

Dorothea Dix Park

The Park and Its Partners Workgroup

Date: Thursday, July 26, 2018
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Location: Walnut Creek Wetlands Center

Meeting Summary

The Park and Its Partners meeting focused on Dix Park and its current and future partners. The meeting began with a presentation of updates on the master planning project and the current state of partnership guidelines. Participants were asked to react and respond to these guidelines.

The main body of the meeting centered around a discussion of priorities for partners and partnerships. Discussion was wide-ranging. Some of the proposed partnership priorities stated that partners should:

- Support the community
- Have a similar mindset to the park in respect to dreaming big, but also share the park's values about being a place for everyone in the community
- Provide experiences
- Be surprising and exciting
- Encourage shared experiences with strangers
- Contribute to giving Dix Park a positive and world-renowned experience
- Come from neighboring cities
- Have a 24-hour presence at the park
- Be economic development engines

There was additional conversation around partnerships and park as well. These included:

- Recognize that some partnerships are temporary while others will be permanent
- Some participants felt that partnerships that put residences in the park should be avoided
- Partnerships should be viewed not only as what they bring as an organization, but also what they bring with the people they contribute.
- Development in the park should not impede experiences that can only occur at a park.

- A strong focus should be placed on having a park that is accessible instead of focusing on being the most innovative
- Participants voiced that they would rather have a park that is more accessible than a world-renowned/world famous park
- There is a fear that moving quickly and trying to be the best will be the enemy of equity.
- We need to think about what the community needs, not what individuals want.

Larger but related discussion topics included increasing the interconnectivity of greenspaces in Raleigh, the importance of creating inviting spaces, having city summer camps at Dix Park, and senior involvement at the park in terms of volunteer involvement. The group also discussed the success Pullen Park has at attracting a wonderfully diverse crowd. The city should study what about Pullen Park has led to that diverse audience of users and how Dix Park can learn from that.