

Dorothea Dix Park

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Location: Dorothea Dix Grill

Key Presenters:

MVVA Team:

Matthew Urbanski

Adriene Heflich

Jim Labeck (TEND)

Meeting Notes:

The focus of this meeting of the Advisory Committee was to discuss ideas and issues related to the natural systems of the site, from water to ecology, as well as ideas related to transportation and connections.

Urbanski explained that the biodiversity on site is currently very limited: 27% lawn, 27% lawn and oaks, 18% pavement and buildings. There is lots of opportunity for enriching the landscape in certain areas. MVVA understands the importance of maintaining the big field and even proposed lengthening it to the north to increase the view and feeling of boundless space. This idea was inspired by Prospect Park in New York.

When talking about park entrances, Urbanski stressed the importance of locating any potential playground areas close to the entrances. That way, playgrounds would be easily accessible to park-goers and neighbors to the park. Committee members supported the land bridge idea, but some questioned why there are not more plans for a grand entrance to the downtown facing edge of the park. The design team explained that development on the downtown edge will naturally reshape that entrance to the park. Formal park entrance locations are still being explored.

The committee and design team continued the conversation from the last meeting of cars in the park. Committee members pushed to ensure that proposed roads not encourage cars to cut through the park. Both the design team and the committee wants to limit car traffic in

the park as well as encourage non-car multi modal paths for walking/biking/jogging etc. Conversation about parking focused ensuring it is adequate yet strategic so that it does not occupy excessive greenspace.

Lastly, MVVA emphasized that we are making a gathering place. There is enough space that there can be something for everyone. Committee members were then asked to examine the boards in greater detail and engage in conversation.

Other General Comments:

- A committee member brought up the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services submission of its Behavioral Health Strategic Plan to the NC General Assembly, providing an informed vision for the future of North Carolina's behavioral health system. The document will be sent out to all committee members.
- One topic that came up in the discussion is that parking is an accessibility + equity issue. Parking needs to be obvious and easy to use.
- It was also recommended to research the possibility of using wetland banking/developer credits to fund Rocky Creek improvements.