

Dorothea Dix Park

Master Plan Executive Committee

Date: Friday, June 22, 2018
Time: 8:30am - 11:00am
Location: Flower Cottage at Dix Park

Meeting Summary

State Farmers Market

- The State Farmers Market (Dept. of Ag) will initiate a master plan 'lite' with funding from the Dix Park Conservancy.
- MPEC endorsed the process that the contract will be routed through Dix Park Conservancy with the Department of Agriculture as the client. City/Conservancy will provide oversight. Dept. of Ag team (HH Arch and OBS) will work closely with MVVA through process.

Chapel & Stone Houses (Early Release):

- The State of North Carolina will release the Chapel, three stone houses and 1003 Richardson Cottage to the City of Raleigh November 2018. May 2019 the State will release the House of Many Porches, Benner House and all the 1930s wood frame houses on Richardson Circle to the City.

Chapel:

- City will report back on:
 - potential operating costs of Chapel at August meeting(s)
 - list of programmatic uses for Chapel
- City/Conservancy will need some sort of development agreement
- Conservancy will oversee renovation of Chapel
- City will operate Chapel

Site Plan Review & Critique:

- Circulation & Parking
 - Does the circulation pattern make sense? How will people move through the site and easily access parking?
 - What is the proposed parking plan? Off-site and on? What are our predictions about attendance and what percentage of visitors will drive? What is our plan to address those needs? What are the number-of-space assumptions in the current plan?

- Look for opportunities for on-street, parallel parking
- Explore shared parking opportunities (NCSU, State Farmers Market, Pullen)
- May want to consider keeping the at-grade crossing of the RR.
- Is Goode no longer HT's driveway?
- What does the Lake Wheeler/Umstead route entrance access?
- Are there too many intersections off Lake Wheeler?
- Program/Facilities
 - Is the Big Field envisioned as a festival ground too?
 - What's envisioned at the event lawn?
 - Need sport courts- where?
 - Want artist-in-residence/creative village opportunities- where?
 - Need restrooms/facilities on the western side of the property
 - Need restroom/boathouse facility at the pond in the grove
 - Really need details about bodies of water: What are they like? What access to them will people have, for what activities/views? Will the Park land adjoining the newly-created ponds and watercourse have broad areas for lounging, picnicking, and otherwise enjoying the beauty of and investment in this stream restoration project? Can there be walking/running paths around "lakes?" Does the pond at bottom of Dix Hill take away the opportunity for that to continue to be the place that Raleigh comes to go sledding?
 - Where is the botanical gardens?
- Details of Site Plan
 - What do the different color greens mean?
 - Show the Healing Transition expansion plan
 - How big is the pond in the grove?
 - What's the loop road's section? What does it feel like? What's the experience?
- Development
 - What's the total acreage of the development pods?
 - What type of development is envisioned?
 - What's the thinking about where restaurants will go? Activation mix (food, culture, recreation, technology)
- What is the park known for? What's the big idea?
 - Infrastructure vs. Features - what are the galvanizing features going to be? And will the current direction of infrastructure allow for them?
 - Does plan, as laid out, offer enough opportunities for "things to do"?
 - Great kids play areas?
 - Open lawn?
 - The Acropolis?
 - Themes: Food, Culture, Recreation & Education
- Other comments:
 - We will need a fantastic donor recognition area in the park.
 - This is the time when we should challenge the site plan. The 'challenge period'. Let's be more aggressive in our questions/wants.