

Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
June 20th, 2011

At –Large Members Present

*Salli Benedict – Friends of Bolin
Creek
*Dave Otto (Vice-chair) – At-
Large
*Gary Junker – At-Large
*George Daniel – At-Large

Representatives Present

*Matthew Arnsberger – Environmental Advisory Board
*Ranee Haven-O’Donnell – Board of Aldermen
*Damon Seils – Planning Board

Staff Present

Jeff Brubaker – Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Randy Dodd – Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Wendell Rodgers – Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Ray Magyar – UNC
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill

Absent

*Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
Marabeth Carr – Orange Co. Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
*Mark Chilton – Mayor/Board of Aldermen
*Robert Kirschner (Chair) – At- Large
*Robin Michler – Transportation Advisory Board
Nick Parker – OWASA
*Johnny Randall – Morgan Creek Valley Alliance

* indicates voting member

Guests

Bruce Sinclair
Thomas Young

- I. **Call to Order:** Dave Otto, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **Minutes:** MOTION (Gary, Damon second): The Greenways Commission approved the May 16, 2011, meeting minutes (unanimous). There were no adjustments to the agenda.
- III. **Staff Report:** Jeff provided a report that provided the following summary points. The Wilson Park Multi-use Path is moving forward on schedule. Approvals/certifications have been received from NEPA, OWASA, and NCDOT to allow the project to move to construction. Construction/bid/contract documents are under review by DOT. Jeff reported that the safety/signalization at Estes Drive is still to be determined, based on review from the NCDOT traffic engineer. At a minimum, a crosswalk with pavement markings and signs will be included. A discussion followed on some details and the pros and cons of additional options (rectangular rapid flashing beacon, HAWK signals, pedestrian beacon) which are also being reviewed. Jeff recommends that a final determination on this specification consider further consultation with the consultant and NCDOT, and project schedule and funding details. For the

Morgan Creek project, the contract scope and fee estimate provided by Coulter, Jewell, and Thames is currently being audited by NCDOT. For the Bolin Creek Phase 1B project, a Request For Qualifications to select a consultant was released June 15, with responses due July 11. Jeff provided a general funding opportunity summary. The Transportation and Community System Preservation Program has provided over \$12 million in funding for North Carolina projects since 1999. A call for projects for STP-DA funding will be held in the fall of this year. A Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program call for applications is also expected. There is also a new federal transportation bill in process. In terms of identified funding available for the active greenway projects, there is \$600k allocated for the Morgan Creek project (\$132k/design, \$468k construction). The Wilson Park Multi-use Path is funded separately from transportation and recreation funds. There is a total of \$737k allocated for Bolin Creek Phase 1b. (For this phase, staff was asked to provide an update on the status and details of the Town's agreement with Claremont regarding timing and amount of payment in lieu at a future meeting.) For Bolin Creek Phase 2. \$214k of federal funds have been identified; a local match has not been identified. George noted that the greenway projects north of Homestead Road do not connect and it will be important to support connectivity to provide safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians. He specifically requested support from the Town in the interim while other projects are being pursued for an improved connection (perhaps light grading, gravel) from Brace Lane to Turtleback Crossing. Staff agreed to pass this request on to Public Works staff.

IV. Carolina North Forest and Trails Advisory Committee (CNFTAC) – discussion of Greenways Commission representation. The purpose of this item was to discuss, at Randee's request, an opportunity for closer coordination between the Commission and the Carolina North Forest and Trails Advisory Committee. There are two members of the Greenways Commission (Dave and Johnny) that currently participate in the CNFTAC, although not as formal Carrboro or Greenways Commission representatives. She mentioned a concern about transparency in Commission member's participation historically. Specifically, she mentioned a concern that the CNFTAC minutes indicate that information has been shared by Greenways Commission members that is not as balanced or representative as she is seeking. Dave said that the committee is fairly ad hoc and that it mainly advises UNC staff on recreational and maintenance activities. There was a discussion in which different perspectives were voiced about how to best manage the communication between the Commission and the CNFTAC. Ray said that the committee is an internal UNC committee that provides information to UNC's Facilities and Design regarding recreational and environmental issues. Based on the discussion, he will take a request to UNC staff regarding formal Commission representation on the CNFTAC.

V. Update on Carolina North (UNC). Ray reported that Carolina North planning is essentially frozen currently, with significant funding constraints. Randee asked if anyone had information updating conservation planning subsequent to the development agreement; no members had more updated information than presented by Johnny at the previous meeting.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. (MOTION to adjourn: Salli, Damon second.)