

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
January 11, 2016**

Members Present

*Charlie Hileman (Chair)
*Ranee Haven-O'Donnell – Board of Aldermen
*Lydia Lavelle—Board of Aldermen
*Robert Kirschner
*Mary Parker Sonis
*Rob Crook

Absent

*Johnny Randall (Vice-chair)
Nick Parker – OWASA
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill

* indicates voting member

Staff Present

Bergen Watterson - Town of Carrboro Planning
Department
Wendell Rodgers-Town of Carrboro Recreation
and Parks
Trish McGuire-Town of Carrboro Planning
Department
Kurt Stolka-UNC Transportation Planning

Guests

Don Skiba (candidate)
Ethan Beattie (candidate)
Pasan Perera (candidate)

- I. **Call to Order:** Charlie Hileman called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.
- II. **Minutes:** The Greenways Commission unanimously approved the October 8th, 2015 meeting minutes.
- III. **Public comments:** There were no public comments.
- IV. **Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2016:** The group discussed setting a meeting schedule for the rest of 2016. After some discussion of whether to meet monthly or quarterly, the group decided to continue with the quarterly meetings but leave open the possibility of scheduling an extra meeting if needed. Charlie said he thought that if the group wanted to officially switch to meeting monthly that the Board of Aldermen would need to approve the new schedule and change the Commission's charge. The group preferred to keep the meetings on the second Monday of the meeting month. Bob said he thought it was important for the group to meet on the specified days even if there is not much on the agenda. One or two members of the Commission expressed concern that quarterly meetings would not allow the group to weigh in on projects at the appropriate time, and lamented a time in the past when a greenway decision was made in the time between Commission meetings. Charlie said that he would make sure that the Commission scheduled a meeting if there was a directive from staff or Board of Aldermen pertaining to a specific greenway study or decision. The group decided on this schedule:
 - Monday, April 11th @ 6:30pm
 - Monday, July 11th @ 6:30pm
 - Monday October 10th @ 6:30pm

V. **Project updates:** Bergen Watterson provided a summary of current greenway projects.

- Homestead –Chapel Hill High School Multi-Use Path: The bid opening in October was successful and the Town recently received concurrence of bid from NCDOT. Town staff is meeting on 1/12/16 with the CEI and the contractor to discuss when to start construction on the greenway. Mary mentioned the flooding on the greenway in rain events and had emailed the group some photos of the flooding before Christmas. Bergen noted that the Town is looking at options for installing a webcam to livestream trail conditions, particularly for communication with the schools. The group was interested in potential signage on the trail to warn trail users when there is flooding.
- Morgan Creek Greenway Phases 1 & 2: Bergen said that not much has changed in the status of this greenway since the last meeting. The Town is still considering various issues regarding flood impacts and creek crossings related to Phase I. A decision on this will likely be made soon in order to proceed with permitting and design processes. Bob explained the different phases of the greenway to the guests in attendance. Charlie asked about the status of conversations with NCDOT related to bike/ped crossing on the bridge. Bergen said that these are still pending and that no decision or next step has been identified.
- Jones Creek Greenway: Town staff applied to NCDOT for a municipal agreement for this project and it should be arriving soon. The plan is to release a RFQ for design services this winter/spring.
- Campus to Campus Connector: Bergen told the group that the Town of Chapel Hill submitted the Campus to Campus Connector to NCDOT's SPOT 4.0 prioritization process and that it may end up scoring fairly well. Staff will have news on this in April/May. Charlie described the proposed route of the connector to the group. Kurt noted that UNC is starting work on updating their master plan and that the fate of Carolina North is a big aspect of the discussions.
- Bolin Creek Phase 2: The group discussed the alignment and status of Phase 2 of the Bolin Creek Greenway (Lake Hogan Farm Road area, across Turtleback Crossing, connecting to Lake Hogan Farm Greenway). The group decided to schedule a field trip for **March 14th at 4pm, meeting at the bridge on Turtleback Crossing**. Participants will look at a potential connection between Turtleback Crossing and Brace Lane, which is currently used by pedestrians and cyclists but should be improved.

VI. **Other Matters:** Charlie asked if the Board of Aldermen has considered a bond referendum to help pay for some of these projects, like Chapel Hill just passed. Lydia responded that they have talked lightly about it. Trish pointed out that the Town is still spending money from the last bond, and that the Town will be paying on the debt service for the next many years.

VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.