



301 W. Main St.  
Town Hall  
Carrboro, NC 27510

**Town of Carrboro  
Meeting Minutes – Work Session  
Town Council**

**February 14, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers - Room 110**

**Present:** Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Eliazar Posada, Council Member Sammy Slade

**Also Present:** Richard White, Town Manager; Mary Bryant, Deputy Town Clerk; Nick Herman, Town Attorney; Trish McGuire, Planning Director; Catherine Lazorko, Communications & Engagement Director

\*\*\*\*\*

**WORK SESSION: BOLIN CREEK GREENWAY PHASES 3 & 4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Mayor Seils opened the work session. The purpose of this work session was for the Town Council to consider background information, discuss options for a public engagement process, and to determine the next steps.

Trish McGuire, Planning Director, gave a presentation to the Council on Bolin Creek background information and possible options for engagement.

Trish McGuire clarified the term “conceptual plan” by stating it is more detailed and a feasibility evaluation with a lot of details, but it is not a design plan, as that would be the next step in the process.

The question about a timeline for the engagement results to come back to Council was asked. Trish McGuire stated a consultant would most likely be hired and the timeline would be an estimated five (5) months or more.

Council Member Slade provided context, related to requirements by our 80% match funders of the 2009 Greenway Plan, for why the various options for phases 3&4 were included when the Greenway Plan was adopted in 2009. He clarified that the scope of work for the community input process requested in 2009 was not for ‘whether’ 3&4 should be built but ,rather, ‘which’ (of the options included for phases 3&4 that were left in the plan).

Council Member Romaine asked if the Town must wait until the budget is approved, or if the engagement could begin before then. Town Manager White stated funding would have to be identified, but it could go ahead and begin. Further, Trish McGuire stated the need to engage with property owners at the beginning of the engagement process.

Council Member Nowell asked if another work session would be needed after a consultant was hired to share ideas for engagement. Trish McGuire responded stating an RFQ process would most likely be used for the consultant search, but that specificity and scope would be helpful.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell stated the 2009 plan does not reflect climate issues and would like staff to have proper climate information included and provide

Council with this climate information. She also spoke on how neighborhood engagement is critical for this plan.

Discussion then ensued about the current engagement plan that was adopted by Council in 2020. Communications and Engagement Director Catherine Lazorko gave a brief overview of this 2020 adopted plan to Council. Mayor Seils stated he wants to be sure the Town is reaching everywhere we need to reach on this engagement process.

Council Member Nowell stated engaging the school community and commuters, and how it would impact emissions and mileage traveled. Further, he stated it is important to improve the stream and protect it.

Council Member Romaine suggested using comment cards as an easy way to receive additional feedback, as well as online surveys. She also spoke on how a greenway would change behavior as it relates to students biking or walking to school, employers needing fewer parking spaces, young parents having opportunity to use greenway, the elderly, and those with mobility issues.

Council Member Posada spoke on all residents having equal say and not giving organizations more power than individual residents. He suggested asking residents what they want to see in the plan.

Council Member Haven-O'Donnell suggested finding a way to incorporate information about network of mobility in the town. She spoke on education of climate and environmental science and looking through the lens of bringing the community together, not dividing.

The next steps in the process include: 1) accommodating staff need for consultant; 2) defining scope, e.g., public input, technical information from staff; and 3) educational workshops or fact sheets. Town Manager White stated this topic would come back to Council within a month.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Council Member Slade, seconded by Council Member Posada to adjourn the meeting.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**