

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
January 26th, 2009

At –Large Members Present

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

Representatives Present

- *Dave Otto-Friends of Bolin Creek (Vice-chair) *Heidi Paulsen – Planning Board
- * Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
- *Johnny Randall-Morgan Creek Valley Alliance/NC Botanical Garden
- *Livy Ludington-Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools

Staff Present

- Randy Dodd-Town of Carrboro Planning Department
- Adena Messinger-Town of Carrboro Planning Department
- Marabeth Carr – Orange County Environmental Resources and Conservation Department
- Ray Magyar-UNC Nick Parker – OWASA
- Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill
- Brendan Moore-Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

Aldermen Present

- *Randee Haven-O’Donnell

Absent

- Michael Flynn –alternate
- *Amber Wagner-At Large
- *Gary Junker-Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- *Andreas Hay-Environmental Advisory Board
- *Katie Schwing –Transportation Advisory Board
- *Jacquie Gist-Board of Aldermen

* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order**-George Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes**-Dave moved to approve the December 15, 2008 minutes, seconded by Bob. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. **Update on Bolin and Morgan Creek Planning (Staff)**-Adena presented an update on the progress so far on the Conceptual Plans for Bolin and Morgan Creeks. Greenways, Inc. postponed their initial walk through of the Bolin Creek study area on January 20th due to weather, but rescheduled for January 22nd and 23rd. The study area included the spur along Jones

Creek and is progressing smoothly. An update will be provided at the February meeting by Greenways, Inc. The Morgan Creek Plan is currently awaiting contract approval from D.O.T. to move forward, but should begin within the next two weeks. An update on this project will be provided at the next meeting.

- IV. **Coordination with UNC**-Prior to this discussion, Dave Otto shared that he had spoken to P.H. Craig regarding the possibility of developing a land management plan for Mr. Craig's property. Mr. Craig demonstrated an interest in this idea and is amenable to the idea of a greenway crossing his property. A group representing the Friends of Bolin Creek, TORC, Trailheads, and the Triangle Land Conservancy have met to begin brainstorming ideas for this plan. George Daniel shared a draft of the letter created to send to UNC informing them of the Greenways Commission's work in developing a conceptual plan for the Bolin Creek Greenway that will cross the Carolina North property. A few minor changes were recommended by the Commission and the letter will be sent to the Mayor for approval and will be sent to UNC by the BOA.
- V. **Review of the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan**-Adena shared with the Commission components of the Town of Carrboro Comprehensive Bicycle Plan recently completed by Greenways, Inc. This project was funded by NC DOT and completed by a Bicycle Plan Steering Committee over the past year and includes existing conditions, recommendations for short and long term solutions to problem areas, and proposed budgets. Comments from the Commission included wanting to know if it blended with the Commission's own ideas regarding development of new trails, specifically how to reconcile contradicting ideas on trail location and design if conflicts arise. Adena responded that the plan provides guidelines for development and has room for flexibility. The Commission would like to make sure language is included encouraging more bicycle parking in town, to incorporate partnerships with BUB and the ReCyclery, and that an emphasis be placed on bicycle facility improvements on Smith Level, Old Fayetteville and Estes. The plan will be going in front of the Board for approval in March.
- VI. **Continuation of Discussion about Trail at Morris Grove** –Discussion continued about the proposed greenway trail to the site for the new Morris Grove Elementary School. This section is deemed important by the Commission to provide a safe, off road access for children and parents to walk or bicycle to/from the school. Marabeth Carr shared that one of the main obstacles to this project is the need for a bridge with a 120 foot span to cross the creek and floodplain along the existing OWASA easement. The cost of a bridge of this size is a major hurdle in attempts to build this trail. An option was discussed about rerouting the trail off of the easement to avoid the necessity of this bridge, but a much closer look at the feasibility of this option is needed. A walk in of this area was proposed by Dave Otto and Marabeth offered to check with Rick Shaw to see when he would be available to lead the walk.
- VII. **Announcements**-Dave Otto announced a mural project that is taking shape for two murals to be created in Town, preferably on a highly visible location. There may be the opportunity to highlight the work being done by the Commission in an artistic fashion on one of these murals. Location ideas can be sent to Dave. Salli Benedict mentioned that an important role of the Commission will be to notify and educate the community about the greenway projects. Livy Ludington asked that a review on the charge of the Commission be included in an upcoming meeting.

VIII. **Next Regular Meeting:** February 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall (Board Room).

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.