

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
May 7, 2008

At –Large Members Present

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

Representatives Present

*Gary Junker- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
*Livy Ludington- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
*Dave Otto- Friends of Bolin Creek
* Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission

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
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation
Nick Parker – OWASA
Marabeth Carr – Orange County Environmental Resources and Conservation Department

Aldermen Present

Randee Haven-O'Donnell

Absent

Salli Benedict
Sharon Cook
Jennifer Everett
Jacquie Gist
Tom High
Ray Magyar
Johnny Randall
Ioana Sherman

* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order**- George Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **Approval of minutes**- There was a motion to amend the minutes to include the slide show presented by Alderman Haven-O'Donnell, illustrating the environmental attributes of the Bolin Creek area (motion by Livy Ludington, second by Dave Otto). The amendment to the minutes was approved by unanimous vote. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was presented and seconded by Philip Duchastel. Minutes from the April 2 meeting were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

III. Morgan Creek RFQ Status Report- Adena reported that the Town is still awaiting the official Notice to Proceed from NCDOT, which would allow the Town to release the RFQ. George Daniel added that in a recent conversation with Jeff Cox (NCDOT), he was informed that NCDOT has all the requisite signatures and that the Notice to Proceed is imminent.

IV. Bolin Creek RFQ Review – Adena handed out a correction to page 3 from the draft RFQ. Regarding the substance of the RFQ, the only comment that was made was with respect to UNC’s involvement. Dave Otto expressed concern that there was little reference to UNC despite their being a major landowner. Randy pointed out that the RFQ currently states the need to consider the work that UNC has been and is doing in this area, and also suggested that the involvement of UNC could be a part of the scope of work and interview processes that are still ahead. In addition, Dave mentioned that UNC had issued a concept plan for a creek crossing and that the Greenways Commission should gather what information it could about this plan. He commented that pieces of information, such as UNC’s creek crossing plans, will be vital to Carrboro’s planning process. The discussion about UNC’s role and involvement in the planning culminated in the acknowledgement that a meeting where UNC, Carrboro and Chapel are all at the table is critical. Randeé Haven-O’Donnell advised that it will be important to work within the structure of the University. Many commission members also agreed that inviting Sharon Myers (Environmental Specialist) to the discussions would be a good idea. There was motion by Dave Otto to accept the RFQ as presented. This was seconded by Livy Ludington and approved unanimously.

Philip Duchastel proposed extending the scope of the plan to include other parts of the Bolin Creek greenway, in particular above Homestead. George pointed out that the current planning description does include a section beyond Homestead. Adena explained that the description has been set by the municipal agreement. Bill Webster offered that the Town could request the consultant provide an overview plan of the bigger picture, and that this could be written into the scope of services contract.

There was also of discussion regarding the timing of releasing the RFQs. As it stands, the Morgan Creek and Bolin Creek projects are a few weeks apart in terms of where they are in the process of starting the planning with a consultant. One option is issuing the Morgan Creek RFQ as soon as NCDOT gives the go ahead, and following with the Bolin Creek RFQ as soon as that is ready. In this situation, potential bidders to the Morgan Creek RFQ would be given notice that the Bolin Creek project was forthcoming and that there would be an opportunity to bid for both. The other option would be to wait until the Town receives the green light for both projects and issues the RFQs at the same time, with the intent of giving bidders the option to bid for both projects at once.

At this point, Adena suggested that the meeting jump to agenda item V, which included an overview of the timeline for the projects. She handed out a schematic of the steps the Commission is going through to get to the point of beginning the plans, which included a chart showing the timing of each step. This information helped to inform the thinking about how to time the RFQ releases.

After weighing the pros and cons, and seeking advice from Bill Webster, members voiced support for option 2 : releasing the RFQs at the same time. This would facilitate the logistics as well as the interview process. The commission also suggested some discretionary

consideration be given staff and chairs in considering the uncertainty in when the two respective Notice to Proceeds for Morgan and Bolin projects would be given from DOT

V. Other Greenway Funding Sources

Randy Dodd gave a brief presentation about other sources of funding. Most of the information provided came from the Recreation and Parks Master Plan (2006) document. There was strong interest in the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) as this presented the possibility of a “large potato “ in terms of funding available (as opposed to “small potatoes”). Both Randy and Brendan shared that this resource accepted applications annually and that it does require a local match. Livi also shared that she is aware of a planning grant through the CWMTF and that if an organization receives a planning grant, they have a foot in the door to the larger grant opportunities. She suggested that Randy follow up with her. Randy invited commission members to continue to think about funding and to provide staff with suggestions on where to focus efforts. Gary Junker put out the question as to whether UYNC would fund any of the construction on their property.

VI. Summer schedule, site visits, future speakers

The Commission unanimously was in favor of meeting throughout the summer, though agreed to hold the July meeting to the end of June in order to accommodate vacation schedules.

The following were suggested as future field trips: Little River, Briar Chapel.

The following were suggested as future speakers: Stuart Bryan, Sig Hutchison

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall (Board Room).
Meeting following that will be June 25th.