

PARKS, GREENWAYS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
AGENDA

7:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 20, 2018  
Chapel Hill Public Library, Room C  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Roll Call: Wesley McMahon (Chair), Jeanette Bench (Vice Chair), Linda Alexander, Joseph Battle, Emma Carter-Armstrong, Beverly Medina, Steve Price, Jochen Schwarz, Raymond Wong, and Siona Kshirsagar (Youth Council Representative)

- 7:00 p.m. 1. Welcome – Chair
- 7:05 p.m. 2. Welcome to New Member Linda Alexander
- 7:10 p.m. 3. Approval of Minutes (January 16, 2018)
- 7:15 p.m. 4. Communications and Petitions – Chair
- 7:20 p.m. 5. Questions from the Public in Attendance – Chair
- 7:25 p.m. 6. Chapel Hill Youth Council Liaison Report
- 7:30 p.m. 7. Proposal to Hold Special Public Meeting for PARTF Funding for Legion Property Purchase
- 7:35 p.m. 8. Commission Priorities
- 8:00 p.m. 9. Meadowmont Park Bridge Replacement Project
- 8:10 p.m. 10. Report on the Booker Creek Trail/ Adopt a Trail Pilot Program
- 8:15 p.m. 11. American Legion Property Process Update – Jim Orr
- 8:20 p.m. 12. Proposed National Trails Day Program
- 8:25 p.m. 13. Joe Herzenberg Memorial Bench Dedication
- 8:30 p.m. 14. CIP Updates
- 8:45 p.m. 15. Other Liaisons Reports
- 9:00 p.m. 16. Adjourn

## AGENDA NOTES

### 7. Proposal to Hold Special Public Meeting in March for PARTF funding for Legion Property

We are preparing a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) application that if successful would help pay some of the cost of the American Legion property. Our application will receive additional points if we hold a separate public meeting related to the PARTF project. We propose that the Commission hold a special meeting from 7:00 - 7:30 pm on the night of the regular March 20 Commission meeting and postpone the start of the Commission meeting until 7:30 p.m. To qualify for the additional points the stand alone meeting has to have a separate agenda, a sign in sheet, and separate Minutes. If the Commission proceeds we recommend that the discussion and comments be restricted to purchase of the property. Potential uses of the property could be postponed to future meetings.

### 8. Commission Priorities

**From:** Pam Hemminger

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 1:48 PM

**To:** Board & Commission Chairs

**Subject:** Request for Board and Commission Priorities

Dear Board and Commission Chairs,

As the Council begins to engage in its strategic planning process and to consider Council Goals for 2018-19, I am writing to request your help in gathering input on top priorities from your board or commission.

The strategic planning process provides guidance in planning for the future, including planning and development strategies, organizing Town resources to achieve identified goals and focusing the daily work of the Town.

Each board is asked to identify your top three strategic priorities for the future and to submit them to Beth Vazquez ([bvazquez@towofchapelhill.org](mailto:bvazquez@towofchapelhill.org)) by Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

When considering priorities, it is helpful if they are as specific as possible and include measurable outcomes as well as specific timelines when possible. This will provide for better accountability. If you cannot do that before you submit your priorities, our staff will work you and your Board to develop these considerations.

Attached please find the currently adopted Council Goals as well as the board priorities from last year to help you in your thinking.

We greatly appreciate the time and hard work that you invest in keeping Chapel Hill a special place. If you have questions, please discuss with your staff liaison.

Sincerely,  
Pam Hemminger

### 11. American Legion Property Process Update

Jim Orr will present an update. The Council accepted the recommendations of the American Legion Task Force on November 29 and referred them to the Manager.

See [agenda item and report](#).

See [American Legion Survey Results](#)

See [American Legion Guiding Principles](#)

### 12. National Trails Day Program

National Trails Day will be held on June 2. The Commission has traditionally held some kind of event to celebrate trails in Chapel Hill. This year we propose holding a dedication or grand opening ceremony for the Tanyard Branch Trail. We are reasonably confident that the trail will be finished by June 2 with the exception of the project's art component. The art component is the safety railing on the elevated boardwalk. We will work with the artist and contractor to find a temporary solution, but there is the possibility that the trail cannot be opened by June 2 due to the lack of the safety railing. If the trail can be open by that day we propose a Grand Opening ceremony. If lack of the railing must postpone opening we propose a dedication ceremony. The Commission could also propose other ideas for National Trails Day.

### 13. Joe Herzenberg Memorial Bench Dedication Ceremony

Below is the Press Release for the dedication ceremony, which will be held at 10:00 am, March 10. Commission members are encouraged to attend.

#### **Public Invited to Dedication of Public Art in Memory of Former Council Member Joe Herzenberg**

Joe Herzenberg was the first openly gay elected official in the south, a champion of civil rights and the environment, and a fixture on Franklin Street. The public is invited to join the Town of Chapel Hill in dedicating a decorative bench in his memory on the Bolin Creek Trail at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 10.

The concrete and bronze bench graces a new portion of the trail just west of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The Friends of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department funded the bench to honor Joe Herzenberg's many contributions to the community, which include a generous gift from his estate that helped create the greenway system.

Herzenberg was a history professor who served on the Chapel Hill Town Council from 1979-1981 and then again from 1987-1993. As Chair of the Town Greenways Commission and the Merritt's Pasture Committee he continued to advocate for open space and environmental preservation after leaving the Council. Joe's name is one of nine civil rights advocates recognized at the Peace and Justice Plaza in Chapel Hill.

The artist team on the project is Michael Waller and Leah Foushee Waller, best known for the bronze bull sculpture in downtown Durham. Their design uses organic shapes and incorporates elements meant to evoke Joe's connection to the creek, his love of travel, and his advocacy for diversity and the environment.

The closest public parking is at Umstead Park (399 Umstead Drive), which is an easy walk along the paved Bolin Creek Trail to the bench. Parks staff will leave from the Umstead Park parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and answer questions about the Trail and project along the way.

For special access or parking needs contact Bill Webster at [bwebster@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:bwebster@townofchapelhill.org) or 919 968-2819.

For project details, visit [townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=37675](http://townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=37675). Information about the Town's Community & Cultural Arts: [chapelhillarts.org](http://chapelhillarts.org). Information about the Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation: [friendschparksrec.org](http://friendschparksrec.org).

#### 14. CIP Updates

Please see the latest [Parks and Recreation Planning and Development newsletter](#).