

**Carrboro Greenways Commission
Minutes
January 14th, 2013**

At –Large Members Present

*Gary Junker – At-Large (Chair)
*Mary Parker Sonis – At-Large
*Johnny Randall – At-Large

Staff Present

Jeff Brubaker – Town of Carrboro Planning
Department
Randy Dodd – Town of Carrboro Planning
Department
Wendell Rogers-Town of Carrboro Recreation
and Parks Department

Representatives Present

*Randee Haven-O’Donnell – Board of Aldermen

Absent

*Mark Chilton – Mayor/Board of Aldermen
Marabeth Carr – Orange Co. Department of
Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
*Charlie Hileman – At-Large (Vice-chair)
*Robert Kirschner – At- Large
Ray Magyar – UNC
Nick Parker – OWASA
Bill Webster – Town of Chapel Hill

* indicates voting member

I. **Call to Order:** Gary Junker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

II. **Minutes:** The Greenways Commission unanimously approved the November 12, 2012, meeting minutes. MOTION (Johnny, Mary second). There were no adjustments to the agenda or public comments.

III. **Staff Report:** Jeff B. reported on the Wilson Park Multiuse path status. He mentioned that the project is substantially complete. An unexpected activity and expense was the need to stabilize an area with an unstable subgrade, which primarily involved bringing in more stone. A final inspection was completed. A remaining issue is that a curb ramp was not able to be installed on Estes Drive because of the probability of the ramp not being stable due to a steep drop off. There was some discussion of the safety for crossing Estes Drive. Randee mentioned the new edge lit crosswalk signs in Chapel Hill, and inquired as to if a similar installation would be appropriate for Estes Drive. She also requested signage on Williams Street about the multiuse path. Jeff B. also gave a report on the Bolin Creek Phase 1b design progress, with highlights including a discussion of the legal agreements with landowners (Claremont and UNC) being pursued, and the need for additional funding identified at the 90% design phase. Jeff B. also gave a report on the Morgan Creek project, with the major update being a status report on the anticipated contract amendment with Coulter, Jewell, and Thames. The Commission discussed the benefits of the on-bridge crossing option at Smith Level Road, including providing a safer facility, and cost savings through the avoidance of building a shadow bridge. Gary mentioned a desire to pursue trash clean up in the project vicinity, with others agreeing that this would be worth pursuing.

IV. **Funding Discussion.** Gary introduced this discussion by reminding the group that there are identified funding needs, and a need for clarity about various components of pursuing future funding, as previously discussed in November. He also mentioned that the funding discussion in the Bolin Creek Concept Plan appendix is now dated. Jeff provided a presentation with a staff perspective on funding issues, including the needs to: seek combination of federal, state, local, and private funding, and to

create a local funding program. In developing a local funding strategy, the Town will need to consider the funding amount, source, mechanism, schedule, and responsible parties for pursuing. Based on work to date, it is clear that over \$600k of local funding will be needed to pursue Bolin Creek Phase 2 and future Morgan Creek phases, with an unknown amount needed for Bolin Creek Phases 3 and 4. Jeff also mentioned that staff are looking into whether the available STP-DA funds for Bolin Phase 2 would be appropriately reprogrammed to Bolin Phase 1b and future Morgan Phases. Randy reminded the Commission that there are no local funds identified for Bolin Phase 2 and future Morgan phases, and that the bond funds that the Town has been using are expiring. Examples of opportunities for new funding include private funds, new development (i.e. payment-in-lieu), foundations, crowd sourcing (e.g. Kickstarter or Indiegogo), and partnering with stakeholders such as the school system. Johnny mentioned REI grants as a source to consider. There was also discussion about federal funding that led to a motion by Randee, seconded by Johnny, and unanimously approved to have the Greenways Commission, in coordination with the TAB, recommend to the Board of Aldermen that the Town include in its State legislative agenda that the State use new Transportation Alternatives funding under the latest federal transportation bill, MAP-21 statewide grant program for true transportation alternatives (e.g., bicycle and pedestrian facilities and greenways), and not transfer this federal allocation to non-transportation alternative programs , which is allowed under MAP-21.

V. **Announcements:** Gary expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Commission, to the advisory board liaisons whose terms expired at the end of 2012. Jeff mentioned that a leading academician (John Pucher) is on sabbatical, and teaching at UNC, and will be offering a seminar on Cycling and Walking Best Practices February 6th at UNC City and Regional Planning. He is a current Carrboro resident.

VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting was scheduled for April 15th.