

Project: John Chavis Memorial Park
Raleigh, NC
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Type of Meeting: General Public Input Session #1

Date of Meeting: January 25th, 2017, 6:00-7:30 pm

Date of Report: January 31st, 2017

Reported by: Emily Morgan, Clearscapes, PA

Present at Meeting: Diane Sauer, PR&CR Ken Hisler, PR&CR
 Kristen Shea, PR&CR Shawsheen Baker, PR&CR
 Kim Curry-Evans, PR&CR Terri Stroupe, PR&CR
 Luke Wallenbeck, PR&CR

Fred Belledin, Steve Schuster, Sonny Patel, Emily Morgan (Clearscapes)
 Eric Davis, Rachel Watson, Christin Evans (Surface 678)

David Wilson (project artist)

- Attachments:**
1. Youth Input Session Drawing Images
 2. Youth Input Session Voting Results
 3. General Public Input Session Comments from 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 and Agenda
	1.001	Shawsheen Baker welcomed participants and presented the agenda: 3:30-5:00pm Youth Input Session (Earlier) 6:00-6:15pm Design Update -Site Plan -Playground -Original Carousel House -Central Plaza -Community Center 6:15-6:30pm Group Questions 6:30-7:10pm Breakout Session 7:10-7:30pm Summary + Next Steps
	2.000	Master Plan and Strategic Implementation Plan Recap

	2.001	Fred Belledin gave a brief overview of the process to date. It began with a 2-year community-driven master plan to establish priorities, followed by a 1-year Strategic Implementation Study to test and refine elements of the master plan. The Strategic Implementation Study determined the Phase 1 scope based on the priorities determined by the community in the master plan.
	3.000	Phase I
	3.001	<p>FB presented the scope of Phase I on a site plan, which is currently in the schematic design phase. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New and expanded community center -new multi-functional central plaza -new and expanded playground area -renovated original carousel house
	3.002	<p>Playground: Eric Davis presented the playground, including the priorities for the public to 1. Make it unique, 2. Make it inclusive, 3. Make it safe, and 4. Provide amenities. He showed images the community chose during the Strategic Implementation Study to inspire their new playground design, as well as the image boards that the youth voted on during their input sessions earlier that day. The youth had also drawn, written about, and modelled what they wanted their playground to be like. Images are attached at the end of this document. Comments from the youth session include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple comments about how exciting a tall climbing structure would be. 2. Art-related concept suggestions: sunshine in the city, street art/urban art theme, collaborative piece with kids in the community, history and pride of the community 3. Many comments for underground tunnels and places to hide 4. A bird-shaped slide (something themed and sculptural related to animals) 5. Build a train around the playground 6. Water element where kids can manipulate the flows, via ramps, dams, etc. 7. Desire for a sand area all by itself 8. Incorporate purple into the playground 9. Big waterslide

3.003	<p>Original carousel house: FB presented the community's priorities to 1. Provide amenities, 2. Have opportunities to serve food, and 3. Not become a bathroom building. He showed the proximity to the new playground and how the additional comfort station, drinking fountain, and trash/recycling will be built outside of the main building footprint to serve that area. There will also be an opportunity for shaded seating under the roof of the original carousel house. There will be a family bathroom, storage room, and kitchenette to serve the interior space of the original carousel house, which will have about 2000 SF of open space. It should be able to provide tables and seating for about 88 people, or standing room for about 150. The renovated space will be air-conditioned, and the exterior wall openings will be glazed to allow for transparency and daylight.</p>
3.004	<p>Central plaza: ED presented the community's priorities to 1. Support community events, 2. Generate revenue, 3. Make it safe, and 4. Make it unique. He showed images that got the most positive feedback from the community during the Strategic Implementation Study. The feedback helped guide the central plaza design to provide water play with a splash pad and natural splash area during the warm months. There will be an upper plaza area that can serve as a stage for performances, while the lower plaza will be able to accommodate 700 seats. There will be moveable shaded seating, designated locations for food trucks, and capacity for up to 60 tents during festival events. The central plaza also provides the space for an ice rink during the winter months.</p>
3.005	<p>Community center: FB presented the community's priorities for the new building to 1. Have views out to the park and city, 2. Have transparency, 3. Be iconic, 4. Provide a front porch and a range of activity spaces, and 5. Tell the community's story. Fred presented square footage comparisons of the existing community center and new community center, showing how the rooms will all be larger than or equal to what they have now. The proposed building will be 50% larger than the existing building. The main entry will be roughly equidistant from the North and South parking lots, there will be a covered porch space at the upper plaza, field level access on the second floor, and a view towards downtown from the larger multi-purpose space. The lower level will include main entry and fitness spaces such as gymnasium, weights/fitness, locker rooms and 2 program rooms. The upper level will include the cultural and meeting spaces like 2 multi-purpose rooms and 2 smaller meeting/program rooms. One of the multi-purpose rooms will have a warming kitchen associated with it for catering prep. The restrooms on the upper floor will serve the indoor spaces, as well as certain events from the field and existing track area. There will be access to an indoor walking track in the gymnasium at this level.</p>
4.000	Group Questions
4.001	<p>At this point in the presentation, we provided the opportunity for members of the community to ask broad questions to benefit the group as a whole. The</p>

		questions and comments have been divided into those related to Phase I and those related to future phases.
	4.002	<p>Phase I questions and comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is some concern about cigarettes and trash being an issue on the new playground. This might be coming from people hanging around the parking lot who aren't spending time in the playground. Is there a barrier that can help separate the parking lot from the playground? What kind of play surface will be used, keeping this issue in mind? The design team is beginning to evaluate a range of wall and fence options around parts of the playground, as well as a variety of play surfaces such as rubber, mulch, sand, etc. 2. What will the fee structure for renting the rooms in the new community center look like? P&R responded that this will be based on the occupant load for each room, and will be similar to fees for other spaces in the Parks system. 3. Is there an elevator in the community center? Yes. 4. Will the new Community Center be smoke free? Yes. 5. Can the project be built by local contractors? Because it is a public bid project, the law requires that it is awarded to the contractor with the lowest bid. 6. What is the project completion schedule? The design and construction document phases are 12 months and will conclude at the end of 2017. Bidding and construction are estimated to take about 19 months total.
	4.003	<p>Future phases questions and comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There were multiple voices of concern about losing the outdoor swimming pool during Phase I construction, which will not be replaced until future phases. P&R emphasized that the existing outdoor pool has reached the end of its useful life and would require significant expense to repair and maintain it in operating condition until the new aquatic center is funded, developed, and opened. Steve Schuster emphasized that the difficult decision to close the pool in lieu of expending Phase I funds for temporary pool operation was based on feedback provided by the community during the Strategic Implementation Study. As part of this decision, it was acknowledged that the central plaza will provide no-cost water play opportunities and that community pools at Longview and Biltmore Hills are within about 2 miles of JCMP. 2. Will the park ever have a P-51 Mustang airplane like those flown by the Tuskegee Airmen? How much would this cost? The master plan presents opportunities to include such a feature, however this is not included in Phase I. The cost research can be found in the Strategic Implementation Study.

	5.000	Breakout Session
	5.001	<p>At this point, everyone had the opportunity to look closer at the plans and images on the easels and to ask questions of the design team. The displays showed floor plans for the community center and the carousel house, Phase I site plan, site plan showing activity during the warmer months, and plan options of the central plaza serving various functions. We also displayed the drawings and models created by the youth for their dream playground designs, as well as images of playground environments and equipment on which the youth voted for their favorites. The members of the community were handed comment cards to write down all their questions and comments, whether or not they vocalized them. A summary of these comments is attached at the end of this document. Some of the questions and comments made to the design team are below, divided into those related to Phase I and those related to future phases.</p>
	5.002	<p>Phase I questions and comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would like to see permanent admin. space upstairs adjacent to the indoor walking track. It is important to have constant supervision on that space in case of a health emergency. 2. Will there be cameras in every room? Yes. 3. Would like to see places downstairs for groups to wait for activities to finish up, such as basketball practice. The meeting/program room could be used this way. 4. Would like to have more thorough presentation of master plan and Strategic Implementation Study to remind people of how we got to the decisions that have been made. Should this be part of the Powerpoint Presentation? Maybe make the documents available to view? The group will consider this concern for the next public presentation. 5. Need to have organized skating classes in addition to just free skating on the rink. 6. Need accessibility throughout the park. 7. The project needs to be moved forward fast. 8. The project needs additional meeting notification signage along the greenway, at the playground, and near the community center entrance. The current meeting notification process is not effective. 9. Would like to see a possible museum use at the original carousel house with displays and temporary exhibits. 10. Meetings are too early for working residents. 11. Will there be a concession stand within the new Community Center? A range of vending machines will be provided, per P&R standard operational approaches for community centers. 12. Can anything be done to the existing track in Phase 1 to make the existing lanes wider? The master plan includes enhancements and enlargements of the track and field, however this scope of work is not part of Phase I.

	5.003	<p>Future phases questions and comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Skateboarding-related questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When will the skate features be included in the park? There are opportunities for skate spots in the Master Plan, however Phase I does not include permanent skate features in its scope. -How long before Phase II is funded? This is unknown, and determined by many factors such as passing bonds and talking to elected officials. -Is there a temporary space in JCMP where skateboarding could happen until the future skate park elements are funded and built? There was some discussion about the parking lot and central plaza. Skaters would like to see emphasis on simple street elements like boxes, rails, and curbs that could be moved or closed easily. Is there potential for flexible bollards demarcating skate zones at the NE corner of the existing parking lot? The master plan presents opportunities for skate spots in the park, however this scope of work is not part of Phase I. -Would City staff be interested in a public/private partnership to start a skateboarding location in downtown Raleigh? Royce Hathcock with Neighbor to Neighbor (an area non-profit at 1200 S. Blount St.) wants COR to respond. He has experience doing this in Los Angeles in the past. <i>P&R will reach out to other City of Raleigh Departments and Neighbor to Neighbor.</i>
	6.000	Group Questions
	6.001	<p>Phase I questions and comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would like to see playground equipment that has movement. Most of the images show fixed elements. 2. Can the exterior wall of the weights/fitness room be operable to let in fresh air? Can the HVAC system be designed to accommodate this on nice days? Would at least like to see lots of glass and views out, like the Alexander Family YMCA. The design team is beginning to evaluate a range of options relative to glazing, views and access. Performance issues to address include temperature and humidity control for the building, as well as environmental performance requirements related to LEED Silver. 3. Can there be operable windows in the larger multi-purpose room to let in fresh air? The design team is beginning to evaluate a range of options relative to glazing, views and access. Performance issues to address include temperature and humidity control for the building, as well as environmental performance requirements related to LEED Silver. 4. Can there be an occupiable roof space for events? The community's goal of a porch or roof deck dates back to the Master Plan. SS noted that cost will be a challenge on the project, but the

		<p>design team will investigate opportunities for an elevated porch or rooftop deck as part of the community room.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Can there be a green space off the building designated for exercise or gathering, other than the existing track and field? The design team will investigate opportunities for this. 6. Will there be healthy drinks and snack options available? P&R says that a percentage of the vending machines are designated to meet certain healthy foods guidelines. The only food and drink provided in this phase of the project will be through vending machines. 7. Will there be cooling stations/drinking fountains outside? Yes. 8. How will someone with mobility issues traverse the site? ED explained how the site is being designed so that someone could safely travel around the new site elements maintaining gradual slope changes and ramping up to the main entry of the community center. 9. The existing community center is to remain open and operational during the construction of Phase I. 10. Can more showers be added to the locker rooms? SS said this will be discussed with PR&CR to determine the needs for the building. 11. Will there be bicycle parking? Yes.
	6.002	<p>Future phases questions and comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will there be new lighting for the existing outdoor track? There are currently dark spots on the track at night that feel unsafe. The master plan includes enhancements and enlargements of the track and field, however this scope of work is not part of Phase I.

General Session Comments:

- Concession Stand (2)
 - Place for food to keep money in the park
- Art center
- Larger swimming pool (6)
 - Change plaza to swimming pool
 - Pool is historically significant
- Where is the money coming from to turn systems on?
- Chavis will become another Pullen Park because not a lot of people will use it because the community was not listened to
- Need more active/movable equipment and interactive (3)
 - Playground equipment for children with disabilities
- Shading for playground
- Paid volunteers to help in youth programs (2)
 - Youth volunteers to help with construction
- Clearer explanation in process and limitation in phase 1 (2)
- Green roof on new community center or garden
- Better lighting in the park
- Weights and fitness room should have garage doors
- Airplane to honor history
- Space for train route (2)
- Tennis courts
 - Can the tennis courts relocate?
- Worried about funding for the park and there might not be a phase 2
- More showers in the community center
- Keep existing track and improve
- Improve existing walking trails
- Trash bags and receptacles for dog waste
- How much for rental of festival space
- Skatepark (5)
- Bus between Chavis Park and Pullen Park
- Safe, free place to skate. Youth and adults (11)
- Black history as huge piece of the feel
- Indoor track
- Waterplay areas (2)
- Staying in tune with the modern world

Youth session comments:

- Big slide (6)
- Climbing structures (8)

- Treehouse
- Bakery
- Pool (7)
- Meadow
- Splash pad
- Rock climbing (5)
- Water fountain (3)
- Water fall
- Rocks that you can sit on
- Trees that you can swing on (2)
- Outdoor basketball court (3)
- Football field (4)
- Jungle gyms (2)
- Bigger baseball field (2)
- Swings (7)
- Maze
- Safe playground
- Seating (3)
- Colorful playground
- Playground like Pullen park
- Go karts
- Food
- Urban art (2)
 - Portraits to local leaders
 - Place to express to art
- No sand(2)
- Better parking lot (2)
- Park rides and activities for all ages (2)
- Water slide (6)
- Mulit media room (2)
- Zipline (2)
- Trampoline (2)
- Sand
- Train to go around park (2)
- Vending machines (3)
- Amphitheater
- Tunnels