym, walking track, weights and fitness along with numerous programmed spaces – one of which is a potential ‘game room.’ Outside there will be a splash pad/water play area and the design team is also exploring the feasibility of incorporating a skating element.</i>4. I am uncomfortable with using a shared restroom and the fact that there is only one interior bathroom in the carousel building. I don't want to have to walk outside to be able to use a gender-specific bathroom. Can storage go somewhere else to free up space for another interior restroom? <i>Based on feedback in the previous phase, the design team put a concerted effort to make sure that the carousel building did not become a ‘toilet building.’ In doing so, the team determined that the current solution is the most efficient in terms of layout and effective in meeting the needs of the community. While it is not perfect, it meets the needs of the space and the public while also providing a baby-changing station for parents which was voiced as a need by the community. Although the current design calls for 2</i>
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		<p><i>exterior restrooms, the main access has been positioned such that they are located under the existing carousel canopy, providing adequate shade and protection. However, due to the community's input, the design team will look at alternative layouts to provide additional toilets within the building.</i></p> <p>5. How much money will be saved by eliminating the ice rink from the Phase I design? <i>As discussed during the Strategic Implementation Study, the anticipated costs for Phase 1 ranged from just below to well above available funding, so the Phase 1 budget does not include a built-in ice rink. Ice skating has been shown in the presentation materials as a programming opportunity for an outside ice rink to be brought in seasonally (similar to the downtown rink at City Plaza) and the Central Plaza is sized to accommodate this feature if desired. As community feedback has indicated that the ice rink is the lowest programming priority, this element will not be pursued at this time.</i></p> <p>6. Will the existing picnic shelters be improved? <i>The design team recognized the importance of restoring the picnic shelters, however it is not part of current Phase 1 funding. The City is working to secure separate funding to restore the shelter by Chavis Way outside of Phase 1 funds.</i></p> <p>7. What kind of activities will be available for senior citizens? <i>Programming for seniors will be developed by P&R staff. In terms of Phase 1 facilities, new informal spaces will include the lounge and porch overlooking the park and improved walking paths with shaded seating through the heart of the park. The existing walking track that is heavily utilized with seniors will be supplemented by the planned indoor walking track above the gym.</i></p> <p>8. One of the PLG members made the comment that what is being implemented in Phase 1 is consistent with the Master Plan. <i>When a direct comparison was made between the approved Master Plan and the approved Strategic Implementation plan, it was acknowledged that Phase I is consistent with the Master Plan.</i></p> <p>9. One comment was made that there was never any cost information for the project provided. <i>The clarification was made that there are professional budget estimates with breakdowns in the Master Plan and Strategic Implementation Study that are available to everyone on the project website. The design team also had a print copy of each available at tonight's meeting.</i></p>
	2.000	Breakout Sessions
	2.001	<p>After the group discussion, SB announced the beginning of the breakout sessions where the public could take a closer look at the designs and ask the team any questions they may have. Some of the comments that were noted from the design team were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can a mural of the P-51 Mustang with portraits of the (3) local

		<p>Tuskegee Airmen be placed on the large gym wall?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could 3D printing technology be utilized in creating the replica plane? • Could plaza accommodate roller skating? • Skateboards – place & location • One session outside to explain the site would be helpful • Shelters – are we looking for funding? How can they be fixed? • Follow priorities based on input • When will this phase be complete? What is the next phase? • Program in winter? During the holidays? • Zipline for the park • 1-2 small kid swings for toddlers • How will history of JCMP be explained in the park • Shade structure over play equipment at the playground • Inclusive Park for senior citizens and 13-18 age range • Adding monkey bars/additional climbing structures to the playground • The public art or interpretive opportunities should focus on history related to Chavis Park and the local community, not just general African-American culture. It is important to educate future generations about historic figures and events in and around Chavis Park.
	3.000	Comment Cards
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is evident that the design team did some additional homework and made changes based on last meeting's comments. Much appreciated. • Seems like there is still some confusion on the process • Would like solution for older teens to be incorporated into Phase I, in addition to skateboard and programming (2) • Want train (3) • Want good lighting • Want place to buy food and have the profits stay in the park • Want Red Tail plane in the park (2) • Want restrooms and water fountains around the park • Tell the history of the park and land • What is the time frame for the second phase? How many years to complete the park? • Would like a walking tour provided to show various proposed site features – printouts to point to during the tour would be helpful • Want area for skateboarding • Love it! (2) • Love the rubber surface for play area

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the natural play areas • Like the enclosed area to keep kids safe/contained • Love the splash area • Would love a zipline element for the kids (perhaps under skywalk) • Monkey bars? • Would like to see more interactive activities (more rides and fun family things) • Add another restroom to the inside of the carousel house so that there can be separate toilets for male and female. (2) • Add a concession area • Climbing wall should be explored • Phase 1 as presented seems to be a positive and exciting improvement to the present status of the park, which is in much need of enhancement (2) • Lack of attention drawn to this site's historical significance, specifically the deep African-American legacy – Art expression should be more than some “African” art, but could maybe incorporate memorials (like @ Capital Building), paint murals, etc. to tell a story appealing for all of Raleigh. • The history of the neighborhood and its inhabitants should be told more creatively than just some African designs on a wall • Design of the park should incorporate historians from Shaw, NCSU, UNC, etc. • Want to tell the story of the history in the architecture so that when the neighborhood changes to higher-end occupants they can understand the legacy and memory of what was once there • Good meeting • Clearscapes and the City are doing a great job
		END OF MEETING MINUTES