

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
June 21st, 2010**

At –Large Members Present

*Salli Benedict – At Large
*George Daniel – At Large
*Robert Kirschner (Chair) – At Large

Representatives Present

*Eric Allman – Recreation and Parks Commission
*Matthew Arnsberger– Environmental Advisory Board
*Randee Haven-O’Donnell – Board of Alderman
*Dave Otto – Friends of Bolin Creek
*Amber Wagner – Planning Board

Staff Present

Brendan Moore- Town of Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
Jeff Brubaker—Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Ray Magyar – UNC

Absent

*Mark Chilton-Mayor/Board of Alderman (excused)
*Johnny Randall – Morgan Creek Valley Alliance/NC Botanical Garden (excused)
Randy Dodd- Town of Carrboro Planning Department
Marabeth Carr – Orange County Environmental Resources and Conservation Department
*Gary Junker (Vice chair) – At-Large (excused)
* Robin Michler – Transportation Advisory Board
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill
Nick Parker – OWASA

Guests

Frances Shetley
Marty Mandell
Rob Crook
James Carnahan
Susan Dickson
Joshua Davis
Meg Brauth
John Marshall
Bruce Sinclair
Margaret Misch
Linda Haac
Ken Bartholomew
Will Raymond
Wayne Dixon
Mike Birenbach

Mary Sonis
Carol de Poix
Ken Moore
Leif Tornquist
Noreen Ordronneau
Sacha Knowles
Meade Arble
Dave Sidor
Terri Buckner
Beth Velliquette- CH Herald
Cara Biasucci
Ellen Perry
Bill Kerwin
Daniel Morris
Joan Widdifield

* indicates voting member

I. **Call to Order:** Bob Kirschner called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. **Administrative Matters:** Accessibility presentation pulled from the agenda by the request of Ellen Perry. The Greenways Commission approved the minutes of the May 17th meeting with change that at the last meeting Johnny Randall had an excused absence. Motion by Amber Wagner, 2ND Dave Otto (unanimous). Johnny Randall, Gary Junker, Mark Chilton are out with excused absences.

III. **Public Comment:** Presentation from Save Bolin Creek. Joan Widdifield began the presentation. Save Bolin Creek formed as an ad hoc organization after learning of the plan for the greenway along Bolin Creek. Mike Birenbach and Rob Crook also presented. Mike Birenbach spoke on the petition gathered by SBC opposed to the paving of the portion of the greenway along Bolin Creek with over 930 signatures. Mr. Birenbach presented the petition to the Commission. Mr. Birenbach shared examples of the public comments in favor of not paving the greenway. Rob Crook spoke on the need to have good networks of trails and off road transportation, but there is a need to preserve the water quality of the Bolin Creek Watershed. They support no development of the riparian zone in the Bolin Creek Watershed. He feels confident that the community can achieve preserving water quality, natural habitats, and infrastructure needs through a thoughtful process and that the Town can build a bike/pedestrian network without damaging the riparian zone by building a paved trail. They support protecting the tree root systems that would be damaged by the construction of this trail.

Ellen Perry spoke on the need for greenways to be accessible. It is safer for people with disabilities to use greenways, especially if they are going long distances. It is a safer transportation route and should be designed to include everyone. Greenways are also a teaching tool, and not all kids can easily access wilderness areas. Greenways provide a method for all children to access natural areas. A paved trail provides equal access for recreation opportunities. Greenways also provide a social experience and a paved trail provides that for all. Will Raymond, a Chapel Hill resident, spoke on alternatives to access that would provide for all while still preserving the natural area. He discussed how Bolin Creek is a regional resource that has numerous stakeholders striving to be good stewards. He does not feel that the impact on the easement by OWASA justifies paving the easement and creating more damage. He stressed that Carrboro has the opportunity to lead the way in planning a wider, longer term plan for stewardship that can set a new standard. Bill Kerwin, resident for over 20 years, spoke as a runner who does not like to run on pavement. He said it would be a real loss if the trail was paved. He recognizes that there does need to be equal access and that a trade off will need to be made to provide access, but that he hopes that a compromise can be worked out to meet all needs. Wayne Dixon, a resident of Orange County, spoke on using his wheelchair on over 25 miles of trail a week. Without the small piece of paved trail on Bolin Creek, he would not have done so well with his rehab. Now, for any distance, he has to drive to Durham to use the American Tobacco Trail. He is shocked that Carrboro is considering something that is inclusive for some, but not for everyone. Terri Buckner, a resident for 31 years, spoke on the long history of development over the years. She asked the Commission to make sure the design includes accessibility. Everyone has the right to use at least a good portion of the greenway. She does not feel the trail would damage the water quality, especially after the large amount of development over the years near the creek. She would like to request 10 minutes at the next meeting to address issues of accessibility and environmentalism. Daniel Morris spoke on improving bike transportation. The greenway has the advantage of being flat. It is in the middle of the community and needs to be accessible to everyone.

IV. **Staff Report:**

- a) Safe Routes to Schools Update: Jeff Brubaker gave an update on the Safe Routes to School initiative. Overall, walking to school has been on the decline for a number of years. Carrboro has three active SRTS projects. The Carrboro SRTS Action Plan is being

developed with Greenways, Inc. and Greene Transportation Solutions. Draft expected to be completed next month, with the final draft presented to the Board of Aldermen in the fall. Sidewalk on Elm Street is another project. There will also be Walk 'n' Roll events to Carrboro Elementary in the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011. Dave Otto asked if the Bolin Creek Greenway was being considered in the plan. Jeff responded that the Wilson Park Multi-Use Trail is front and center in the Action Plan. Dave Otto mentioned that the Bolin Creek Greenway would connect 7 schools off-road.

- b) Summer and Fall Schedule: Jeff Brubaker asked the Commission to discuss what topics they would like to take on for the rest of the summer and fall, what the commission has accomplished, and moving forward, what the Commission would like to see as its role. Jeff also discussed the staffing update and how Town Staff are proposing a flexible schedule for Town staff attendance. Motion (Amber Wagner) to allow flexibility of scheduling for the Commission meetings by staff based on topics and areas of expertise. Second by George Daniel. Passed unanimously. Amber proposed revisiting the Commission's goals and objectives to look back and what had been done and assess the scope for the future. Bob proposed putting it on the agenda for the next meeting. Eric suggested taking July and August off. Dave Otto motioned for work session in July, take August off, and time slot in September for public input presentation. Rande 2nd, passes unanimously. Amber suggested moving the discussion on the Commission's goals and objectives to September.
- c) Policy Document Outlining Procedures for Public Participation: Dave Otto motioned to approve the Public Participation Policy. Eric Allman seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. Bolin Creek: Commission's Recommendations/Confirmation of Parts 1a, 1b, and 2: Tabled until July meeting. Motion by Amber Wagner, 2nd by Salli Benedict. Passed unanimously. Requested break down of financial details associated with the project and to make it the first item on the agenda.

VI. Announcements: Dave Otto announced the "Bolin Creek Trail; a Community Treasure" exhibit on display at University Mall. Dave also announced the Hot Diggity Days, 2nd Friday Artwalk on July 9th at University Mall.

VII. Upcoming Meetings: Next regular Greenways Commission meeting: Monday, July 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Town Hall.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.