

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
April 2, 2008

At –Large Members Present

*George Daniel
*Philip Duchastel
*Robert Kirschner
*Amber Wagner

Representatives Present

*Jennifer Everett- Environmental Advisory Board
*Tom High- Transportation Advisory Board
*Gary Junker- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
*Livy Ludington- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
*Dave Otto- Friends of Bolin Creek

Staff Present

Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Adena Messinger- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Ray Magyar- University of North Carolina Transportation Planning

Aldermen Present

Randee Haven-O'Donnell
Jacquie Gist

Guest Present

Jeff Cox, NCDOT

Absent

Eric Allman- Recreation and Parks Commission
Salli Benedict
Marabeth Carr
Sharon Cook
Michael Flynn
Monica Nees
Nick Parker- Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Johnny Randall
Ioana Sherman
Bill Webster- Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation

* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order**- George Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Approval of minutes**- Minutes from the March 5th meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
(motion by Bob Kirschner, second by Dave Otto)

III. Bolin Creek Greenway Discussion-Jeff Cox from NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division was in attendance to participate in a discussion on surface requirements for NCDOT funded greenways. Jeff mentioned requirement for AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) compliance. A number of topics were discussed. Examples include:

- Comparisons of asphalt and concrete (resilience to flood impacts; relative costs; importance of good design and installation of substructure; surface's role in providing a seal and shedding water)
- NCDOT funds projects to meet transportation (pedestrian and bicycle) needs; whatever surfacing is chosen with this funding will need to demonstrate capability to serve transportation needs
- There is no precedent for NCDOT funding unpaved greenway sections; at the same time; Jeff would not completely dismiss the possibility that NCDOT could help fund some unpaved sections, with the provision that the section meet transportation needs. Jeff did mention the American Tobacco Trail as an example
- Anderson Park and Umstead State Park provide examples of trails with granite screenings. Maintenance requirements is an issue to be aware of with granite screenings.
- This section of greenway includes landowners that may have reservations to paving (e.g., Carolina North); there is a need to coordinate closely with UNC on all greenway design issues. UNC has not at this point in time taking a firm position about the allowable use of paving for greenway sections crossing Carolina North
- There was considerable discussion in exploring alternative locations of the greenway corridor where paving may be more or less suitable for this greenway section
- There is a history of community input regarding future preservation and changes in this area; this area needs to be carefully considered because of the large amount of forested/ undeveloped land that occurs
- Accessibility (including Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]) was discussed, including locations of access to the system, allowable grade and surfacing, requirements for compliance with ADA. Brendan contacted ADA and learned that there currently are no specific federal ADA requirements for greenways. ADA may adopt some requirements in the future, but according to the ADA helpline, they are currently not required by law.
- Impacts of floodplain installation of greenways was discussed, including alternative surfaces
- There are complicating factors for Bolin Creek in determining a suitable corridor for the greenway relative to Morgan Creek

At the conclusion of the discussion, there was a consensus that determining alternative corridors suitable for transportation oriented use and greenway design details would best be determined with a consultant/during the preliminary engineering design phase. Expertise to bring to bear on this discussion (in addition to transportation planning and engineering) include ecology, hydrology, erosion, and landscape architecture. The commission agreed that it was reasonable to move forward with accepting funding through the municipal agreement, with the provision that the commission be involved in the drafting of the RFQ to be released.

Motion: The Greenways Commission recommends that the Board of Aldermen proceed with the municipal agreement between the Town and NCDOT for the conceptual planning of a Bolin Creek greenway trail, with the understanding that 1) a condition of the agreement is to plan for a paved trail, 2) that the specific location of the trail will be an outcome of the planning process, and 3) that the goal of the trail is to provide a north-south connection.

The Commission further recommends that the Request for Qualifications for a firm to prepare the conceptual plan a) include details about the environmental sensitivity of the Bolin Creek corridor and b) clearly state that it will be the consultant's responsibility to plan and design a trail corridor that has the least environmental impact on the area.

Moved: Robert Kirschner

Second: Jennifer Everet

VOTE: Ayes (8), Noes (0)

IV. Vision and Principles Discussion. Philip provided a presentation from a wiki website and work with GoogleEarth that he has been pursuing to move forward with long term visioning. Philip has developed a long term vision for greenways, and would like other members to engage in this effort. Philip has approached this from an "ideal" vision outside of constraints such as financial and political. His vision has included connectivity between northern and southern sections of Town through more developed areas closer to downtown, as well as identification of connector and spur sections of the greenway system beyond the "backbone" presented in earlier Town plans. Part of the rationale for visioning is to help steer long term planning efforts and other planning activities such as development review. Commission members are encouraged to access and look at the graphics.

V. Recommendation to Accept Offers of Dedication. Randy presented that there are four relatively recent developments (Pacifica, Winmore, Rose's Walk, and Horne Hollow) that have offered land for public greenways use. Staff will be working with the offers of dedication and presenting these to the Board of Aldermen, hopefully on June 3rd. Livy made a motion for the Town to accept these offers of dedication; Bob seconded the motion.

VI. Announcements

- a. Dave Otto reported that there was a hike along the Chapel Hill Bolin Creek greenway.
- b. Adena mentioned a bicycle planning workshop on April 10, and mentioned its relevance as an example of efforts being pursued that were complimentary to the commission's charge.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall (Board Room)