

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

**7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

**Virtual Meeting  
Chapel Hill, NC**

Roll Call: Tyler Steelman (Chair), Leah Boucher (Vice Chair), Alice Armstrong (Orange County Representative), Shane Brogan, Hallie Cherry, Lydia Kivihya-Ndugga, Renuka Soll, Marcella Twamley, Christopher Worrell, Joshua Resnick and Vicky Zhang, Youth Council Representatives.

- 7:00 p.m. 1. Welcome and Roll Call – Chair
- 7:05 p.m. 2. Approval of Minutes (February 21, 2023)
- 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
- 7:25 pm 5. Parks and Recreation Department 2013 Comprehensive Plan Update - Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner, Atuya Cornwell, Interim Director and Kevin Robinson, Manager Parks Operations and Planning
- 8:00 p.m. 6. Commission Priorities Review and Status – Tyler Steelman, Chair
- 8:30 p.m. 7. Liaison reports  
Liaisons may make a report on topics of interest to the entire Commission:
- Community Design Commission Steelman
  - Community Tree Committee Marcella  
Twamley
  - Cultural Arts Commission Kivihya-Ndugga
  - Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board Vacant
  - Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Brogan
  - Orange County Parks/Recreation Council Armstrong
  - Planning Commission Marcella  
Twamley
  - Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Soll
  - Youth Council Joshua Resnick  
and Vicky Zhang
  - Racquet Sports (Tennis & Pickleball) Stakeholders  
Committees Soll
  - Splash pad & Inclusive Playground Work Group Boucher

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8:45 p.m. 8. Adjourn

**AGENDA NOTES**

3. Communications and Petitions:

**Budget Priorities:** The Mayor and Town Council have asked each board and commission to identify three priorities for their work over the next five years to help inform our conversation about the budget strategy. When considering priorities, commission members are asked to be specific and include measurable outcomes and timelines. This information is due on March 31, 2023.

The Budget Development Process page is here:

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/business-management/budget/2023-2024-budget-development>

American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) was discussed during March 1, 2023, Town Council Work Session. Town Staff presented ARPA Funding Recommendations during this session.

The following projects were considered:

Inclusive Playground Equipment @ Community Center	\$500,000
System-wide Playground Accessibility	\$285,000
Homestead Skate Park Replacement	\$500,000
Teen Center Study	\$65,000
Bolin Creek Greenway Design (Umstead to Estes Drive Ext)	\$500,000

In addition, the following projects will be submitted for public outreach and publicity process through Let's Talk Town :

<b>Project Name</b>
Leaf Blowers and Mowers
ADA Van for Summer Camps and Trips
Hoop it up! Replace Indoor Basketball Goals at Northside and Community Center Gyms

**Year of the Trail:** North Carolina is the Great Trail State, and the NC General Assembly NC designated 2023 as NC Year of the Trail, an effort led by the Great Trails State Coalition. **This year-long campaign** celebrates North Carolina's vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways

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Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department North Carolina Year of the Trail events, are included on our Year of the Trail webpage <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/parks-and-recreation/recreation-events/year-of-the-trail-in-chapel-hill> . The first event of the year was hosted at Booker Creek Trail in conjunction with the Adopt-A-Trail Day program held on Saturday, March 4, 2023. Upcoming events are listed below:

1. June 3: Fan Branch and Morgan Creek Greenways - National Trails Day  
Guided trail tours  
10:00 am – Noon  
Location: Southern Community Park Trail head
2. July 16: Facilities tour to include stops at multiple trails - Parks and Recreation Month
3. October 7: *Greenway location to be determined* - Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day

For more information about the NC Year of the Trail, check out the Year of the Trail website: <https://greattrailsnc.com/>.

**The Towns of Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, Carrboro and Orange County Parks and Recreation Departments/Divisions:** Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department will host a joint meeting with their boards and commissions in Chapel Hill this summer. Date to be determined.

**Possession and consumption of malt beverages and unfortified wines at special events:** During Town Council’s March 8, 2023, meeting, Council approved an amendment to Town Code of Ordinances Section 3-5 which allows the sale, purchase, possession and consumption of beer and wine at permitted special events. The amendment added 1714 Legion Road Property to the ordinance.

**Teen Center:** Parks and Recreation staff continues to work collaboratively with the Public Works department to perform minor renovations to the center. Staff met on March 14 to review pricing for the work and funding options.

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

*Cedar Falls Park Field Replacement and LED Lights Project Celebration:* There will be a celebration on Thursday, March 23 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the Cedar Falls Park athletic fields. Community members will be given a tour of the of the fields 5:30 – 6:00 pm followed by a formal celebration 6:00 – 6:30 pm.

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*Cedar Falls Park Tennis Courts Reconstruction Project:* The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority met on March 3 to review the Accessibility for Parks grant application and to decide who will receive funding. They received 45 applications, and unfortunately, Cedar Falls Park Tennis Court Reconstruction Project was not selected. The project lost points for not having a current comprehensive master plan and a master plan for Cedar Falls Park.

*Hargraves Park:* February 23, 2023, was the bid opening for the Hargraves Park Tennis Court Resurfacing project. Since this project is estimated to be \$500,000, we needed to receive three bids, and there were only two bidders. We have reposted the project and held another mandatory pre-bid for contractors that did not attend the previous meeting we held on March 8. Bids are due on March 23, with award anticipated in April 2023.

*Homestead Skate Park:* Parks and Recreation staff have received pricing options for maintenance repairs and new renovation pricing from American Ramp Company. Staff met with local skaters to get feedback on how to move forward with Pay-Go funding for the Skate Park repairs. Ideas were shared and staff are working to find a local construction contractor who has skate park experience.

*Morgan Creek Trail Project*

**East Section:** Parks and Recreation Department team members have selected an engineering/architecture firm to submit a fee proposal to complete the existing preliminary design documents, community engagement, permitting, final design, and construction document phases for the East Section. The award is anticipated in April 2023.

**West Section:** The Durham, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization met on March 8; the Morgan Creek West Section project was reviewed and is out for public comment until April 21.

**Bartram Bridge Section:** Parks and Recreation Department and North Carolina Botanical Garden staff have continued to meet with OWASA staff regarding partnering with the Town on the modeling work and permitting requirements that are necessary for both projects (the wastewater line and prefabricated bridge) that are proposed for this section of Morgan Creek as well as using a prefabricated Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) bridge instead of a steel and concrete bridge. This proposal would be a partnership with the Town that would allow the Town to work through OWASA's construction contractor to install the bridge crossing Morgan Creek Greenway in the vicinity of Bartram Drive.

This partnership would reduce the Town's construction costs for this section of the greenway and eliminate a second construction project for this section of the creek and trail. As of March 9, OWASA notified us that OWASA could not share their contractor for liabilities reasons.

4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance:

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5. Parks and Recreation Department 2013 Comprehensive Plan Update - Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner, Atuya Cornwell, Interim Director, and Kevin Robinson, Manager Parks Operations and Planning will share background information on the 2013 plan, including what was not part of this plan and what has been accomplished since the plan was adopted.
6. Commission Priorities Discussion and Status – Tyler Steelman, Chair, will continue the discussion from the February 21 Commission meeting regarding the five-year budget priorities for the Parks and Recreation Department as requested by the Mayor and Town Council (shown under Item 3.)
7. Liaison Reports – Receive reports from Commission members, who are liaisons with Advisory Boards.
8. Adjourn