MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Erin Crouse, Chair

Parks and Recreation Commission

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Comments on the Central West Small Area Plan

DATE: November 20, 2013

At their November 20, 2013 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to endorse the Central West Small Area Plan. The Commission would like to make the following statements about the plan:

* We recommend that the Steering Committee’s statement regarding public green space be changed to read: *The percentage of public green space for each new project in the plan will be at least 15%. Currently developed land, if redeveloped, should have at least 15% public open space, or no less than the existing percentage of public open space, whichever is lower.* We believe that the green space requirements south of Estes Drive can be strengthened, while allowing that some currently developed areas may not have 15% of their acreage in open space available on their property.
* We strongly support the proposed plan’s bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway improvements, and stress the importance of including as much connectivity for bicycles and pedestrians as possible.
* We support the area adjacent to Phillips Middle School being utilized for civic use, and encourage the Council to develop the property as a new cultural arts and/or administrative building for Parks and Recreation when the opportunity arises.

Present: Erin Crouse (Chair), Betsey Anderson, Joseph Battle, Mary Musacchia (Orange County), Susan Pedersen, and Raymond Wong

Absent: Regina Blalock (Vice chair), Laney Dale, Steve Price, Neil Newcomb, and Chris Harris