



RATIO DESIGN
227 FAYETTEVILLE ST
SUITE 301
RALEIGH, NC 27601

RATIODESIGN.COM

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT Durham Outdoor Aquatics Project

RATIO PROJECT NO 21410.000

DATE/TIME March 10, 2021; 4:00pm

PURPOSE Residents Committee (RC) Kick-off Meeting

HELD AT Microsoft Teams

PARTICIPANTS

Residents Committee

Midori Brooke	Cedric Burke	Shannon Teamer
Almira Marshall	DeWarren Langley	
Stephanie Smith	Bonita Green	
Naadii Salaam	Ron Sutherland	
Vanessa Alford	Humberto Trejo	
Levon Barnes	Angel Dozier	

City of Durham

Fallon Thompson, Jason Phelan (GSD)

Mary Unterreiner, Colleen Toomey (DPR)

Design Team

Lisa Esterrich (RATIO)

Jackie Turner, Kate Collins (JTC)

Introductions

Each member introduced themselves with the prompts of giving their name, the organization they represent and their last aquatics space or feature they visited. Responses included:

- The beach
- Water park
- Pool
- Kids swim lessons
- Lake

Team & Timeline

Jackie reviewed the organization chart representing both the Core Team and Technical Steering Committee, as well as the overall project timeline. She went over the expectations

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and responsibilities for RC members including attending meetings, sending alternates from their organization if they are unable to attend, providing input on the Public Engagement Plan, share project information with their networks, and assisting with outreach.

Project Overview

Jackie provided a general introduction to the three project sites: East End Park, Long Meadow Park, the Wheels Fun Park site, and the proposed trail alignment. She noted the existing aquatic facilities at both East End and Long Meadow Parks and highlighted the graphic representation of the floodplains.

Polling Questions

The presentation paused to ask members:

1. How did you recreate growing up?
 - a. Beach
 - b. Visiting family and friends
 - c. Driving trips
 - d. Playing games
 - e. Visiting State Parks
 - f. Swim team
 - g. Water Polo
 - h. Soccer
 - i. Church
 - j. Nature trails
 - k. Amusement parks
 - l. Neighborhood Recreation Center - volunteer
 - m. Visiting the pool (Duke Pool and Long Meadow Park)
2. What do you do with your leisure time now?
 - a. Travel/Vacation/Road Trips
 - b. Spend Time with Family
 - c. Visit Nature Trails/Hike
 - d. Amusement parks
 - e. Swim Team
 - f. Spending Time in Nature
 - g. Playing organized sports (School Sports and in the Community)
 - h. Camping (Montana & other)
 - i. Visit parks
 - j. Gardening
 - k. Beach
 - l. Volunteering in the community to meet other's needs

- m. Summer Recreation Camp
 - n. Kickball
 - o. Roller Skating
 - p. Visit the library
3. What do you think will make this project a success?
- a. Making sure all voices are heard
 - b. Genuinely improving Pool Access in Durham
 - c. Listening to the wants and needs of the community
 - d. Actually work to create what the community wants
 - e. "Sharing is Caring"
 - f. When the community is happy with the final projects
 - g. Being open minded and active listening
 - h. When everyone has access to neighborhood recreation/aquatic centers that are affordable for all demographics
 - i. Getting input directly from the people impacted/live in the area and acting on it

Engagement Approach

Jackie gave an overview of the DRAFT engagement plan which will include:

- project area demographic trends
- Multiple tools for engagement: content for website, social media, in-person and virtual events, etc.
- the need to facilitate community conversations- looking to get shared stories that speak to the unique community history.
- a list of potential stakeholders and events and asked for members to provide input.

Swim Stories

- "Prior to integration, the Duke Pool wasn't open to Black people so they would need to go to Long Meadow. It would be a 'special outing' and somewhat of an effort to get from the outlying areas to Long Meadow but was welcome as it was something different to do in the summer besides working in the gardens. Once the Duke Pool was integrated, they would use it but was also a 'special outing'.
- "Our town had a public pool but marketed it as private. Black people were not allowed to go and we had to go to Wake Forest to swim. There, kids played cruel games in the water making it difficult for us to enjoy the pool. Stories of harassment at the Freedman Beach were integral to my family's choice to not go. I learned how to swim when I was in college."
- A discussion about learning how to swim should be a priority, especially for youth, given the higher rates of drownings in Black communities.

- A member spoke of growing up in the DC area with free opportunities to learn to swim. Feel like there is a lack of organized efforts to teach swim lessons in Durham. In teaching teens to swim, there may be a pipeline to connect them to lifeguarding positions.
- Per Colleen Toomey, a **free** Red Cross lifeguarding class (\$250 value) is offered by the City to support training and get more teens to fill open positions.
- Principal Alford mentioned she looks forward to having more opportunities to teach swimming in the community youth. The school offers a free outward bound type canoeing activity and they find there is limited participation given the fear of not knowing how to swim.

Questions and Next Steps

Homework for the committee:

- Review the public engagement plan
- Request materials to share within the community
- Let the team know of events and contact person and the members' interest/availability to volunteer at engagement events
- It was noted that youth representatives should be included on the RC. Jackie responded that multiple youth representatives have been invited to join the group. Efforts are still underway to have their participation. The team will increase the effort to involve youth on the committee and gather input at youth-focused events; two members shared in the chat that there were youth listening in on the meeting. Contact us so they can participate in a more formal, consistent way. Jackie will again reach out to students from the Office on Youth and My Durham; both groups were invited to the meeting.

Based on the sign-in sheet question, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon are preferable for a meeting. The next RC meeting is planned for **Thursday April 7 at 3:30pm**.

Any additions or corrections to these Minutes should be submitted in writing to RATIO within seven (7) days of receipt. Otherwise, these Minutes stand as correct.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Esterrich, PLA, ASLA
Associate Principal | Raleigh Landscape Architecture Leader

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