

19 May 2021

## MEETING MINUTES

**PROJECT NAME:** Newport News Southeast Resource Area Master Plan  
**QEA PROJECT #:** 42025320  
**MEETING:** Executive-Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:** 05.18.2021  
**ATTENDEES:** McKinley Price, City of Newport News  
Cindy Rohlf, City of Newport News  
Sheila McAllister, City of Newport News  
Craig Galant, City of Newport News  
Alan Archer, City of Newport News  
Michael Poplawski, City of Newport News  
Anita Jennings, City of Newport News  
Saul Gleiser, City of Newport News  
Dr. Terri Best, Newport News Public Schools  
Dr. George Parker, Newport News Public Schools  
Rashard Wright, Newport News Public Schools  
Felicia Barnett, Newport News Public Schools  
Wade Beverly, Newport News Public Schools  
Crystal Rainey, C. Waldo Scott Center  
Jannie Bazemore, Community Member  
Charles Tilley, Quinn Evans  
Chuck Wray, Quinn Evans  
Syd Knight, Quinn Evans  
Allison Powell, Quinn Evans  
Nakita Reed, Quinn Evans  
Allie Jarett, Quinn Evans

## FOUNDATIONS:

- QE has reviewed the 2019/20 Master Plan Study, key takeaways include:
  - Trend 1: Support of a collocated recreation, youth, and library center on a walkable shared campus.
  - Trend 2: Most residents want the historic façade kept and the school to be in a separate building from the other community amenities.
- QE has reviewed the Huntington Middle School Feasibility Study
  - Guiding principles: Meaningful community opportunities, a culture of student empowerment, innovative learning spaces, collaborative learning communities
  - School campus focus criteria: Respect the community, learning happens everywhere, community focused, empower the students
  - School facility focus criteria: Celebrate the community, celebrate learning, open & secure environment, be sensible, students matter

## VISION:

- The Southeast Community Resource Area will be a 21<sup>st</sup> century one-stop shop that supports all residents, educates the mind, body, and spirit, and creates a distinctive community gathering place.
- Visioning Activity Question #1: What do you hope remains the same in the Southeast Community after the project is completed? / What is unique about the Southeast Community that you don't want to see leave?
  - Pride
  - Pool
  - Learning and meeting spaces
  - Welcoming spaces
  - Some part of the exterior facade of the school, historic value preserved
  - Safe haven for kids

19 May 2021

- Community feel, community values, engaging, center of community
- Outdoor recreation and sports amenities
- Connectivity to youth
- Sense of community ownership
- Walkability
- Pride in the history
- Written and oral history should be visually represented
- Continued celebration of the arts, musical performances
  
- Visioning Activity Question #2: What types of changes do you hope the project will bring about in the Southeast Community?
  - More community gathering
  - Private interests in redevelopment around the site
  - Draw people from all parts of the city
  - Diversity socially, economically, racially
  - Change in the reputation of the community
    - Currently perceived as low income, crime ridden—and it is not
    - Need diversity and people to know the reality of the community
    - Difficult to shift perception
  - Places for you to go outside of school hours, adding to quality of life for young people
    - Currently youth play anywhere they can play
  - Display of pride of community, need venue to show how grand the community was and can be in the future
  - There used to be retail and restaurants on Jefferson and Chestnut, would like to see more of that
  - Inadequate and outdated facilities need to change
  - More diverse programs for youth
  - Seniors need more multi-age places to go
  
- Visioning Activity Question #3: How will you define a successful project?
  - Envision yourself a part of the community
  - Place where people want to be
  - Maximum utilization of the facility, can see activity
  - Inviting
  - Accessible
  - Resourceful
  - Educational
  - Inspirational
  - Multi-purpose
  - Multi-generational
  - Collaborative
  - Walkable
  - Unifying
  - Catalyst for progress
  - Good graduation rate
  - Safe
  - Building serves the surrounding community, convenient to the people in the area
  
- Trends identified from visioning activity:
  - Strong sense of pride in the community
  - Desired change in perception of the community
  - A place for youth to enjoy, engage, and want to be
  - Amenities that draw people in from across the city
  - Honoring history: Celebration for arts, sports, entertainment—the people and activities that created the history and culture
  - A transformative place that resonates with community, inspires people throughout the city, and is an example for other efforts in the community and city

**SHARED SPACES:**

19 May 2021

- Opportunities of shared facilities: Program space sharing, inter-agency collaboration, first cost savings, operational benefits, sustainability benefits
- Challenges of shared facilities: Scale of buildings on the site & maintaining connections, facility management, safety & security
- Case studies:
  - Marie Reed Community Center – Washington, DC (Quinn Evans)
    - Recreation center, elementary school, library, early childhood learning center, community health center in one facility
    - Separate entrances
    - Visual connections between school and community partners, but physically separated with secure access points
  - East Library and Recreation Center – Arlington, Texas (Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects)
    - Library, recreation, babysitting and senior amenities in one facility
    - Ease for parents to drop off children and use variety of amenities in one place
  - King Open School/Cambridge Street Upper Schools + Valente Library – Cambridge, Massachusetts (William Rawn Associates)
    - Lower and upper schools + public library
    - School classrooms and school library commons in one building
    - Public library and shared school programs in another building (gymnasiums, auditorium, cafeteria, music, pool)
      - Public library physically separated from shared school program spaces
    - Two buildings connected with security glass bridges, outdoor green space between the two buildings
  - Southeast Raleigh Elementary School + YMCA – Raleigh, NC (Ratio Design)
    - Shared school and YMCA in same facility
    - Place for students to go before and after school
- Visioning activity question #4: What does shared space mean to you?
  - Collaborative compromise
  - Sense of community
  - Cost savings, value
  - Opportunities for mentorship, sharing oral history, the whole community benefits
  - Safe haven for kids – before, during, and after school having a place to go
  - Multi-generational
    - Seniors look after young children, tutors around people who are retired
  - Sense that the lights are always on, something always going on, feeling of energy, active engaging place
  - Savings in cost of ownership, utilities
- Visioning activity question #5: What concerns you most about sharing spaces?
  - Security and safety
  - Maintaining cleanliness
  - Environmental control for occupied and unoccupied settings
  - Operational piece should not drive the visionary piece
  - Only have one shot at this, do not want to have regrets
  - Details and agreements around co-use/shared spaces
  - Would not like unintended limitations for kids
  - Need to include student voice – students should feel like this is an amazing place
    - Students should feel invited, seen, and cared for
  - Envision dream for the future and work back from there to make it work
  - Transformation: People as a community need to evolve at how buildings are used
- Visioning activity question #6: What shared space opportunities are you most excited about?
  - Recreational areas
  - Multi-media area, library
  - Pool—Raleigh project with school + YMCA made it work
  - Community venues, place for people to come for an event
  - More park space: Anderson and King-Lincoln park are nearby

19 May 2021

- Not everyone who lives in southeast community feels like they are a part of it, there are subsets in the community dividing neighborhoods
- City, parks and rec, and schools have had successful collaboration
  - Schools share childcare, fields
  - Schools listed as neighborhood parks—people go to walk dogs and exercise, playgrounds for schools become neighborhood playgrounds after hours and weekends
- Excited about school doors to reopen
- Opportunities for kids to want to photograph places and share on social media
  - Broaden opportunities for youth in the community
- Ability to work with youth and families, provide with resources, counseling, services within the community
- STEAM resources brought to southeast community
  
- Are there any facilities that should not be shared?
  - Students and public should not co-mingle in a shared library
  - School should have its own library in addition to the public library
  - Potential for collaboration between school and public library for resources – scheduling, cooperation, partnering

#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION & COMMUNITY HERITAGE**

- Preservation celebrates what is there and lets it talk to the future.
  
- Case study examples
  - Maggie Walker Governor's High School – Richmond, VA: historic 1930's building with modernized interior
  - Columbus School – Baltimore, MD: Adaptive reuse of historic school into living and community spaces
  - Cary Theater – Cary, NC: Historic 1940's building, adaptive reuse became catalyst for development in the community
  
- History of the southeast community will be deeply rooted in this project.

#### **PROCESS/NEXT STEPS:**

- The Advisory and Executive Committee will have regular meetings throughout the design phase of the project.
  - Meetings will be held every few weeks so that feedback can be integrated into the process.
  - Existing building survey and programming meetings for school, library, rec center, and teen center are coming up next.

#### **END OF MEMORANDUM**

Prepared by Allie Jarett, QE

If there are any questions or comments regarding this Meeting Memorandum, please contact this office within ten (10) days or it will stand as correct.