

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
December 15th, 2009

At –Large Members Present

*George Daniel (Chair) – At Large
*Robert Kirschner – At Large
*Amber Wagner – At Large

Representatives Present

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

Staff Present

Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill
Ray Magyar – UNC
Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Jeff Brubaker—Town of Carrboro Planning Department

Absent

*Salli Benedict – At Large
Marabeth Carr – Orange County Environmental Resources and Conservation Department
*Andreas Hays – Environmental Advisory Board
Nick Parker – OWASA
*Heidi Paulsen – Planning Board

Guests

Diane Robertson	Karin Yates
Joan Widdifield	Mary Sonis
Linda Haac	Dickson Phillips
Ellen Perry	Rob Crook
Julie McClintock	

* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order:** George Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

- II. **Approval of Minutes:** MOTION: The Greenways Commission approved the minutes of the November 16th meeting (unanimous). George provided an overview of the agenda. Due to the number of guests present, there were introductions.

- III. **Updating the Greenways Commission section of the Town Code:** Randy Dodd presented a draft revision of the Town Code to reduce the voting members of the Commission from 15 to 13, and reduce the quorum from eight to seven (six in the case of two or more seat vacancies). The staff-recommended revision arose from discussions between staff and with Ranee after four successive Commission meetings [May, July, August, September] failed to reach quorum. The two seats to be reduced would be one from the school system and one from the Board of Aldermen. Both seats

were vacant. The amendment also makes appointment of three alternate members optional, rather than required. Johnny Randall recommended an amendment to the Town Code revision: MOTION (Randall, Haven-O'Donnell second) that the Town Code reflect that only members with three consecutive *unexcused* meeting absences be subject to removal [Sec. 3-24.7(f)(2)] (unanimous).

IV. Bolin Creek Greenway project update: Jeff presented on the implementation of Phase 1A, Phase 1B, and Phase 2 of the greenway conceptual master plan. Topics related to Phase 1A included a federal STP-DA funding update; the intersection of the Wilson Park Multi-use Path with Estes Dr. at Estes Park Apts. driveway; and wheelchair accessibility at Estes Park Apts. Bill Webster described Chapel Hill's plans for their portion of the Bolin Creek Greenway along Estes and Umstead Drives, which are in accordance with Carrboro's. Topics related to Phases 1B and 2 included school connections, trail connections, and funding. Bill noted that project administration costs for federally-funded transportation projects have substantially increased.

George gave a presentation on trail surfacing, including the pros and cons of alternative surface materials. Asphalt is subject to deterioration along the edge of pavement. It is difficult to make gravel trails ADA compliant or maintain them in the floodplain. Concrete seems to work best in low-lying areas in the floodplain.

There was a discussion of the alignments for Phases 3 and 4, including funding, the future public input process directed by Town staff, and options for upland alignments. GC discussed how to go forward with the public input process, including what stakeholders to involve and how to address the lack of allocated funding for additional professional services. Dave Otto suggested starting with a meeting including the Greenways Commission, Town staff, and Friends of Bolin Creek. Randee suggested the Commission should obtain more information on trail surfaces and consider field trips in the spring to explore trail surfaces used in other Triangle jurisdictions. Several members discussed the importance of accessibility for wheelchair users in trail options and the importance of considering the environmental impacts of potential upland alignment options. Dave mentioned a possible Friends of Bolin Creek New Year's Day hike along Bolin Creek. Dickson Phillips asked about the Phase 1B alignment. Jeff and Randy affirmed that several alignments for Phase 1B were still under consideration.

Joan Widdifield presented a letter signed by a group of residents expressing concern with a creekside alignment and presenting several recommendations. She stressed that it was not the trail surface, but the alignment, with which the residents took issue. GC discussed the avenues used for advertising the two 2009 public workshops. GC members and guests suggested advertising strategies for future public meetings. Mary Sonis described some of the ecological values in the Bolin Creek area. GC discussed the future of the sewer line along the creek and the popularity of the route for recreation.

V. Morgan Creek Greenway project update: Jeff presented an update on the Morgan Creek schedule. The Town is working with the consultant to include the High School connector route feasibility study in the final master plan. The final presentation of the master plan to GC would occur at the January meeting, and the Board of Aldermen presentation would occur in February. Gary Junker asked about the feasibility of creek crossings given the floodplain. Randy said that most likely a No Rise will need to be achieved, but until detailed flood models are run, GC will need to rely on the expert opinion of Becky Ward, CJT's subconsultant. GC briefly discussed power line issues in the corridor.

VI. **Bolin Creek Greenway (continued):** GC discussed procurement of professional services for additional work on Phases 3 and 4. Greenways Inc.'s contract work is nearly completed, so additional funding would need to be identified for further work. GC continued discussion on the nature of the public input process. MOTION (Wagner, Randall second): GC requested that additional copies of the greenway master plan be printed.

VII. **Announcements:** GC talked about several greenways that could be visited for a field trip.

VIII. **Upcoming Meetings:** Next regular Greenways Commission meeting: Monday, Jan. 25th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Town Hall.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.