

Carrboro Greenways Commission

Minutes

January 9th, 2008

Members Present

Salli Benedict
George Daniel
Philip Duchastel
Michael Flynn
Robert Kirschner
Monica Nees
Amber Wagner

Representatives Present

Eric Allman- Recreation and Parks Commission
Sharon Cook- Planning Board
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
Johnny Randall- Morgan Creek Valley Alliance/NC Botanical Garden
Ryan Elting-Environmental Advisory Board alternate

Staff Present

Roy Williford- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Anita Jones-McNair- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Patricia McGuire- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Adena Messinger- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Marabeth Carr- Orange County Environment and Resource Conservation Department
Ray Magyar- University of North Carolina Transportation Planning
Nick Parker- Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Bill Webster- Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation

Aldermen Present

Randee Haven-O'Donnell
Jacquelyn Gist

- I. **Call to Order**- Staff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**- Alderman Haven-O'Donnell and Alderman Gist welcomed the members present to the first meeting of the Greenway Commission and thanked them for their willingness to serve. They asked each member to briefly introduce themselves, where they live and what brought them to this committee.
- III. **History**- Facilities Administrator Brendan Moore presented a slide presentation on the history of greenways in North Carolina with a focus on the last forty years of policy, reports, and development that has occurred in Carrboro.
- IV. **Roles of Commission and Staff**- Transportation Planner Adena Messinger presented a slide presentation on the roles of the Commission and roles of staff. Included were the Board of Alderman's charge to the Commission, a definition of Greenways, and a description of upcoming tasks. Upcoming task include setting a permanent meeting day and time, electing officers, developing a Request for Qualifications for consultants who will be bidding on development of the Conceptual Greenway Plan, and recommendations to the Board of Alderman for selection of consultant.
- V. **Current Greenway Activities**- Environmental Planner Randy Dodd presented a slide presentation on the Town's current inventory of existing, deeded, and planned greenways.

He spoke on the Town's policy on working with developments to include greenway planning in their design. Randy also addressed the areas of greenway connectivity to consider when developing our plan to include linkages with Chapel Hill's greenway system and the larger Triangle region as a whole. He briefly addressed Chapel Hill's current work on the Bolin Creek Greenway. Adena Messinger next spoke on the funding sources available through the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization and discussed the Town's Comprehensive Bicycle Plan that is currently being created.

Several questions were raised at this point including:

- What other funding options might the Town pursue?
- When is the MPO funding available? [Now, pending the agreements with NCDOT.]
- Does the Land Use Ordinance require developers to accommodate a section of a greenway? [No.]
- What will be the surface of the trails?
- What is the plan for filling in the missing pieces?

The answers to the unanswered questions are part of what the commission will be working on.

VI. **Group Discussion**- The commission broke into four groups to discuss various organization details such as meeting schedule, need for subcommittees, and possible future agenda items. The feedback from the individual groups is as follows:

Group 1 (Randy Dodd)- Preferred monthly meetings on Monday or Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. with dinner. Felt subcommittees were a good idea. They would like to create a timeline for the commission and establish goals. They felt it important to prioritize trail development and be sensitive to the environment when selecting trail design. They recognize trail tread/surface selection as an important design consideration that may be difficult to quickly resolve.

Group 2 (Brendan Moore)- Preferred monthly meetings at 6:00 p.m. Felt there was a need for subcommittees, but not yet. They would like to see them be based on topics, and not geography. They proposed a Saturday information session to let all the various groups within the commission present information that will aid in establishing the commission's direction. They recommend a goal setting session at the end of the Saturday session, followed by a Wednesday meeting to discuss the development of the Request for Qualifications.

Group 3 (Adena Messinger)- Preferred monthly meetings at 6:00 p.m. with dinner. Felt there was a need for subcommittees, but not yet. They would like to see the full commission meet for the first six months, then develop subcommittees that may address the overall vision, strategies to accomplish the vision, financing, acquisition of land, and connectivity. They feel information sessions are important, but to do them quickly.

Group 4 (Patricia McGuire)- Prefer monthly meetings on either the first Wednesday, second Wednesday, or Mondays at 7:00 p.m. They felt subcommittees were important in the short term, but would like to keep the whole committee together. They saw opportunities for leverage with the work being done by Chapel Hill and would like to coordinate with Chapel Hill. They would like more information on the legal needs in reference to land acquisition.

Summary- Meetings were set for the first Wednesday's of the month at 6:30. A Saturday information session was set for Saturday, February 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Century Hall.

VII. **Election of Officers**- Postponed until the end of the Saturday information session.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

IX. Next Meetings: Saturday, February 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Century Hall.

Wednesday, February 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall (Board Room)