

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
December 15th, 2008**

At –Large Members Present

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

Representatives Present

- *Dave Otto- Friends of Bolin Creek (Vice-chair)
- *Katie Schwing –Transportation Advisory Board
- *Heidi Paulsen – Planning Board

Staff Present

- Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
- Jeff Kleaveland- 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

Aldermen Present

- *Ranee Haven-O'Donnell
- *Jacquie Gist

Absent

- Michael Flynn –alternate
- *Livy Ludington- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
- *Amber Wagner- At Large
- Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill
- *Salli Benedict- At Large
- * Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
- *Gary Junker- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- *Johnny Randall- Morgan Creek Valley Alliance/NC Botanical Garden
- *Andreas Hay-Environmental Advisory Board

* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order**- George Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

- II. **Adjustment to the Agenda**- Aldermen Gist and Haven O'Donnell raised their concern with items II & III on the agenda (discussion of Colleton Crossing CUP and Claremont CUP). They requested that the Greenways Commission hold off on making comments (as a commission) on development proposals until the Commission has had a chance to receive information from, and work with, Greenways Incorporated. The intent being that the work that the consultants are doing will inform the larger scope of developing the greenway in this corridor. Especially since the February meeting will be dedicated to hearing from the

consultants about their field investigations. They further commented that it is not an explicit part of the Greenways Commission's charge to make recommendations on CUPs, which are not based on the consultant's work. Randee restated her position that she presented at the November 17th meeting: that the Greenways Commission should not be a formal part of the development review process at this time, given that it has been meeting for just about one year, and that the advisory board liaisons on the Commission or advisory board chairs should be used to convey greenway comments. As an example of how that works, Jacquie pointed out that the comments George Daniel had made at the joint advisory board meeting for the Claremont CUP had been incorporated into the Transportation Advisory Board's recommendations.

George Daniel voiced that he feels that development review is part of the Commission's charge, as it is part of their charge to protect the interests of the Town's greenways. He commented that the Greenways Commission has the ability to make up its own rules and procedures, and that it makes recommendations directly to the Board of Aldermen, as opposed to submitting them second-hand through other advisory boards. Randee pointed out that timing is important in that the Commission is only getting started in their work. George pointed out that the Commission is comprised of knowledgeable, capable members who have a lot to contribute even at this early stage. Randee clarified that despite the individual talent on the Commission, as a group, they are still at the beginning stages. George pointed out that the CUP is the time to weigh in because there is still an opportunity for changes and establishing some basic tools for the consultants to work with (easements, etc...). Both Jacquie and Randee underscored that using the advisory board liaisons on the Commission is an effective and valid way to keep that watchful eye as developments with greenway implications come before the Board of Aldermen.

George expressed an interest in tabling the discussion until more commission members are at a meeting. Bob Kirschner spoke up in support of the Aldermen's recommendations for how the Commission should be integrated into the development review process at this time, and for waiting until there is information from the consultants. George maintained his position that it is the Commission's charge.

Randee commented that when this issue was raised at the November meeting, the consensus of the Commission was that using the advisory board liaisons on the Commission to communicate greenways recommendations was a reasonable way to proceed.

Jacquie made a motion to wait on agenda items II & III and other future similar development proposals until there is more information from the consultants that the Commission can use to support its recommendations. Seconded by Randee.

Ayes: 5 – Jacquie Gist, Randee Haven O'Donnell, Bob Kirschner, Katie Schwing, Heidi Paulsen
Noes: 2 – George Daniel, Dave Otto

- III. Follow Up to GC Chair Report to the Board of Aldermen-** George gave a brief report of his presentation (which is available on the Greenways Commission webpage) and shared that it was well received by the Board of Aldermen. Bob Kirschner complimented George on his presentation and this was echoed by Alderman Haven-O'Donnell.

- IV. **Bolin and Morgan Project Update (Staff)**- Adena shared that the Board of Aldermen approved execution of the Bolin Creek contract, and approved execution of the Morgan Creek contract pending NCDOT approval. Subsequently the Bolin Creek contract has been executed and work is underway. Greenways Incorporated will be attending the February 16th meeting to present their work to date.

At this time there was a brief discussion about a possible greenway that would connect the new Morris Grove Elementary School to the Lake Hogan Farms neighborhoods and the Bolin Creek greenway. Commission members expressed an interest working on this greenway. Since most of the area through which this greenway would pass is intended for a future Orange County Twin Creeks park Commission member Marabeth Carr, representing Orange County, shared that the Board of County Commissioners will be making some decision about the park in January/February 2009 and that what they decide will likely have implications for the greenway. Once the Commissions have made a decision, then it is the time to discuss it at a Commission meeting. It was suggested that the Aldermen representatives to the Greenways Commission speak with some of the County Commissioners about this prior to when the Commissioners plan to discuss the park.

V. **Other Business –**

- Dave Otto shared that he attended the neighborhood meeting for the Carolina Commons proposed development and was in general pleased with what he saw presented for the greenway
- George Daniel asked that the greenway connection under Homestead Road be explored by Greenways Incorporated
- Bob Kirschner asked about the letter to UNC and George replied that there was a draft. It was recommended that if there is a workable draft, that it be given to the Commission prior to the next meeting for Commission members to review. Jacquie clarified that the letter would be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen and the Board would be asked to send the letter to UNC.

- VI. **Approval of Minutes**- Dave moved to approve the November 17, 2008 minutes, seconded by Bob. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- VII. **Announcements**- 1) Ken Moore is leading a winter walk at Wilson Park at 2 PM on 12/30;
2) New Years Day hike along Bolin Creek @ 1 PM

- VIII. **Next Regular Meeting:** January 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall (Board Room).

- IX. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.