

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
October 18, 2021**

Members Present

*Alyson West
*Mahin Manley
*Jeff Summerlin-Long
*Ethan Beattie
*Satya Kallepalli

*Indicates voting member

Randee Haven-O'Donnell – Town Council Member
Damon Seils – Town Council Member

Absent

*Meredith Morovati

Staff Present

Tina Moon -- Carrboro Planning
Ben Berolzheimer -- Carrboro Planning

Guest(s)

- I. **Call to Order:** Summerlin-Long, called the meeting to order at 6:41PM.
 - a. **Welcome**
Summerlin-Long welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. **Approval of Minutes**
September 13, 2021 – Summerlin-Long made a motion to approve the September 13th minutes. West seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes (4) West, Manley, Summerlin-Long, Beattie; Nos (0); Absent (2) Morovati, Kallepalli (arrived after the minutes were approved?)

The Greenways Commission meeting minutes for September 13th, 2021, were approved.
- II. **Carrboro Connects – Review of Preliminary Draft Plan**
Berolzheimer provided a brief overview of the development of the plan focusing on the work that has occurred since the Greenways Commission reviewed the goals and strategies in May. This included reducing some of the redundancy and introducing two of the foundational elements of the plan: race and equity and climate action.

West provided some additional background information based on her participation on the Task Force and encouraged the commission to consider developing an overarching statement on the plan as well as any specific comments.

Discussion followed. The main points of discussion included:
 - In terms of a hierarchy of need – affordable housing is the top need. Understanding housing and the demand for housing, getting density right, providing affordable housing with access to transit are the most pressing parts of the plan.

- There doesn't seem to be a lot in the way of specifics for greenways in the plan; rather, references to greenways are scattered throughout, mainly in the transportation, recreation and parks, and climate/environment sections.
- This may be appropriate for a comprehensive plan to keep the discussion of greenways at a high level.
- It was noted that the informal path concepts is included in the plan.
- Who are greenways for/important for?
- Target new greenways in areas that will connect to affordable housing.
- Everyone should have access to greenways as a safe, off-road alternative for bike/ped travel. Coverage should be across the geographic area of the Town.
- There seems to be different definitions for greenways. The definition on page 143 of the preliminary draft plan matches the description of greenways in the Greenways Commission charge. This seems like the appropriate definition to use throughout the plan.
- Should greenways have their own metric in the transportation infrastructure metric on page 143?
- Is there a need for more definitions/clarity regarding different types of bike/ped facilities? Greenways/side paths/multi-use paths? Can they all share the same metric?
- Are there other areas in the plan that need more emphasis? Opportunities to align/partner with neighboring institutions/agencies such as UNC-Chapel Hill and OWASA to seek ways for Carrboro residents to become more involved in planning for greenways/trails/open space design in areas such as Carolina North or using utility easements for greenways/trails.
- Are there internal conflicts within the plan, or with other Town plans? What about regional plans?

There was consensus on much of the discussion, but commission members expressed a preference for spending a little more time refining their remarks into more specific comments.

Berolzheimer provided a little more information on the next steps and anticipated timeline for the project moving forward.

The group agreed to hold a special meeting on October 25th to finalize their formal comments.

- III. Adjourn** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Manley and seconded by West. Ayes – all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm. The next meeting will be on October 25, 2021.

