

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
November 16th, 2009

At –Large Members Present

*Salli Benedict- At Large
*George Daniel (Chair) – At Large
*Robert Kirschner- At Large

Representatives Present

*Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
*Ranee Haven-O’Donnell- Board of Alderman
*Gary Junker – Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
*Dave Otto (Vice-chair) - Friends of Bolin Creek
*Heidi Paulsen – Planning Board
*Johnny Randall- Morgan Creek Valley Alliance/NC Botanical Garden

Staff Present

Jeff Brubaker—Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Patricia McGuire- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Ray Magyar-UNC

Absent

Marabeth Carr – Orange County Environmental Resources and Conservation Department
*Andreas Hays-Environmental Advisory Board
Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Nick Parker – OWASA
*Amber Wagner- At Large
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill

Guests

Britt Mylacraine, Greenways, Inc
Chuck Flink, Greenways, Inc
Casey Dillon - UNC Dept. of City and Regional Planning
Dickson Phillips
Julie McClintock
Shelley Higgins
Emily Weinstein
(several other members of the public were present; a roster sheet was not circulated)

* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order:** George called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The Greenways Commission approved the minutes of the October 12th meeting, with the following addition to the Morgan Creek Project update, moved by Bob Kirschner:
“ The alignment on the north side of Morgan Creek near Carrboro Public Works should include a connector to the Canterbury neighborhood.” (unanimous).

- III. **Morgan Creek Project Update:** Randy and Jeff reported that the Morgan Creek project contract with Coulter, Jewell, and Thames (CJT) is in the process of being amended to include in the scope a connector to the vicinity of BPW Club and Carrboro High School. Randy also mentioned that due to

the holiday schedule in December and CJT's availability, that the Commission was asked to reschedule the December meeting to December 15th. The Commission agreed to this rescheduling (unanimous).

IV. **Comments from Guest:** Dickson Phillips spoke on behalf of not introducing pavement into the part of the Bolin Creek study area adjacent to the creek because of its important quality as a natural area, and requested that the Commission pursue an alternative alignment that followed existing transportation corridors such as Seawell School Road.

V. **Bolin Creek Greenway Project Update:** Britt Mylacraine, with support from Chuck Flink, Jeff Brubaker, and Randy Dodd, provided a presentation that summarized the draft conceptual plan, walking through the individual chapters and appendices. The presentation focused on Chapters 4 (Design) and 5 (Implementation Plan). The implementation plan recommends near term pursuit of construction document development, sequentially, for Phases 1a and b, which cover the study area for a connector from Estes Drive to Wilson Park (1a) and from Homestead Rd. to the public schools near Homestead Rd. and Seawall School Rd. (1b). Staff reported that funding is currently programmed that will allow the project to proceed with construction document preparation and construction for Phase 1. Partial funding is available for Phase 2. Phases 3 and 4 are currently unfunded. Jeff discussed both currently available and potential funding sources. Jeff also mentioned that the federal government has rescinded federal funding nationwide and part of this rescission affects one of the funding programs (STP-DA) planned for the greenways. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will be meeting in the near future to look at the implications for funding of planned projects.

VI. **Greenways Commission Review of Conceptual Plan:** The main discussion focused on the Phases 3 and 4, which include the Carolina North property and the section between Carolina North and Estes Drive, focusing on guests' and members' concerns regarding a paved surface in the study area falling within these Phases. An initial motion was presented by Dave endorsing Phases 1 and 2 and pursuing further review of Phases 3 and 4 and then revised after discussion in light of the scope of work of the conceptual plan. The revised motion is that the conceptual plan be forwarded to Board of Aldermen for review, seconded by Gary Junker and approved unanimously. Eric requested that the Commission consider additional outreach efforts. A second motion was provided by Johnny and seconded by Salli that the Commission schedule a meeting with the Friends of Bolin Creek as an open forum to further discuss greenways implementation for the study area.

VII. **Announcement:** Randy mentioned that Marabeth Carr passed on that Orange County plans to host a meeting at Morris Grove School on January 5th to discuss the planned greenway project connecting to the school. She also mentioned that a bid decision announcement is anticipated for January 19th. Both of these events are pending review of bids.

VIII. **Upcoming Meetings:** Next regular Greenways Commission meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Town Hall.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.