

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

7:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 15, 2021

**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), and Tyler Steelman

- 7:00 p.m. 1. Welcome and Roll Call – Chair
- 7:05 p.m. 2. Approval of Minutes (May 18, 2021)
- 7:10 p.m. 3. Communications and Petitions from Commission, Council Liaisons, and Staff
- 7:15 p.m. 4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance – Chair
- 7:20 p.m. 5. Presentation by Commission Applicant
- 7:35 p.m. 6. Summer Programs Update – Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager
- 7:50 p.m. 7. Park Donations Program – Phil Fleischmann, Parks and Recreation Director; and Monica Rainey, Administrative Services Manager
- 8:10 p.m. 8. Recommendations to Fill Commission Vacancy – Chair
- 8:20 p.m. 9. Liaison reports
Commission liaisons may make a report on topics of interest to the entire Commission:
- Community Design Commission Steelman
 - Community Tree Committee Kaiser
 - Cultural Arts Commission Kivihya-Ndugga
 - Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board Boucher
 - Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation McMahon
 - Orange County Parks/Recreation Council Armstrong
 - Planning Commission Bench
 - Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Soll
 - Youth Council Richardson
- 8:35 p.m. 9. Meeting Schedule – July, August, September
- 8:45 p.m. 10. Adjourn

AGENDA NOTES

3. Communications and Petitions

National Trails Day Update: As part of the Town of Chapel Hill's National Trails Day celebration on June 5, the Parks and Recreation Department created a self-guided event promoting the new improvements to the Bolin Creek Trail. Signage was placed at Community Center Park, Hargraves, and Umstead Parks, promoting the latest connectivity and enhancements from Umstead Park to the Chapel Hill Community Center. The signs included a QR Code that allowed trail visitors to learn about the Bolin Creek Greenway Project history through a video of Bill Webster, former Parks and Recreation Department Planner and Project Manager. The Friends of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation and the Triangle Chapter of Girls on the Run were our partners in this National Trails Day celebration. Event activities were also shared on social media.

Commission's Recommendation to Pledge \$100,000 Towards Proposed NC Botanical Garden Foundation Property Acquisition: Consistent with the request of the Commission at its May meeting, on June 3 Chair Soll sent a request to the Mayor and Council recommending that the Town pledge \$100,000 towards the NC Botanical Garden Foundation's Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund grant application.

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

Bolin Creek Greenway Project: On May 25, a virtual ribbon cutting was held and filmed near the tunnel under Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The ceremony included Parks and Recreation Department team members, Mayor Hemminger, Councilmember Ryan, Parks, Greenways and Recreation Commissioners Soll, Armstrong, and Bench. Friends of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation board member Neal Bench was also in attendance. This ceremony was also included through the QR Code as part of the National Trails Day Celebration.

Cedar Falls Tennis Court Renovation Project: Parks and Recreation staff is working with a tennis court construction and repair company to see if the damaged areas could be patched to provide a temporary fix to allow tennis to continue at this location.

Also, the staff is working with the project engineer to update the tennis court renovation plans in preparation for a public engagement process this summer in which additional input will be sought from the public and stakeholders.

Morgan Creek Greenway Project Bartram Bridge Section Update: Per the Commissioners recommendation on May 18; Staff has inquired about updating the Town's Mobility and Connectivity Plan to include the Morgan Creek Greenway Bartram Bridge section. Before that can occur, project design plans will need to be submitted to the Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board to review and recommend to the Mayor and Town Council. Public meetings will also need to be held to receive input and support for the new bridge location.

Playgrounds at Burlington and North Forest Hills Parks: The equipment has been installed at both locations. The playground equipment installer is working on finishing some punch list items. This work should be complete in July, at which time an e-news release notifying the public that the project is complete will be published.

Skateboard Park: The department purchased more skate lite surfaces to replace the worn-down areas on the ramps and old railings. This work is scheduled to be complete in July 2021.

5. Presentations by Commission Applicant – The Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission has one vacancy that needs to be filled since the previous nominee withdrew. A new applicant has submitted qualifications for being on the Commission and will attend this meeting and make a brief statement about their interest in serving and to answer questions from the commission members.

6. Summer Programs Update – Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager, will provide an overview of the department’s summer programs including camps, aquatics, arts, Special Olympics, and teen programs.

7. Park Donation Program – Parks and Recreation is proposing a new program which would enable the Town to accept donated funds which would be used to acquire needed park amenities such as benches, picnic tables, trash cans, and trees. The donor would receive recognition which could include a small plaque on fixed equipment. The Commission will receive draft program materials in advance of the meeting so that members can offer feedback prior to, during, or after a discussion during the meeting. The intent is to finalize and launch the program during the summer.

9. Meeting Schedule - The Commission typically cancels the July meeting. The Commission also typically agrees to keep the August meeting on the schedule if needed for some review or action. In most cases, in the past, the August meeting has been canceled as well. The Commission may want to consider these or other options for the summer.

POSSIBLE FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Fall 2021 Working Draft Agenda for Planning Purposes:

- Orientation (Sept., for interested Commission members)
- Pickleball at Southern Community Park Update
- Greene Tract Property Information

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 Interests / Topics:

How to move projects forward? - Discuss Town's borrowing status/capacity with

Budget Management Department team members

Town of Carrboro Capital Improvement Program Projects - Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department

Orange County Capital Improvement Program Projects - Orange County Parks and Recreation Division

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

Teen Center Tour with Commission

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

American Legion Update

Easttown Project

Rails to Trails

Sidewalk Maintenance

Bus Rapid Transit

Development Buffers

Affordable Housing

Sponsorships

Park Fees and Cost Recovery Overview