

**PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AGENDA**

7:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 15, 2020

**Virtual Meeting
Chapel Hill, NC**

Roll Call: Renuka Soll (Chair), Wesley McMahon (Vice Chair), Alice Armstrong (Orange County Representative), Jeanette Bench, Leah Boucher, William Kaiser, Lydia Kivihya-Ndugga, Guthrie Richardson (Youth Council Representative), Jochen Schwarz and Tyler Steelman

- 7:00 p.m. 1. Welcome and Roll Call – Chair
- 7:05 p.m. 2. Approval of Minutes (November 17, 2020)
- 7:10 p.m. 3. Communications and Petitions from Commission, Council Liaison, and Staff
- 7:15 p.m. 4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance – Chair
- 7:25 p.m. 5. Pilot Program (Southern Community Park In-line Hockey Rink) – Mike Troutman, Interim Athletics Supervisor and Linda Smith, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation
- 7:40 p.m. 6. Pickleball Update - Sandy Douglass and Jen Johnson USA Pickleball Ambassadors for Chapel Hill
- 7:55 p.m. 7. Hope Gardens Update – Abby Bowdish and John Wood Hope Gardens Committee Co-Directors
- 8:10 p.m. 8. FY 22 Proposed Fees and Charges – Linda Smith, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation
- 8:20 p.m. 9. Discussion Regarding Joint Meeting with Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board – Commission and Phil Fleischmann, Director Parks and Recreation
- 8:35 p.m. 10. Liaison reports
- 8:45 p.m. 11. Adjourn

AGENDA NOTES

- *Arbor Day 2020* - On November 20, the Town celebrated Arbor Day. A virtual event was held which featured the planting of five Emerald Arborvitaes at the Stephens Street parking lot at Town Hall. In conjunction with the events of the day, the Town announced that over 400 trees had been planted through the November 2019 challenge to plant 200 trees commemorating 200 years of the Town government.
- *Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission (PGRC) New Member Orientation* – On December 2, Parks and Recreation Department staff held a virtual orientation session with newly appointed members Leah Boucher and Tyler Steelman. A copy of the information presented during the meeting was distributed to the PGRC members with the December 15 agenda.
- *Contribution from Friends of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation* - The ‘Friends’ made its first financial contribution to the Town under the new partnership arrangement in the amount of \$13,748.38. These funds will be used in support of designated program areas, such as Aquatics, Athletics, the Community and Hargraves Centers, Pickleball, Therapeutic Recreation and Volleyball. The ‘Friends’ was created “to enhance our parks, greenways and our recreational programs and facilities,” and this welcomed support will assist Parks and Recreation in providing outstanding programming and recreational environments.

Greenways, Sidepaths, and Parks Projects Progress: Following are brief updates. Commission members should feel free to contact the staff if you have any questions or comments.

- *Bolin Creek Trail Upgrades* - A concrete flume has been installed at the Pritchard Ave. bridge to minimize the debris left on this greenway section after rain events. The last section of the trail improvements, between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Bolinwood Dr., will be completed next week. The contractor has replaced the old asphalt path with more resilient concrete and is creating a new ADA access point on the south side of Bolinwood Dr.
 - *Morgan Creek Trail Expansion* -The engineering firm contracted to provide an opinion of the probable construction cost has completed preliminary cost estimates for three options to expand the trail. Staff is reviewing the information provided, and the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission will be asked at a future meeting for input on to prioritizing section(s) for completion given the cost estimates and available funds.
4. Pilot Program at Southern Community Park In-line Hockey Rink - Mike Troutman, Interim Athletics Supervisor Parks and Recreation and Linda Smith Assistant Director, will update the Commission on usage of the In-line Hockey Rink and a pilot pickleball program for this facility.

5. Pickleball Update – Sandy Douglass and Jen Johnson, USA Pickleball Ambassadors for Chapel Hill, will review pickleball growth, the special character of pickleball, and feedback about pilot expansion of pickleball to the Southern Community Park in-line hockey rink. Needs and ideas related to expansion in Chapel Hill will be highlighted.

6. Hope Gardens Update – Abby Bowdish and John Wood, Committee Co-Directors Hope Gardens will share an update on Hope Gardens, a collaborative initiate between UNC, the Town, and the community hosted on Town-owned open space at 2200 Homestead Road. The presentation may include a brief history of the garden, UNC/community involvement, a review of recent activity, and plans for 2021 and beyond.

7. FY 22 Proposed Fees and Changes – Linda Smith, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation, will present any new or modified fees that the Department recommends for the next fiscal year. Commission support will be sought so that the proposed changes can advance to the Town Council for approval.

8. Discussion Regarding Joint Meeting with Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board– The Commission will discuss next steps for holding a joint meeting with the Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board next year.

9. Liaison Reports:
 Commission liaisons may make a report on topics of interest to the entire Commission:
 - Community Design Commission TBD
 - Community Tree Committee Kaiser
 - Cultural Arts Commission Kivihya-Ndugga
 - Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board Bench
 - Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation McMahan
 - Orange County Parks/Recreation Council Armstrong
 - Planning Commission Bench
 - Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Soll
 - Youth Council Richardson

POSSIBLE FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

January 2021 Working Draft Agenda for Planning Purposes

2200 Homestead Road Affordable Housing Project

Little Free Pantry Updates and Recognition

Gene Strowd Rose Garden at Community Center Park Update

Payment-in-Lieu Additional Information and Background

Greenways Updates

Greenways Topics Covered So Far:

- Blue Hill District Sidepaths and Trails
- Bolin Creek and Horace Williams Trails

- Booker Creek
- Fordham Sidepath Project
- Morgan Creek and Fan Branch Trails
- North and Dry Creek Trails

Other Topics:

Payment-in-lieu Program Update and Modifications of Town's Ordinance

Parks and Recreation Department Update and Overview

Teen Center Tour with Commission

Parks Master Plan Overview

Greenways Plan Overview

Open Space Data – How much do we have in comparison to other communities? Where are there gaps?

American Legion Update

Greene Tract Presentation

Easttown Project

Rails to Trails

Sidewalk Maintenance

Bus Rapid Transit

Development Buffers

Affordable Housing

Sponsorships