

CARRBORO RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING



April 12, 2021

7:00PM – ZOOM – Minutes by Chris Colvin

Attendees: Anita, Jacquelyn, Brian Payst, Chris Colvin, Jeff Laufenberg, Maggie Funkhouser, Makeda Ma'at, Leyla Aydin (youth council president/liaison).

Call the Meeting to Order 7:04pm

Approval of the Minutes 7:05pm

Colvin moved. Laufenberg seconded. Approved unanimously.

Communications and/or Speakers from the Floor 7:07pm

Introductions, joint meeting with Greenways Commission.

Greenways Commission members attending: Trish McGuire (Town Planning Director), Randee Haven-O'Donnell (Commission-Council liaison), Meredith Morovati (new commission member), Staya Kallepalli (new member, lots of greenways in Cary), Alyson West, Mahin Manley, Tina Moon (Town staff).

Greenways commission charter talks about meeting jointly with rec and parks commission once per year on topics of joint interest.

New Business 7:17pm -

Payst described increase in trail use during the pandemic. ("Trails") is broader than greenways, partly because greenways are only one of the types of trails, and that there are other types of trails that are not greenways (Adams Tract, Hank Anderson Frisbee Golf Course trail(s), potentially Twin Creeks, etc.).

McGuire delivered Greenways commission.

Planning department is involved in planning/permitting greenways and then passes them off to Public Works for maintenance, after construction is completed.

Background/historical context:

3 steps: Planning→Funding→Design/Construction

1970 land use plan adopted.

1980 first parks and greenways concept, including connection between Estes and along Bolin Creek. Public meeting, 35 people spoke, all opposed, due to perceptions of danger/crime, lower property values.

1995 45% open space requirement for developments.

2001 reviewed and accepted dedications for parks.

2003 approved bond for \$4M+ for sidewalks, greenways, parks, matching funds.

2013 first town greenway completed, Bolin Creek phase 1.

Concept has been for transportation and recreation.

1994→2006 recreation and parks comprehensive plan update included trails/greenways.

Carrboro Connects meetings to date have included discussions of greenways, trails, parks

Displayed maps from 1990s plan, 2006 plan, and current system.

Two conceptual master plans: Bolin Creek Greenway and Morgan Creek, included public involvement.

Greenways projects are pretty expensive.

5 Federal Highway Administration fund sources that Carrboro has used. Orange County Transit Revenues, Town Funds (General Fund, Bonds).

Complicated and long timeline for Federal funding for greenways. 10-year State Transportation Improvement Programs, approved every two years.

Described phases of Bolin Creek Greenway, including upcoming Jones Creek Greenway.

Described phases of Morgan Creek Greenway.

West—Carrboro and UNC should formalize Carolina North Forest as a park. Some erosion issues along Bolin Creek/OWASA corridor.

Payst—Where do non-paved trails in Carrboro fall administratively?

McGuire—no conceptual plan for single-track trails. Adams Tract is the only place we have a management plan for single-track trails. Master plan for single-track trails may come out of Carrboro Connects.

Haven-O'Donnell—UNC was considering developing north campus, was willing to preserve forest within Carrboro, also noted needs for trail management? We are unique in that we have a real urban forest surrounded by development.

Morovati—What is status of Bolin Creek phases 3 and 4? How is maintenance funding managed?

McGuire—Council committed to another public involvement process for phases 3 and 4. Haven't had time for that. Maintenance funding comes from Town, general fund. Shelton-to-Estes Bikeway repair project going on now, managed by Public Works.

Kallepalli—Flood issues are increasing. What kind of creek protection ideas are incorporated?

Gist—Funding sources do have some requirements related to clearing, design, surface, etc. Work for Creek protection has to be very strategic.

West—Need to make sure people can walk from home to parks/greenways, and be accessible.

Ma'at—What are considerations for benches? Emergency phones?

McGuire—some seating in Bolin Creek phase 1b and discussion of it in Morgan Creek. We have not included lighting or phones for Bolin Creek or Morgan Creek greenways. We could certainly explore that in the early phases of design. Greenways are closed after dark.

Ma'at—Where can I obtain a clear map of Carrboro greenways?

Haven-O'Donnell—component parts available <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/739/Greenways>

Ma'at—Does Carrboro have a tree ordinance? Is there a certain % of trees the developer has to keep?

West shared links—<https://www.portlandmaps.com/bps/offroadcycling/>
<https://www.cnt.org/publications/green-values-strategy-guide-linking-green-infrastructure-benefits-to-community>

Reports 8:20pm

Comprehensive Plan Update—will be updates on opportunities to engage soon.

Department Carrboro Day coming up on May 2 at 1pm (virtual). Freight Train blues series in May, with an extra week.

Food footprint, Earth Day Thu Apr 22, 5-7pm, plant-based food vendors, 6-10.

Adjournment 8:30pm

Funkhouser moved to adjourn.