

Dorothea Dix Park

Master Plan Executive Committee

Date: **Thursday, December 13, 2018**

Time: 11:30am-1:30pm

Location: Flower Cottage at Dorothea Dix Park

Meeting Agenda

11:30am-11:45am: Lunch, Welcome & Updates

11:45am-12:45pm: The Master Plan Book

12:45pm-1:15pm: Phase A Implementation

1:15pm-1:30pm: Council Work Session Preparation

1:30pm: Meeting Close

Summary

Dorothea Dix Park Project Manager Kate Pearce began the meeting with updates. She met with the Department of Transportation Secretary Jim Trogden, earlier in the week. Secretary Trogden suggested a follow up meeting with the DOT District Manager to discuss transportation feasibility studies in and around Dix Park.. On January 9th and 10th the State will host a [Transportation Summit](#) at the Raleigh Convention Center. The conversations will be very relevant to the evolution of transportation as it relates to the Dix Park Master Plan. Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Design Development and Communications Director, Stephen Bentley, has joined an interdisciplinary team of City employees discussing opportunity zones throughout the City. The area directly east of Dix Park is a federally-designated opportunity zone. Pearce also met with the State Department of Administration about the State's transition off the property. The Chapel, The Stone Houses, the Buffalo House, the Benner House and the Richardson loop of cottages are now planned to transfer to City ownership in February.

Pearce provided updates from the four-hour MPAC work session. She called out the main discussion points (See MPAC notes from 12.05.18):

- Parking phasing
- Renaming the Downtown Gateway
- The Event Hub
- Downtown Connections

The Mayor commented that she thought the arts and culture part of the plan would be more robust. Pearce explained that a public art plan may be a follow up study needed in the short-term. There will also be programmatic ideas for arts and culture within the buildings.

Councilmember Crowder wanted to ensure that the design team was considering connections at all entrances, not just downtown. CM Crowder noted that this is not just a park for downtown. She also pushed back on the Event Hub, noting that its functionality and purpose still seem confusing. Pearce noted that the renderings that the city has requested from MVVA should help. She also noted that the hub will provide space for events with heavy infrastructure that would otherwise tear up the fields. CM Crowder asked how many current city events will fit in that event hub. Members asked for a clear statement of why the hub is key to the park's success. Pearce referenced a conversation from the Advisory Committee about how the Hub provides accessible parking and easy access to the Loop. She suggested that the Hub is necessary to provide access for all.

A member asked where people will park for the Gateway along Lake Wheeler both in the interim and long term. Pearce explained that the city is exploring a temporary lot to the south of the play area during phase one.

Councilwoman Crowder noted that a planned development that's part of her district and adjacent to the park, Five Horizons, is in plan review and will influence the park. The city has spoken with them about opportunities to have a strong connection, protected viewsheds, and potentially shared parking.

A member asked if we have an exact number of buildings that we want to keep. The committee discussed that they want the plan to allow for some flexibility for responding to the times.

The committee restated their goals of the meeting: To edit the master plan, review Phase A implementation, and review Phase Now implementation. There was a general consensus around the table about the six landscapes.

Phase A Discussion

The committee discussed adding the cemetery to Phase A, noting that it is important to have a legacy component in the first phase. There was also discussion of moving it to Phase Now. This would require landscaping, a work plan, and strategy for integrating it into the park. Each of the phase A projects will have their own timeline, funding model, and public engagement. The gateway park is a key part of the plan because it welcomes families to the park.

MPEC discussed Lake Wheeler Road and growing traffic loads. Pearce explained that DOT will help investigate this at a system-wide level.

The committee reviewed a maintenance overview document. The document breaks down number of workers, volunteers, potential pieces equipment needed etc.

The committee discussed that getting the master plan passed needs to be the highest priority. Phase A implementation will follow. A committee member asked for a list prioritizing what approvals will be taken to Raleigh City Council.

Lastly the committee discussed an FAQ Document prepared by the city. Committee members said that the following should be added:

- Timing—when will the park open? Is the park open now? What is the timeline for phasing?
- Accessibility—Will accessibility measures be integrated into the park?
- Will there be something for all ages and abilities?
- Transportation—Is there enough parking? How will that work? How will phases of parking go?

One member asked if there are 6,000 people who come out to the park on a Sunday afternoon, where will they all park? Will we charge for parking? Will there be an opportunity for shared parking between Spring Hill and the Park? People will not come if they don't think that they can park. MPEC discussed potential for a parking phasing plan.

The city is exploring options for a community benefits agreement (CBA) as well as an equitable development plan.

The plan will be open for public comment in January.