



Meeting Minutes

Project: *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Gardens Expansion*
Subject: *Public Meeting #1: meeting to solicit public input on the expansion of the memorial gardens.*
Meeting Date: *March 20, 2012 6:00PM – 8:00PM*
Location: *Walnut Creek Wetland Center, Classroom 1
950 Peterson Street – Raleigh, NC*

Attendance: See attached sign-in sheet. Staff in attendance included Shawsheen Baker, Lora Greco, Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, David Shouse, Dick Bailey, Diane Sauer and Dennis Pitts (consultant).

Shawsheen Baker introduced the project consultant, Dennis Pitts with McNeely Associates, and the public leadership group members present, including Bruce Lightner, the PLG Chair.

Shawsheen Baker explained that the Public Leadership Group (PLG) is a steering committee overseeing the project process including public participation and design concept development.

She also provided a brief overview including history, location, and schedule.

Project Schedule:

<i>Feb. 2012</i>	<i>PLG meeting #1 to kick off the project and prepare for the first public meeting</i>
<i>March 2012</i>	<i>Public meeting #1 to solicit ideas</i>
<i>March 2012</i>	<i>PLG meeting #2 to review public suggestions and set directions for design</i>
<i>Apr-Jun 2012</i>	<i>Design concept development</i>
<i>July 2012</i>	<i>PLG meeting #3 to review the design concept and prepare for public meeting</i>
<i>Aug. 2012</i>	<i>Finalizing draft conceptual design</i>
<i>Sept. 2012</i>	<i>PRGAB presentation and public meeting #2 to review the draft design concept</i>
<i>Oct. 2012</i>	<i>PRGAB approval</i>
<i>Nov. 2012</i>	<i>Council presentation and approval</i>
<i>Jan-June 2013</i>	<i>Design and permitting</i>
<i>2013-2014</i>	<i>Bidding and construction (depending on budget approval)</i>

Dennis Pitts gave an overview of site existing conditions including zoning, transportation, topography, and environmental conditions.

- *Initially the memorial concept was merely a sketch, nothing more.*
- *Noted adjacent properties.*

- *The closest sewer is located south on Rock Quarry Road*
- *There are very minimal steep slopes.*
- *24 parking spaces exist, however 37 were shown on the plan for the memorial. Opportunity to add more spaces?*
- *Both interior property lines are fenced and landscaped (thick vegetative screen).*
- *The site has good soils.*

Dennis Pitts presented the project mission statement and objectives

Mission Statement:

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy and contributions to peace, justice, equality, human dignity, and education by expanding and enhancing the MLK Memorial Gardens , providing a unique historic and educational destination for the people of North Carolina and the Nation.

Objectives:

- *Enrich the commemorative experience*
- *Support education opportunities*
- *Promote community cohesion*
- *Complement downtown development*
- *Provide safe, friendly and sustainable leisure environment*
- *Improve vehicular and pedestrian accessibility*

Dennis Pitts offered to take any general questions, however there were no questions at this time.

Bruce Lightner provided detailed history on the creation of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

Participants were asked to form four (4) groups to generate ideas through questions and discussion. A staff member was present at each group, while Dennis Pitts was available as a resource to answer questions from any group. The discussions were guided by four questions (below). After the small group discussion, the staff member at each group presented the group's answers to the questions.

TODAY

What do you like most about the Memorial Gardens?

- Group
 - Flowers and Plants
 - A gathering place
 - Visibility and accessibility
 - Inviting
 - The architecture and the wall (simple and respectful)
- Group
 - Fountain
 - Statue
 - Visible location
 - "that it exists"
 - Donor recognition (bricks)
- Group
 - The southeast Raleigh location in the historic black community.
 - Gardens has served the spirits of the whole Raleigh community and economy and tourism.

- The memorial is quiet with the opportunity for reflection and education (versatility).
- Gardens remain clean and presentable.
- Good design and overall aesthetic.
- Great use of resources and money and space.
- Group
 - Easy access to the memorial
 - The water feature
 - The view of the memorial from either street (visibility)
 - The statue's likeness to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - The memorial wall and donor bricks that helped support the memorial
 - Free access (no charge)
 - The memorial is well lit
 - The feeling/atmosphere when in the gardens

What are your major concerns about the Memorial Gardens?

- Group
 - Not enough parking
 - No restrooms
 - No drinking fountain
 - Needs to bring visitors back
 - Need more information about Dr. King
 - Static vs. Dynamic
 - Would be nice to make it bigger
- Group
 - Not enough parking
 - Budget threats
 - Lack of interpretation:
 - Dr. King and civil rights
 - Opportunity to teach
 - No restroom, drinking water (fountain)
 - Small size
 - Lack of group picnic space
 - Shelter
 - Area lights not adequate
- Group
 - Entrance and shortcut through the parking lot
 - Concern with it becoming recreation focused. Like that it is not (currently).
 - Maintain police patrols
- Group
 - The statue is not elevated
 - The size of the statue is small
 - There is no covered area to protect visitors from the heat and cold.

TOMORROW

What activities would you like to see accommodated in the expansion?

- Group
 - Class/lecture setting with outdoor sound system
 - Interactive technology
 - Interpretation of themes
 - High-tech
 - Safe and secure

- Group
 - Cultural festival
 - Group picnic
 - Opportunity for meditation and reflection
 - Inter-generational opportunities
 - Multi-media interpretation
 - Live, static, dynamic
- Group
 - Promotion of the history
 - Picnicking and events
 - Paths – walking
 - Education
 - Interactive learning opportunities
 - Meditation and reflection
- Group
 - Have the MLK march at the memorial instead of downtown
 - Interactive learning
 - No playground

What site features (elements) would you like to see in the expansion?

- Group
 - A projection screen
 - A peace pole with different languages where people gather
 - Lighting/text board with display
 - Security cameras
 - Educational stations (varieties)
 - More lighting at night
 - Water wall sculpture
 - Preserve existing trees
 - Incorporate MLK Gardens in downtown marketing plan
 - Physical and symbolic connection between downtown and the Gardens
- Group
 - Interactive learning path and center (sensory trail)
 - Parking
 - Restrooms
 - Benches
 - Group shelter
 - Drinking fountain
 - Improved lighting
 - Map of civil rights history – use the LANDSCAPE
 - Local/regional/south history
- Group
 - Picnic
 - Paths and walkways
 - Restroom
 - ADA accessible
 - Improve fence/solid screen
 - Mural
 - Shrubs
 - Enhance lighting for special programs and everyday use
 - Relocate parking to new lot to eliminate through traffic and accommodate parking tastefully

- School bus parking
- Kiosk with interactive tours and information
- *Acquire or have donated the Exum property (swap).
- Group
 - Covered space (Gazebo)
 - Movie Screen/Amphitheater with audio speakers (education)
 - Paved walkways – concrete pavers (can be etched with contributor’s names)
 - LED Lights
 - Brick Restroom
 - Picnic shelter
 - Drinking fountain
 - Bus parking
 - Improve the fence (upgrade)
 - Convert existing fence into a brick wall (including named bricks) and run a sidewalk along the inside of the new wall as an expanded memorial wall.

Desired activities were consolidated across the groups and participants were asked to prioritize their top three (3) activities (results shown here).



Desired site elements were consolidated across the groups and participants were asked to prioritize their top three (3) activities (results shown here).

ELEMENTS			
SCREEN w/ AUDIO ●	PEACE POLE ●	LIGHTING/ TEXT	SECURITY CAMERAS ●●●
EDUCATIONAL STATIONS ●●●●	PRESERVE TREES	INCORPORATE/ CONNECT TO DOWNTOWN ●	MORE LIGHTING AT NIGHT
DUNOR PANELS			

ELEMENTS			
INTERACTIVE LEARNING PATH ●●●●	PARKING/ RELOCAT ● PARKING/ IMPROVE TRAFFIC	RESTROOMS ● ●●●●●●●●	BENCHES ●●●●
GROUPED SHELTER PICNIC GAZEBO ●●●●●●●●	DRINKING FOUNTAIN ●●	IMPROVED LIGHTING (PARK) LED ●●●●●●●●	CIVIL RIGHTS MAP / PATH ●●●●●●●●
ADA ACCESSIBLE ●●	IMPROVE EXISTING FENCE. ●●●●●●●● UPGRADE/RENOVATE /REPLACE w/ BRICK WALL	KIOSK ●●	EXHIBIT ●●●●

Reported by: Lora Greco
Cc: All PLG members; project webpage; project file

Please inform the reporter if any statement herein is inconsistent with your own notes or recollections.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Gardens Expansion

March 20, 2012

Name	Zip Code
David Prince	27529
Norman Camp II	27600
Norman Camp III	27610
K. Middleton	27603
Bruce Lightner	27601
Betty Brody	26710
Craig Ralph	27604
Mark Alston	27603
Dan Coleman	
Ruluy P. Greene	27610
Bernestine Sanders	27601
Vicky Hockaday	27601
Charles Rodman	27610
Dennis DAVIDS	27610
Rob Gelblum	27608
Alexandra Alexander	27610
Eugene Keels	27610
James E. Williams	27601
James Cannon	27610
Annie McCoy	27610
Loretha Pearson	27610
John Tipton	27603
Edward	27613 / 27603
Goph Bussey	27604
Nathaniel Hines	27601

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Gardens Expansion

March 20, 2012



Name	Zip Code
LORI D. R. WIGGINS	27610
Hazel M. Logan	27601
Diane Pledge	27514
NOEL JAMES	27707
Jessica Whitaker	27610
Joseph M. Sansom	27610
Gail Elwan	27513
Mary Brooks	27601