

Chattahoochee Brick Company Memorial, Greenspace, and Park Board

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2026

Location: Northwest Library @ Scotts Crossing

Present: Ola Reynolds, Donna Stephens, Keith Sharp, Nicole Moore, David Getachew-Smith, Erik Wilder, Kanata Herring, and Donald Rooney

Absent: Dr. Tony Lowe, Dr. R. Candy Tate, and Peggy Dobbins

1. Call to Order (1:12 p.m.)

- Agenda approved unanimously.
- Minutes from June 24, 2026, meeting approved unanimously.
- No public comment.

2. Board Update

- Anthony Knight introduced Nicole Moore, and the board welcomed her as a member representing the NCCHR.

3. SCAPE & MASS Design Presentation

Rikerrious Geter- SCAPE presented current design updates and upcoming promotion schedule.

- Kanata H. asked clarifying questions related to Atlanta Streets Alive and 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre events occurring during the week of 9/21.

4. Engagement Update (Jha D. Amazi - MASS)

Public Meeting Recap:

- 15 tables; over 100 attendees; 20–30 staff.
- Strong discussions at tables.

Key Takeaways:

- Balance comfort with reality.
- Site must welcome all ages.
- Increased opportunities for water access.
- Advance spine and vertical design elements.
- Make labor tangible.
- Integrate learning and community joy.

Artist & Senior Community Conversations:

- Emotional, powerful sessions.
 - Site should support lamenting, mourning, and action.
 - Encourage visitors to consider their connection to forced labor/incarceration.
 - History should be presented as ongoing.
 - Include ritual and offerings.
 - Healing emphasized; compassion-focused design.
 - Descendant engagement considered essential
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5. Design Refinements

Threshold / Building / Interpretive Center

- Inspired by Oakland Cemetery's visitor center.
- Question from Kanata H.: Would it be staffed? (To be discussed later.)
- Donald asked if a building is necessary; Jha noted City needs could be incorporated.
- Keith S. noted design is in preliminary stages.
- Barracks outlines and crushed brick history being integrated.

Memorial Arches (175)

- Discussed location: barracks vs labor area.
- Smaller arches reflect children.
- Material exploration: clay vs metal/steel (shackle reference).
- Discussion of "void language"—loss experienced by families.

Memorial to Life / Offering Area

- Offering table moved to new location.
- Erik W. asked about anomaly shape and zone.
- Agreement that zones should be indicated; not precise points.
- Includes succession forest, green infrastructure, canopy walk.
- Space oriented toward sky and anomalies area.
- Signage should suggest what visitors *can* do.
- Keith S. raised questions on orientation and seasonality.
- Donald R. asked whether the site will be open 24/7 or gated.
 - Decision deferred to City/Parks.
 - Donna noted park rangers can support site oversight.
 - Keith referenced Standing Peachtree's gated model.
- Flooding resilience discussed (site has flooded three times).

Scope Clarification

- Consultant scope re-explained for Nicole M.

Traffic & Access

- Donald R. raised concerns about Parrot Avenue truck traffic and petroleum transport.
- No current traffic study for the specific area.
- Freight traffic impacts Whittier Mill.
- Nathan G. suggested exploring relocating pipeline ingress/egress to Bolton Road.

Existing Slab

- Keith S. prefers removing 1960s-era slab; SCAPE aiming for greener/low-carbon treatments.

6. Labor Section

- Discussion of wireframe vs opaque brick tower.
- Kiln footprints and proposed programming.
- Monument massing illustrating 200,000 bricks; L-shaped walls forming cube visitors can enter.
- Elevated rail concept shown again for shade and path; railroad history emphasized.

7. River Connection

- "Get-down" path shown to reach river level.
- High-end renderings shared.

8. Land / Meadow of Healing

- Dependent on brownfield remediation.
- Proctor Creek historic grasses (“echo”) discussed.
- Creek-to-river connection explored; future potential for access.

9. Legacy – Gather & Build

- Youth engagement and water discovery features.
- Shade, rest, gathering areas, and public art opportunities.
- Historic maps inform water pool forms.
- Nature play integrated via topography.

10. Board Questions & Feedback

- Ola R.: Asked about pedestrian bridge; Smyrna’s study makes landing at this site unlikely.
- Nicole M.: Appreciated pacing and visitor-supportive design.
- Keith S.: Very impressed with design changes, including brick massing and sanctum memorial; asked about arch geometry.
- David G-S.: Asked why vertical element isn’t a chimney; team avoids literal smokestack to prevent confusion.
- Erik W.: Moved by arches; identified two missing elements:
 1. Articulating wealth vs loss (reparations context).
 2. Legacy stewardship (seed planting).
- Donna S.: Will share Proctor Creek Stewardship Council materials with Anthony.
- Team encouraged feedback submission through Anthony.

11. Governance & Process Discussion

- Erik W. asked if bylaws could allow smaller working groups; city attorney, Charlie Hulett, noted compliance with Georgia Open Meetings Law would complicate this and recommended against.
- Discussion on increasing meeting frequency due to limited discussion time under current structure.
- Kanata H. expressed concern that mission of community engagement may not be fully met.
- Donald R. felt board had been proactive.

Motion for Additional Meeting

- Motion by Kanata H.; seconded by Donald R.
- Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain → *Motion passes.*
- Target: Late October

Additional Retreat?

- Discussed new for potential retreat due to new members.

Upcoming Meetings

- **October meeting tentatively October 28**
- Final meeting of year: December 16 (time to be set; likely 1pm)

Consultant Deliverables

- City will distribute consultant report to board when available.

12. Adjournment (3:36 p.m.)

Motion to adjourn by Nicole; seconded by Keith — unanimous.