

**Carrboro Greenways Commission  
Minutes  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**At –Large Members Present**

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

**Representatives Present**

- \* Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
- \*Gary Junker- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- \*Dave Otto- Friends of Bolin Creek (Vice-chair)
- \*Johnny Randall- Morgan Creek Valley Alliance/NC Botanical Garden
- \*Katie Schwing –Transportation Advisory Board

**Staff Present**

Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department  
Ray Magyar-UNC  
Adena Messenger- Town of Carrboro Planning Department  
Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department  
Nick Parker – OWASA

**Aldermen Present**

- \*Jacquie Gist- Board of Aldermen
- \*Randee Haven-O’Donnell

**Absent**

- \*Salli Benedict- At Large
- Marabeth Carr – Orange County Environmental Resources and Conservation Department
- Michael Flynn –alternate
- \*Andreas Hay-Environmental Advisory Board
- \*Livy Ludington- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- \*Heidi Paulsen – Planning Board
- \*Amber Wagner- At Large
- Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill

**Guests**

Britt Mylacraine, Greenways Inc.  
Chuck Flink, Greenways Inc.  
Chris Dye, Greenways Inc.  
Matt Cusack, EcoScience

\* indicates voting member

- I. **Call to Order**- George Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes**- Approval of minutes was deferred since the Commission was sent a draft version that had some unresolved editorial comments.

- III. **Update on Morgan Creek Planning (Staff)**- Adena presented a brief update of progress on the Conceptual Plan for Morgan Creek. The contract approval has been received from D.O.T. to move forward, and staff has initiated work with the consultant team. The current intention is for Coulter, Jewell, and Thames to present results of preliminary data and field review to the Commission at the March meeting.
- IV. **Bolin Creek Planning**- Britt Mylacraine provided a presentation for Greenways Inc. (GI) covering data collection, early assessment review, and field work completed to date. Three teams were in the field for two days in late January, walking the corridor from Estes Drive extending to the north to the connection to Morris Grove School along Bolin Creek and Jones Creek. GI has been focusing on green infrastructure, topography, vegetation, connectivity, access, circulation, destinations, and other factors that affect greenway alignment and feasibility. The theme of Britt's presentation was identification of some of the opportunities and constraints observed to date (associated map was distributed). She provided a photo inventory and description of the team's field visit, with observations of some of the relevant observations as they could affect alternative alignments. In multiple locations in the study area, GI observed considerable erosion associated with the heavy use. An example of some of the design details briefly discussed included issues associated with a trail underpass under Homestead Road.

Matt Cusack from EcoScience has been focusing on an environmental "red flag" assessment that covers factors that might affect regulatory/permitting and protection of important environmental features, e.g., associated with surface waters, wetlands, soils vegetation and wildlife (e.g., beavers). Matt mentioned considerations for protected status for animals and plants. Two protected plant species that they currently are aware of are Michaux sumac and smooth coneflower; they will be field surveying for during the appropriate season. Animals include red cockaded woodpecker (unlikely), dwarf wedge mussel (unlikely), 4 toed salamander (unlikely). More detailed analyses will be pursued as the footprint of alignment alternatives become clearer. He also mentioned that there is a county Significant Natural Heritage Area in the study area that EcoScience will be working with GI to consider. This area is not expected to provide substantial regulatory constraints.

Chuck Flink from Greenways Inc. began by sharing some observations of the study area: a corridor that faces challenges and opportunities associated with: heavy use with little management, considerable clearing, soft soils, and a generally abused landscape from the affection that users have. He suggested that important goals of the greenway planning should be to better organize human use, and to approach the project as an environmental restoration opportunity. Sedimentation is a leading pollutant in North Carolina and in the study area, without as much public attention as some other factors. Bolin Creek is a stream that has been classified as impaired by the NC Division of Water Quality, with sediment being an acknowledged contributor. Some of the historical approaches to addressing this have been unsuccessful "band-aids". The soils are vulnerable to the heavy traffic. He mentioned creation/restoration of pervious surfaces as a good restoration goal for the higher elevations rather than in the bottomlands in the watershed where the native soils are by definition impervious. Watershed scale stormwater impacts include lowering of infiltration and associated impacts to groundwater and baseflow as well as erosive capacity.

He discussed the benefits of paved trails for the use patterns observed since it supports the widest range of users, and is all weather trails. He provided an overview of a rubber trail in Greenville, SC as an experimental trail. He mentioned educational programming as another goal. He presented a number of additional different surface types/options (e.g., asphalt, concrete, permeable pavement, boardwalks, recycled lumber, crushed limestone, native forest litter, dual surfaces) that can be looked at during the project, and there tradeoffs for different situations, uses and maintenance requirements. He also discussed a study in Florida looking at the migration of petrochemicals from an asphalt trail, via dispersion more in the air than in the soil/water. He concluded that in this study area a structurally hardened surface for the most concentrated traffic had advantages over natural surfaces because of its ability to reduce and absorb the impact, wear and tear, functionality and ease of maintenance. He summarized with three points or overall goals. Let's: 1) pursue a greenway trail planning effort as required/ assumed; 2) address erosion and sedimentation; and 3) pursue an environmental restoration program (greenway in a larger sense) that includes an educational program. Ensuing discussion included whether stimulus money might be available for future project work. Clean Water Management Trust Fund was mentioned as a good potential source of funding.

The three presentations and related information will be posted either on the Commission or GI website. P,B,S&J will be focusing on flood studies, and reporting later in the project. It is hoped that the GI team will be able to attend the April Commission meeting and provide an update. The team will provide some dates for planning future public workshop

- V. **Announcements-** Dave Otto made several announcements. Rich Shaw will lead hike along the sewer easement near Twin Creeks Park at 9:00 am Saturday 2/21. Friends of Bolin Creek and Morgan Valley Alliance are working with Haw River Assembly as part of the Muddy Water Watch, with trainings planned for Thursday 2/26; Saturday 2/28; Thursday 3/26; Saturday 3/28. Sustain Foundation trail maps may be available in April. Finally, a mural project 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

- VI. **Next Regular Meeting:** March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall (Board Room).

- VII. Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.