

# Kiwanis Park Improvements – Public Meeting #1

January 5, 2017

## Report, January 12, 2017



Chris Aycock, facilitator



**Kirwan** architecture

**DHM DESIGN**

## Purpose of Public Meeting 1

Public meeting 1 was held on January 5, 2017, at Kiwanis Park. This meeting was held in support of the Kiwanis Park Improvements project. The purpose of this meeting was for citizens to have an opportunity to provide input, offer ideas and ask questions. The designers and the City of Raleigh staff will take this input and ideas into consideration when working on the Kiwanis Park Improvements project.

Public meeting 2 will take place February 9, 2017 and will give an opportunity for the public to provide further input.

Kirwan Architecture, lead consultant, assisted by the landscape architecture firm, DHM Design are the design firms who were present at this public meeting. Luke Wallenbeck, project manager, represented the City of Raleigh Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources. Chris Aycock, President of The Aycock Group, was engaged to facilitate the public meeting and to create this report.

## Public Meeting 1

After the background was provided by Luke Wallenbeck, project manager the city of Raleigh, and the designers gave a brief presentation on the design concept, Mr. Aycock engaged the public. All the citizens at the public meeting participated, and provided much helpful input.

At the beginning of the public meeting, the participants shared their interest and experiences in the park, both in the past and currently, including but not limited to memories and current individual experiences.

Then the two following questions were asked. Here is the feedback and questions raised for each of the two questions.

### *1. What is important to you in the park?*

The nationally respected consensus building process Technology of Participation from the Institute of Cultural Affairs - USA (ICA) was customized and used. The participants worked in small groups and then all participants worked together and agreed on five overall categories on what is important to them in the park.

Five overall categories were identified as to what is important in the park to the participants.

*Dog park and run*

- Explore options.
- Are there ways the community can help in organizing or with fundraising?

*Inviting*

- Safe, not feeling exposed or confined.
- Pedestrian connection to greenway.
- Clear connection of comfort station and water fountain to court sport.

*Engage building with the community*

- Staffed facility.
- Programming through ReLink.
- Indoor sports facilities (Basketball, volleyball).

*Outdoor free and open space*

- Kids “free play” space, example is playground
- Nice, areas to play, not only structured sports (“hang” out with friends/family).
- Outdoor fitness stations.

*Clean open bathrooms*

- Accessible, available, in good shape

2. *Do you have concerns about the design concept and the park in general? What are your concerns? What do you look forward to?*

The citizens attending this public meeting, the designers and the City of Raleigh staff had a facilitated discussion on the questions three above. The public raised concerns and opportunities. The designers and the City of Raleigh were responsive to ideas and input and also provided context and rationale for their thinking.

Issues/Questions discussed included the following themes and opportunities:

1. *Not be wasteful with current resources*
  - Can current shelter be used for larger groups?
  - Could parts of the basketball court stay?
2. *Lighting*
  - Can lighting in parking lot be enhanced?
  - Could lighting for basketball court be better?
3. *Greenway connection, currently a challenge to find*
  - Can signage be improved?
  - Can the awareness of the relationship to the greenway and the park be more clear, both from the park to the greenway and from the greenway to the park?
4. *Open space for playing*
  - How can more open spaces be created or increased?
  - How can the public be informed of when assigned sports fields are available?
5. *Dog park and/or dog run*
  - There is much interest in a dog part. The participants asked: Can a dog park and/or dog run to be considered in the design?
  - The people who attended the public meeting also inquired: Is it possible for the community to raise money itself for a dog park and/or run?

The designers and the City of Raleigh, value the input of citizens who have been, are or will be use and/or be engaged with Kiwanis Park. In addition to the two public meetings, The City of Raleigh is using a survey to gather additional input and encourages people to attend Meeting 2 on February 9, 2017.