

Excerpts from COUNCIL MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Raleigh met in regular session at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, **December 1, 2009**, in the City Council Chamber of the Raleigh Municipal Building, Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, with the following present.

Mayor Charles C. Meeker, presiding
Mayor Pro-Tem James P. West
Councilor Mary-Ann Baldwin
Councilor Thomas G. Crowder
Councilor Bonner Gaylord
Councilor Nancy McFarlane
Councilor John Odom
Councilor Russ Stephenson

Mayor Meeker called the meeting to order and invocation was rendered by Reverend Patrick Dominguez, Church of the Apostles. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor John Odom. The following items were discussed with action taken as shown.

MOORE SQUARE CONCEPT – STAFF AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATING CONTRACT

In April and June of 2009, City Council approved the staff effort to solicit input for the design competition and a juried professional design competition to improve the historic Moore Square and adjacent streetscapes. A summary report of public input from the Open Call for Ideas events held in June and July is in the backup material. The Juried Design Competition drew considerable national interest with 89 entries submitted. The jury of five design professionals and civic leaders reviewed all entries anonymously and ranked them before deciding that Chris Counts Studio of Charlottesville, Virginia be awarded First Place. Mr. Counts, Jury Advisor Mr. Rodney Swink, City staff and a representative of the State Historic Preservation Office will make a short presentation and be available to answer questions at the meeting. To move from the Juried Design Competition, to the next phase of Master Plan development, it is recommended that 1) City Council recognize Chris Counts Studio the winner of the Moore Square Design Competition. Staff has met with Mr. Counts, reviewed his concept, his past projects, and his firm's qualifications and further recommends that 2) permission be granted to negotiate a detailed scope of work and fee proposal for the master planning of Moore Square.

Recommendation: Recognize Chris Counts Studio the winner of the Moore Square Design Competition and authorize staff to proceed with negotiating a contract for the Master Plan development

Parks and Recreation Director Diane Sauer talked about the Moore Square jury concept explaining the process which had a jury of five individuals with Rodney Swink, Jury Advisor and introduced Mr. Swink.

Mr. Swink expressed appreciation for the honor of serving as jury advisory. He talked about the process, series of public comment, the fact that there were 89 entries and explained that Chris Counts Studio was the winner. He went over the first, second and third place winner which included Larry Zucchini of J Davis Architects and Stephen Stimson Associates, Falmouth, Maine. He also talked about the honorable mention submissions.

Chris Counts who described his entry, entitled "Elevated Ground" gave details on his background and briefly described his work on Bailey Plaza at Cornell University, recipient of the American Society of Landscape Architects Toronto Urban Design Award, Lower Danes Lands in Toronto, Norvartis North American Headquarters Campus Master Plan, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Hudson Rail Yards, among others. He talked about this being a public interaction and the fact that he feels we are in the beginning of the process. There are some ideas that are important that will move forward in the concept. He indicated he was looking forward to working with all.

Mr. Shouse indicated staff is not asking the Council to approve this concept. He stated there has been some misconception this is not a design. We will take what we have learned and begin a design process. The goal is not to propose this as the final design but a starting concept.

Mr. Counts described his concept which includes seating, playgrounds, plaza to connect to the children's museum, the fact that trees are very important to the park, the need to stay away from the trees and not damage the root system, talked about the entrances and maintaining the location but removing some of the obstructions at the entrances so you could see into the park, low point in the park that could be turned into some type stormwater system, etc. Mr. Crowder asked about the historic aspects with Mr. Counts taking about Moore Square being defined by its use

Mr. Stephenson had questions about the orientation of the playground, the significance of the park and use of the park and discussion about the ownership by the State. Mr. Shouse pointed out the State does own the park and there has been a tremendous effort to improve the State and engage the Stakeholders. Mr. Crowder questioned if the Historic Districts and Parks and Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board had an opportunity for input on the final with Mr. Shouse pointing out it was a juried competition. They had opportunities to view the concepts the same as others.

Ms. Baldwin moved that the Council recognize Chris Counts Studio as the winner of the Moore Square Design Competition and authorize staff to proceed with negotiating a contract for the master plan development. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Meeker and a roll call vote resulted in all members voting in the affirmative. The Mayor ruled the motion adopted on an 8-0 vote.

Mr. Crowder expressed appreciation to Mr. Swink and the jury members who participated. He stated in his opinion it was a very close decision between 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners pointing out he feels it was a very tough job for the jury.