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DRAFT Minutes

CHATTAHOOCHEE BRICK COMPANY MEMORIAL, GREENSPACE, AND PARK BOARD

June 24, 2026

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing -- Large Meeting Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM by Board Chair David Getachew-Smith. A quorum was present (Ola Reynolds, Donna Stephens, Kanata Herring, Keith Sharp, Tony Lowe, David Getachew-Smith, Erik Wilder). **Absent:** Dr. Candy Tate, Don Rooney, and Peggy Dobbins

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved without modification.

3. Adoption of Minutes from 3/25/26 meeting

Board Member Keith Sharp presented notion to accept previous minutes, Kanata Herring seconded. The minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

5. New Business:

a. New board director update, Anthony Knight, Staff Liaison to Board

Anthony Knight reported that Nicole Moore (National Center for Civil and Human Rights) would be confirmed as a board member by the September board meeting.

b. Chattahoochee Brick Company Site Project Updates, SCAPE Consulting Team

Rikerrious Geter (SCAPE) reported that SCAPE is about 2/3 through its

schedule, showing the framework of the design to the public for the first time. SCAPE will be coming back to Atlanta on July 25th for Community Engagement and for the community to provide feedback. This will be at Rosel Fann Recreational Center at 11:00 AM.

Archeology Updates

- Dr. Alexandra Jones (JAC) confirmed that the Chattahoochee Brick Site has completed the archeological studies. The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) discovered three anomalies next to the railroad on the site: oblong, 5 - 6ft in length, and 2.5 - 4 feet below grade, indicating informal/improv burials on the site. This presents an issue, as the archeologists cannot go in a traditional manner, as permitting is required by law to excavate skeletal remains and there must be a 30 day public notice.
- There is a large amount of disturbance to the remains, as the railroad, natural decomposition, and concerns with secondary trauma to the body upon disturbing the burial (i.e. breaking bones).
- Dr. Alexandra Jones confirms that the site can still be designated as a burial site, as there is no need to "ground truth" it (excavate remains for proof).
- Concerning questions about DNA, you need large amounts of decedent populations to compare the DNA to. The state pays for the DNA of the exhumed body; however, everyone who comes forward as a potential descendant must pay ~\$100. DNA can be destructive to the skeleton and creates high risk, as individuals could come forward with no relation. If the remains are exhumed, there are concerns about where they would be placed/stored.
- There is potential to do GPR on the other side of the fence, however the railroad company owns the property.
- Dr. Alexandra Jones and NSA recommended that we initiate designating the site as a burial with non-invasive means, and that the potential to investigate/exhume could result in more negatives than positives. This still falls in line with the plan of memorialization, and they are confident that this is the only spot on the site that has

remains. Recommendation is non-disturbance and declaring it as a burial/memorial site.

Board Discussion

- Board Member Ola Reynolds motions to move forward with memorialization in that area per the archeologist team's recommendation.
- Board Member Donna Stephens has concerns about remains still being found on the site, calling for caution moving forward, and references Sugarland 95. Additionally, she asks about seeing visualizations of what the memorial might look like.
- Dr. Alexandra Jones reiterated that the rest of the site has been investigated and this particular spot had the only anomalies detected by GPR.
- Board Member Keith Sharp suggests amending the motion to include caveats about care and future developments and discoveries, to include, but not limited to, non-disturbance and memorialization.
- Board Member Erik Wilder discussed that he is still concerned that this decision was made in a small-group setting.
- All board members were in favor of accepting the archaeologist's recommendations with the caveats that the City and its consultants are all alerted that they may find more burials as the project moves forward.

Memorial and Park Design Framework/Updates

- Kate Orff (SCAPE) provided a community feedback summary, noting that the design principles from this meeting are guiding their process.
- Jha D Amazi (MASS) highlighted that MASS has been working with Sugarland for 6+ years. She then went on to describe the proposed journey visitors are meant to experience at the site.
- What is the memorial experience?
 1. Journey (Jha D Amazi)
 - a. A journey that brings one through the entire site, through an experiential arc that flows through Life (honoring humanity stole and land's displaced), Labor (wanting to understand the system), Land (repairing the relationship with the land and protecting what is there), and Legacy

(we build a new world by investing in one another). The journey is an intentional and sequential path that unifies the site's distinct landscapes into a single, guided experience of discovery and learning.

2. Memory (Jha D Amazi)

- a. Points and archaeological moments of reflection. Rooted in the existing points on the site and the archaeology there. About discovery, reflection, and learning. Provided points on a map (0-6) to exhibit existing sites on the site and to highlight the spots of 'memory'.

3. Park and Open Space (Kate Orff)

- a. More details about the park and open space itself. The connective fabric that holds the site together...conscious of the existing landscape and how visitors will arrive. The site's natural state helps zone the site into multiple sections. Site constraints include the remediation area and the floodplains. Expressing footprints on the surface to highlight the history and the brick-making process. Hopefully, with community meetings in July we will learn how the community would like these elements represented. Provided examples of optionality for the community.

Goals of the meeting (SCAPE):

- Does the design reflect the community input that we have shared with you?
- Does the memorial make space for a range of experiences, engage with the history of the site, and honor the people who labored here?
- Where do you see the opportunities to deepen the site's capacity to inspire people to visit, return, and move forward?

Board Discussion:

- Board Chair David Getachew-Smith commended SCAPE and MASS's work.
- Board Member Donna Stephens questioned the impact of the brownfields and remediation? SCAPE provided information regarding the process of excavating the top 1ft of top soil and cap it with clean

soil. Other spaces that are contaminated may just be put off limits; other options are being explored.

- Board Member Dr. Tony Lowe questioned about the diversity of the 175 people (men, women, children). He indicated that roughly 1/3 of those who worked there are thought to be children and perhaps that fact could be included in the design (with the bricks or units). Jha D Amazi stated that it was on the table, and that there are opportunities to properly represent that.
- Board Member Ola Reynolds had a question about the representation of Native Americans on the site. Jha D Amazi mentioned the potential about the Native American representation on the site and the possibilities.
- Board Member Erik Wilder also expressed gratitude and highlighted the community engagement results that resonated with him. Highlighting faith leaders' comments about sites for grief and praying, and how it was represented, but requested an intentional space that is quiet and contemplative. Highlighted the fact that there were mentions of focus groups about reparations but stated that there wasn't anything obvious/blatant about restitution. Finally, the biggest opportunity of the design/building of this space is participatory, and that we have an opportunity to define a new method of approaching getting community stewards.
- Board Member Kanata Herring had a question about the land remediation on site. No on-site work has been completed, but the requirements of the grant will have it done by fall of 2027.
- Board Member Keith Sharp had a question about the footprint of the building at the entrance. It led into a discussion about the use of this site, and there is an idea for the building to be 7,500 sq. ft. but would love to hear feedback on this aspect. Additional conversation focused on how the building would be operated and its purposes.
- Board Member Keith Sharp also asked why the 5-acre parcel along the Chattahoochee River was not utilized. Grace Dials (SCAPE) responded, "It depends on the context of the Riverlands, and the usage of the rail corridor by Norfolk Southern."

- Board Member Keith Sharp asked about Indigenous interpretation, and about how there are possibilities of the return of artifacts and remains to the Muscogee people, and that there could be some tangential intersection about giving them an opportunity. Additionally, about if the topography of the site will be preserved, and that more-recent mounds from recent developments (non-historical) and the future implementation of it.
- Board Member Keith Sharp had observations about the recreational use of the site given it is being developed as a memorial.
- Board Member Donna Stephens brought up concerns about existing wildlife on the site. SCAPE mentioned that they are trying to reduce the disturbance zone, and the periphery of the site will be largely untouched.
- Board Chair David Getachew-Smith asked about the interpretation of the legacy to the public, Anthony Knight stated the space should be used as a gathering space for people to convene to ask these types of questions. A place to connect the past with the present...a community gathering center, much like the Obama Presidential Center.
- Board Chair David Getachew-Smith inquired about the presence of a more physical monument/memorial within the park. Jha D Amazi mentioned that the whole site is a memorial and that community response deemed it more appropriate to allow the physical spaces within the site to exist as these memorials. David asked if it were possible to do both.
- Board Chair David Getachew-Smith asked about the visitor movement on the site. Jha D Amazi says that it is an operational question, but the path itself will be accessible and ADA compliant.
- Board Member Erik Wilder mentioned again that bricks from this site (the Chattahoochee Brick Company) helped to rebuild Atlanta after the Civil War and that this fact needs to be brought up continually within the conversation. He continued Keith's point that the Muscogee Nation is looking for land on which to inter people and that doing so on this site could be an important service to them.
- Board Member Keith Sharp mentions using a brick as a pixel, and the tunnel was intriguing.

- Kate Orff (SCAPE) states that walking the loop around the park takes roughly 20 minutes to complete and is about a mile in length.

c. Board Role & Governance

- Board Member Kanata Herring added this item to the agenda as a way for the board to begin thinking about how its members can be more proactive, and for the board to look at the bylaws before their next meeting.
- Motion passed to add this item/topic to the September Meeting.

d. September 2026 meeting/schedule

- Board Chair David Getachew-Smith confirmed with the board that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing.

6. Other Business

Board Member Erik Wilder indicated that he was the secretary for the Atlanta Reparations Committee and would like to connect the organization's work to Chattahoochee Brick Company project.

7. Announcements

Anthony Knight had an announcement on behalf of Jessica Lavandier that there is a community meeting regarding the Chattahoochee Brick Co. Brownfield Site Cleanup on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Large Conference room at Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing.

8. Adjournment

Board Member Keith Sharp motioned to conclude the meeting, and Ola Reynolds seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.