

Meeting Notes

Subject City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation System Plan - PlanCo Kick-Off Meeting

Date September 18, 2012

Time 4:00pm – 6:30pm

Location Walnut Creek Wetland Center - 950 Peterson Street Raleigh, NC 27610

PlanCo Members

Bobby Hill - Athletics
Brad Johnson – Raleigh CAC
Brian Starkey - Arts
Carter Worthy – Historical/ Cultural
Dave Toms – Raleigh CAC
Elizabeth Gardner – Adventure/ Outdoor Rec.
Erika Braun - Aquatics
Jay Chaudhuri - PRGAB
Jerry Williams - Sustainability
Kimberly Siran - PRGAB
Laura Aiken – Healthy Living
Loren Gold - CVB
Dr. Norman Camp – Nature/ Environment
Ricardo Perez – English as a Second Language
Rodman Charles - CAPSER
Dr. Roger Moore – Greenway, Bike & Ped.
Sally Hunter – Special Populations

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Attendees Melissa Miklus	melissamiklus@altaplanning.com

Purpose: A project kick-off meeting was held for the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation System Plan Update. Attendees were informed of project milestones, roles and responsibilities, and opportunities for participation, while information will be gathered regarding needs and priorities.

Meeting Notes:

- 1) Introductions by Diane and Stephen (CoR)
- 2) Introductions by Planning Commission (PlanCo) members
- 3) Introduction by City staff (CoR)
- 4) PowerPoint presentation
 - Purpose and Mission Statement
 - Survey questions
 - Exercise by Dave (AECOM) 13 Guiding Principles: Rate the success of these components as provided by the City of Raleigh/the region on a scale from 1 (low success) to 10 (high success).
 - i. Fundamentally - treat Parks as a component of an integrated system – 8
 - ii. Are you siloed? 4 -7
 - iii. Are you green and energy efficient 3 - 7
 - iv. Are you contributing to Economic Benefits – 5-7
 - v. Activate public spaces – score of 3-4
 1. Norman Camp says that athletic fields are easy to bring people to, but the City has not been imaginative in attracting people to passive parks
 2. Another committee member says that Jazz festivals have been very helpful in attracting people to open spaces in other cities
 - vi. Are they connected – score of 2 - 8
 - vii. Promote healthy lifestyles – score of 3 - 5
 - viii. Are the systems flexible to accommodate changing uses and lifestyles – 4 - 8
 - ix. Be inclusive in determining needs of the community - Score of 4 - 8
 - x. Protect and enhance natural resources – score of 5 - 8
 - xi. Maximize use of available resources – 2 - 5
 - xii. Create a sense of place – 4 - 8
 - xiii. Respond to citizens needs based on context of their location – 3 – 8
 - Project Overview (Presented by Nick Kuhn with AECOM):
 - i. Question from Ricardo Perez – Why not look internationally for Benchmarking examples? We agreed that we should look at examples across the world, but we may want to focus on examples that the City Council will want to emulate, and this may need to be closer to home.
 - Next Steps – Next PlanCo meeting during the first or second week of December
- 5) Questions and Answers:
 - a) Jerry Williams - We don't know how we are doing with respect to the 13 Guiding Principles – How can we evaluate that? Answer: Tab 5 of the project binder shows how Parks will be evaluated. Also, Stephen (CoR) said that he will pass on some of the published studies that show what other communities have done to be successful
 - b) Ricardo Perez – Can the committee see results of previous evaluations of Raleigh Parks? Answer: Stephen (CoR) will look for these data as well. However this type of evaluation has not been completed.
 - c) Jay Chauduri – How to look at community at large? Answer: AECOM will be using an array of criteria to evaluate and judge parks, and will make recommendations

accordingly. Stephen (CoR) says AECOM will evaluate where in the city parks are not meeting Level of Service. Norman Camp stated that the project team should not just do what is easy like ball parks, make sure we address a spectrum of needs.

- d) Ricardo Perez – Peer Comparison should be made to international peers as well, specifically for premier parks and recreation facilities. How will be considered? Answer: Dave (AECOM) stated that most elected officials will want to compare the system to comparable U.S. cities in order to have apples to apples type comparison. The Project Team will poll Council members to see what cities they would recommend as peers.
- e) Erika Braun - What do you need from the PlanCo? Answer: Look for e-mails from Stephen; check out links on website; review the binders; commit to the schedule; and commit to preparing beforehand, spread the word about the project by telling friends, neighbors and coworkers. We will also work with you on the development of our focus groups.
- f) Dave Toms - Is our role to generate data, or comment on information from the team? Answer: Using hands on methods, help define the vision; comment on information provided at least a week in advance in meetings
- g) Ricardo Perez – How will you involve the business communities – use the CDD and the Chamber of Commerce? Answer: Stephen (CoR) said we will present to both of them, and provide handouts of the planning process
- h) Brad Johnson - Is there any usefulness to the PlanCo using the evaluation form in their own neighborhoods? Answer: The AECOM team will do all the evaluations, and bring it back the committee for comments.
- i) Samantha Schuff – How were we chosen? Answer: Stephen (CoR) said she was chosen from the Raleigh Youth Council; others were selected by the Parks Staff, voted on by the Advisory Board and approved by the Council
- j) Dave Toms – How are recommendations going to be considered if not by vote, but by consensus. Answer: For issues that for which there appears to be dissent, we will identify these issues during group discussions, and seek to resolve problems with the individuals most engaged in the discussion/dissent
- k) Elizabeth Gardner - Can additional items be added to the on-line survey? Answer: Yes, these questions are draft, please let us know if you have comments on any of them. The mail and telephone surveys will be a little more rigid in terms of how we add questions, but the on-line survey is flexible.

6) Stephen (CoR) closed at 6:10

Action Items:

- Stephen (CoR) to provide meeting notes to PlanCo members, next PlanCo meeting date, time and location.