



# MEETING SUMMARY

RATIO DESIGN  
227 FAYETTEVILLE ST  
SUITE 301  
RALEIGH, NC 27601

[RATIODESIGN.COM](http://RATIODESIGN.COM)

**PROJECT** Durham Outdoor Aquatics Project

**RATIO PROJECT NO** 21410.000

**DATE/TIME** July 11, 2022; 2:00 pm

**PURPOSE** Core Team Meeting

**HELD AT** Microsoft Teams

**PARTICIPANTS** **City of Durham**  
Jina Propst, Fallon Thompson, Henri Prospero, Shauna Parker,  
Lisa R. Smith (GSD)  
Tom Dawson, Jason Jones, Almira Marshall, Mary Unterreiner,  
Rukea Womack (DPR)

**Design Team**  
Lisa Esterrich, Andrew Harrell, John Jackson (RATIO)  
Jackie Turner (JTC)  
Miklos Valdez (CH)

## **FORMER WHEELS FUN ASSESSMENT**

- City manager staff has been asking about the Wheels Fun assessment timeline.
  - The consultants estimate field investigations to resume next week. They have been coordinating with city staff to have roof access.
  - August 19<sup>th</sup> is an approximate date to have produced a report that combines the field investigation and code evaluation.
- Shauna Parker was introduced to the Core Team as a Senior Project Manager.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

- Jackie T. sent the Phase 1 Engagement Summary approximately a week ago and asks the team to review and comment by July 22 for edits to be made.
- Jackie T. reviewed some previous engagement results and showed updated engagement participation maps. A new map that shows the location and race of the 200+ online survey participants that provided an address.

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## Phase 1.5 Strategy

- The priority now is to target local locations for Phase 1.5. Jackie T. showed a table outlining recommended locations and dates to host engagement events. A list of potential locations and dates was given based on the Core Team's judgment and capacity to host additional engagement events.
  - Typically Saturdays from 11 AM - 1 PM are cited as the busiest time at the Long Meadow pool. *A recent update since the meeting is that the pool is now open 1-5 pm on Saturdays.*
  - Fall season baseball and football games would potentially be for Phase 2 engagement.
  - August or September PAC meetings could be for Phase 1.5 or Phase 2 depending on the project status at the time.
  - East Regional Library was recommended as an engagement location, however, the East Regional Library staff said they had the lowest visitors in the system and their highest attended events (storytimes) typically have 12-14 parents attend outside. The Core Team should evaluate if that is worth our staff resources to host an event as opposed to setting up an easel or leaving project materials at the library.
  - DPR had reached out to Equity and Inclusion to help define metrics for quantity and quality of public engagement. E&I responded that there is not a specific number to meet; it is more important that all demographics are represented. E&I and DPR had agreed that the current Phase 1.5 strategy is adequate.

## Review supplemental survey

- The previous survey has been adapted to focus feedback on East End and Long Meadow parks only.
- A question has been revised to ask for a participant's address or at least cross-streets.
- Jackie T. to add a recreational pool as a program option in the survey. The survey wording should avoid suggesting a pool could be replaced in Long Meadow Park. Jackie T. to send the revised survey to the city to approve the phrasing.

## Review potential updates to engagement graphics

- The engagement boards are condensed to only show relevant program options for East End and Long Meadow.
- Lisa E. showed the most recent iteration of Phase 1.5 engagement boards. Recent edits recommend simplifying boards and removing program elements relevant to Wheels Fun.
- The outdoor pool should be removed. – Update July 13.

## DESIGN

- Design work for East End and Long Meadow will slow down to accommodate additional feedback from Phase 1.5 which should be completed by very early August

### Additional investigations at East End Park

- There were no updates discussing this topic.

### Design discussion – the former Wheels Fun site

- The design team used previous Core Team feedback to create a combined concept. Listed are some of the notable design concepts:
  - Rearrange and reorient parking so areas are complementary to the terrain
  - Align a new driveway entrance with the vehicular entry at Merrick Moore Park.
  - The main driveway entry should accommodate, car drop-off and bus drop-off in front of the poolhouse and the skating rink.
  - A proposed public plaza in front of the poolhouse would be outside of the ticketed area. The plaza could have an aquatics feature, such as a sprayground, to provide a more accessible water play feature. The location creates an opportunity for a major pedestrian crossing to Merrick Moore Park.
  - Create an outdoor area adjacent to the roller skating rink.
  - Maintain vehicular access to Muldee St. as a service, secondary, and/or staff entry.
- Tom D. discussed some potential opportunities to collaborate with Merrick Moore (MM) Park. Most of the MM Park amenities are seasonal, at the back of the park, and can be gated during off-seasons. Therefore, the front of the park wants to have more year-round, publically-accessible amenities. A MM Park team has initially been discussing nature play, trails, and an ADA-accessible playground.
  - Tom D. to send the most up-to-date information on the proposed amenities in the front MM park.
  - The high point across from the skating rink has been a design challenge for MM park. The Wheels Fun design team may consider opportunities for this sloped area in MM Park when creating options for the Wheels Fun site.
  - A pedestrian crossing at the proposed public plaza could coordinate well with the amenity areas in MM Park. The design team to coordinate with the

Durham Transportation Department for an appropriate pedestrian crossing which may need HAWK beacons at a minimum.

- Miklos V. prepared several options to show scale and sample aquatic program selections. The options vary mostly by the scale of recreation and competition pools. The options range from small, medium, and large recreation- and competition pools
- Option 1
  - Bathhouse
  - Aquatics:
    - 700 SF toddler pool
    - **Small** (8) lane 25-yard lap competition pool [2 diving boards, climbing wall]
    - **Large** 11,800 SF leisure pool [lazy river, large play structure, slide tower with multiple slides]
  - Shade structures and shade pavilions
- Option 2
  - Bathhouse
  - Aquatics
    - 700 SF toddler pool
    - **Medium** 25-yard X 25-meter competition pool [equates to (10)-25 yard lanes; 2 diving boards, climbing wall]
    - **Medium** 9,200 SF leisure pool [crossing activity, current channel, specialty slide]
  - Shade structures and shade pavilions
- Option 3
  - Bathhouse
  - Aquatics
    - 700 SF toddler pool
    - **Large** 50-meter competition pool
    - **Small** 5,500 SF leisure pool [waterslide, current channel, fitness area, crossing activity]
  - Shade structures and shade pavilions
- One method to attract more people is to have one or two signature aquatics features instead of having a larger quantity of average features.
- Having a specialty slide (ex. bowl slide, speed races) typically has more reoccurring uses than regular slides.
- A lazy river has tubes for people to float on and a current channel is tubeless. Therefore lazy rivers require more width and space to accommodate the tubes. Miklos V. to include current channel and lazy river definitions in future concept

diagrams. Engagement responses showed a high preference for a lazy river and did not differentiate between lazy rivers and current channels.

- Miklos V. will create a graphic or table that compares the design options with the aquatics master plan priorities and engagement top choices.
  - Option 3 aligns with the master plan but Options 1 & 2 align more with engagement results from Phase 1.
- The larger aquatics and recreational facilities are to be isolated from some more public sections to control areas that may require user fees, have seasonal uses, shorter opening hours, and programs that have larger staffing requirements. Lisa E. initially drafted a fenced area to separate ticketed and non-ticketed areas. The team had no immediate edits to fence delineation.
- The Wheels Fun site is mostly impervious so there is a lot of flexibility to maintain or decrease impervious surfaces.
- Miklos V. to progress concepts further and begin fitting the options to the Wheels Fun site.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- Miklos V. to send Jason J. slides to evaluate Wheels Fun options with Colleen T.
- Jackie T. to send the final version of the updated survey for City approval.
- RATIO to send the final version of Phase 1.5 engagement materials for City approval

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,



Andrew Harrell

Landscape Architectural Graduate