

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
November 15th, 2010

At –Large Members Present

*Robert Kirschner (Chair) – At-Large
*Gary Junker (Vice chair) – At-Large
*Dave Otto – At-Large

Representatives Present

*Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
*Matthew Arnsberger – Environmental Advisory Board
*Ranee Haven-O’Donnell – Board of Aldermen
*Johnny Randall – Morgan Creek Valley Alliance
Nick Parker – OWASA
*Salli Benedict – Friends of Bolin Creek
*Robin Michler – Transportation Advisory Board
Ray Magyar – UNC
Marabeth Carr – Orange Co. Environmental Resources and Conservation Department

Staff Present

Randy Dodd – Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Jeff Brubaker – Town of Carrboro Planning Department

Absent

*George Daniel – At-Large
Brendan Moore – Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill
*Mark Chilton – Mayor/Board of Aldermen

* indicates voting member

Guests

Damon Seils	Joan Widdifield	Susan Paulsen	Rob Crook
Sharon Myers	Rich Snover	Jerry Oster	Karen Thornberg
Greg Kopsch	Al Miller	Trisha Lester	Julie McClintock
Jill Coleman	Diane Robertson	Linda Haac	

I. **Call to Order:** Bob Kirschner called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. He introduced Damon Seils as the new appointee for the Planning Board. Minutes: The Greenways Commission approved the October 18, 2010, meeting minutes MOTION (Dave, Johnny second): (unanimous, Salli and Robin abstain because of absence in October).

II. **Public Comments and Presentations**

Diane Robertson spoke in favor of the “green route” connecting Homestead Rd. to the public schools for environmental reasons (the least damaging route) and to avoid a bridge crossing of Jolly Branch. Linda Haac clarified references/citations from her presentation at the October meeting. She was referring to Appendix C-10 of the Bolin Conceptual Plan (Habitat Enhancement and Control) regarding use of herbicides, as well as the staff report presented to the Board of Aldermen in December, 2009 related to sewer corridor statistics and implementation for Phases 3 and 4 for Bolin Creek (pp. B-3, B-8). Rob Crook

spoke in favor of the green route. He indicated that a long bridge would be required, and the bridge would require permits for an alternate route. Green route would tie in more directly to school property, and would avoid impacts to/from floodplains and wetlands.

III. **Staff report:** Jeff provided a report on bicycle and pedestrian facilities included in the Carolina North Development Agreement for Seawall School Rd. The planned improvements include improvements within the right-of-way and on University property. A multi-use path is planned on the east side of a portion of Seawall School Rd. instead of the west side to avoid stream impacts to a high quality stream. The path will tie into bike lanes on either end. Jeff mentioned that the agreement does not include specific dates as part of the timeline, and that a similar project has been deleted in the draft of the next Transportation Improvement Plan. Jeff mentioned that the Request For Qualifications for the Morgan Creek Greenway engineering phase has been released, and that the Town is negotiating with Kimley-Horn for providing engineering assistance with Phase 1A of the Bolin Creek greenway.

IV. **Work Session on Phase 1B, 2:** Phase 1b: Jeff, Randy, and UNC staff provided the Commission with a summary of a recent site visit to look at the details of an alignment connecting Homestead Rd. to Chapel Hill High and Smith Middle schools. One new consideration that has been identified is to coordinate the alignment with both high school and middle school cross country competition and training courses. Another key consideration that the Commission discussed is the appropriateness of a crossing of Jolly Branch. The Commission discussed various design constraints and opportunities such as grade, trail and sewer line maintenance needs, floodplain and wetland considerations, regulatory needs, and tread specification. The discussion acknowledged that some of the design details will best be dealt with in the future, and that a motion was made by Dave and seconded by Salli to prefer a route in the vicinity of the green route shown in the concept plan for conceptual planning purposes, with details of the alignment to be worked out in coordination with UNC and school system staff, in consideration of factors such as the cross country needs, and as clarified in the future engineering phase. Vote: Johnny was opposed, the other commission members were for. Phase 2: Dave said that the trail alignment was not possible to field locate, and requested that it be flagged. The need to coordinate that with property owners was mentioned. Rob Crook and Dave Otto offered to provide the commission with photographs. The alignment as shown in the concept plan was discussed, along with tread specifications, flood issues, and requirements tied to funding sources. A motion was made by Johnny, seconded by Gary, and unanimously approved to accept the concept plan for Phase 2 as provided in the plan. In the event that the project needs to be phased, the connection from locations 40-38 (near Brace Lane to Turtleback Crossing) as shown in Chapter 4, p. 59 of the plan has the highest priority for implementation. Jeff mentioned the issue of the current absence of a local match to fund the project.

V. **Other Business:** The Commission requested a discussion of funding and matching funds and a review of photographs for Phase 2 of the Bolin Creek Greenway at the next meeting. There was also interest in availability of an intergovernmental map. Dave announced plans for a local alternative holiday gift market at the United Church of Chapel Hill. Bing.com maps was mentioned as a good aerial photograph source.

VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.