

Dorothea Dix Park

Master Plan Executive Committee

Date: **Wednesday, January 30, 2019**
Time: 8:30am-11:00am
Location: Flower Cottage at Dorothea Dix Park

Meeting Agenda

8:30am-8:45am: Breakfast

8:45am-9:00am: Welcome & Updates

- February 6, 2019, 6pm-8pm- Final Community Meeting, Raleigh Convention Center
- Upcoming Programs & Events
- Report from Master Plan Advisory Committee

9:00am-9:45am: Presentation & Discussion of Revised Draft Master Plan

- See attached memo

9:45am-10:00am: Master Plan Executive Committee Recommendation to Raleigh City Council

10:00am-10:30am: Next Steps

11:00am: Meeting Close

Summary

The meeting began with Dix Park Project Manager Kate Pearce providing updates. The weekend prior, Pearce and her team gave tours of the park to high school students from across the state as part of the Youth Council Conference, put on by the Raleigh Youth Council. Around 110 teens attended. They then worked on programmatic ideas that would draw teens from across the state to the park. Pearce also gave a vision tour of the park to the public to share the latest design plans. Three news crews attended the vision tour. The Dix Park team will offer a total of three vision tours prior to the February 6th Community Meeting.

Dix Park Program Director Joseph Voska provided an update on the plans for the February 6th Community Meeting. The meeting will be experiential so that people can feel what the six landscapes will be like.

Advisory Committee Chair Bill Padgett then spoke to the Executive Committee about the Advisory Committee's recommendation for the Master Plan. He explained that the Advisory Committee is a group of diverse members of the community, who have worked hard to make sure the plan is representative

of what the city at large wants and needs. Padgett stated that on January 23rd, 2019 the Advisory Committee voted unanimously to approve the Master Plan. Concerns that the committee had discussed were around parking, development, downtown connections, and equity. The plan has been updated to address concerns and the plan notes that future studies will have to occur for many of these. Padgett then formally presented the recommendation to the Master Plan Executive Committee.

Advisory Committee Co-Chairs Ashton Smith and Jai Kumar shared thoughts and thanks about the past two plus years on the Advisory Committee.

Executive Committee member Carlton Midyette formally thanked the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Pearce walked through the memo on the public comment period and highlighted revisions made to the plan. These included:

- A forward was added to the beginning of the plan.
- An executive summary was made for the plan.
- The role of wellness and the work of the Legacy Committee were highlighted in the plan.
- The public engagement section was added to so that it reflects all the outreach and community members involved in the process.
- Building sections in the plan were amended so that the plan is simply outlining criteria for future decisions to be made. Determinate language for building use was removed.
- For revenue generation, all funding options are presented as potential tools not definite decisions. Decision making around funding will all have to go through City Council.
- Improved connections to downtown were added. Additionally, Pearce met with NC Department of Transit (DOT), NCSU DOT, and City of Raleigh DOT. The State DOT is committing resources to work with the city on feasibility studies on the state-maintained roads. The three groups will work together on transportation planning.

The Mayor inquired about conversations with the railroad company, Norfolk Southern. Pearce explained that we are working on that relationship with the aim of first getting more crossings over the railroad that divides the site. The second goal would be to get an interim rail trail.

The Executive Committee asked that the phasing be changed from letters to numbers (i.e. Phase A change to Phase 1). This will simplify conversations with future donors for the park.

Executive Committee Member Councilwoman Kay Crowder thanked all who have been working to get us to this point and to get such strong support of the plan. She asked that we focus on only celebrating the process since the plan still needs to go to City Council for approval.

The Mayor made a motion to approve the Dix Park Master Plan. Committee member Jim Goodmon seconded the motion. All committee members approved.

A committee member asked how MVVA feels about the changes to the Master Plan. Pearce explained that MVVA is concerned that there is not a funding strategy in place because they do not want the park to fall apart in the long term, but they understand that planning is a community conversation and that this is part of the public process. Decisions will have to wait to be made.

Crowder stated that she has not been pleased with MVVA's performance. She believes they have been very "hot and cold."

A committee member noted that it is important for us to get full support from all of council, but that in order to make bold moves for the future we must realize that there may not be unanimous approval all along the way. Pearce stated that all decisions are ultimately city council's choice.

A member asked about updates on the State Farmer's Market Master Plan. Pearce explained that the plan is still in the works and we will share information once we have it. Pearce also noted that she will be speaking with the Department of Environmental Quality about the landfill in the coming week.

The meeting closed with thank yous to all involved in the process. Members of the public at the meeting shared thoughts and thank yous. Padgett asked that we always think of the legacy we are leaving for generations to come. The meeting closed with a thank you to Greg Poole.

Meeting close.