

PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AGENDA
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Chapel Hill, NC

- Orange County Parks/Recreation Council Jane Harris
- Orange County Department of Aging TBD
- Planning Commission TBD
- Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Renuka Soll
- Youth Council TBD
- Racquet Sports (Tennis & Pickleball) Stakeholders Committee Renuka Soll
- Inclusive Playground Work Group Marcela Twamley

8:45 p.m. 8. Recommendation to Fill Commission Vacancy - Chair

9:00 p.m. 9. Adjourn

AGENDA NOTES

3. Communications and Petitions:

New Parks and Recreation Assistant Director: After a national recruitment effort and competitive selection process, Nikiya (Niki) Cherry has been promoted to Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation. Niki has been with the Town since 2018 serving as Recreation Manager. Niki started her new role on October 2, 2023. Full announcement can be viewed [here](#).

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.

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>.

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

Sports Cafe: Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation's Athletics Team held a Sports Café meeting on Thursday, July 20, from noon to 1:00 pm at the Cedar Falls Park Picnic Shelter. To view the recording from this meeting please click here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gN5rUzLXzBgvRPWH6M_-Oz31xqblGLB6K54GnFBHI8INadMc2Wh09zYxXIh2uXO6.AziL04g8WS4tTSMQ?startTime=1684426428000 **Access Passcode:** X7#U9?kP. Meeting recaps will be shared on the Athletics page at www.chapelhillparks.org.

Next Sports Café will be held at Hargraves Community Park Shelter on Thursday, October 19, from noon to 1:00 p.m. To join online, please click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88348742154>

Teen Center: The contractor has finished the repair work, and project team members continue to assess the current set up of the facility and are moving to make improvements.

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

Bolin Creek Greenway Umstead to Estes Drive Extension Planning, Community Engagement and Design Project: \$500,000 American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place. The Transportation Planning Division manages this project, which will be planned in conjunction with the Estes Drive Extension Project. Interviews are being conducted to determine which firm will be selected for this project.

Fordham Boulevard Sidepath Project: Bids have been received for the renovation and extension of the Fordham Boulevard Sidepath Project. The bids have been rejected since they were over what is allocated for this project. The project team is working with our Business Management Department and Senior Management to review options for additional funding.

This project will provide a multi-modal path along Fordham Boulevard between Cleland Drive and Willow Drive. It is divided into two segments. The southern portion between Cleland Drive and Ridgefield Road involves upgrading the existing asphalt section to concrete. The northern part consists of constructing a new path between Ridgefield Road and Willow Drive along the eastern side of Fordham Boulevard.

Hargraves Park: Award of the \$509,923 construction contract to Salisbury and Moore Construction, Inc. for resurfacing the three Tennis Courts at Hargraves Park was approved by the Town Council as a consent item on May 24, 2023, *and is currently being reviewed*

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and approved by Town Management. Construction will commence in September, and work will be scheduled for 150 days.

Comprehensive Systemwide Master Plan: \$300,000 from the Penny for Parks funding is in place for this project. A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) has been drafted to find an architecture, engineering and landscape architect firm to update the 2013 Master Plans for Parks and Greenways. The RFQ will be advertised in the next 30 days and posted on the Town's webpage for 30 days. The award is expected to occur this winter.

Homestead Skate Park: \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for the skate park upgrades. Repairs for the current facility are complete and Staff is working with Procurement Team members to award a contract for the design. This work will also include obtaining community feedback.

Inclusive Playground Equipment @ Community Center Place: \$500,000 and System-wide Playground Accessibility (\$285,000) in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for this project. A meeting was held in September with the playground manufacturer who will be providing the inclusive playground to share input from the Community Engagement work that occurred when the playground was to be built at the Cedar Falls Park. The company representative will be sending the department new images of the playground to include the elements and ideas shared in the meeting.

Teen Center Study: \$65,000 American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place. Staff is in contact with other parks and recreation agencies regionally and nationally about this project to learn about methods they have utilized for initiating a study and their lessons learned. Staff created a teen center study team that generated a survey to receive input from teens in the community. This information has been shared with high schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools for distribution and feedback.

Morgan Creek Trail Project

East Section: A contract to finish planning and preliminary design for the East Section of Morgan Creek has been awarded to McAdams, a planning, landscape architecture, and engineering firm. The team has prepared information for the Community Engagement Phase of the project that will occur this winter.

West Section: A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for receiving qualifications for planning, landscape architecture, and engineering firms to finish the planning, preliminary design, and final design documents for constructing the West Section of Morgan Creek Greenway. Interviews will be conducted this winter with award afterwards.

Tanyard Branch Trail: \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for creating a trail connector to the Tanyard Branch Affordable Housing Project. Transportation Planning Division is managing this project.

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4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance

5. Presentation by Commission Applicant - The Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission has one Town Resident position that has expired. A new applicant will attend the meeting and make a brief statement about their interest in serving and qualifications.

6. Cemetery Update - Kevin Robinson, Manager Parks Operations and Planning

7. Project Status – Atuya Cornwell, Director Parks and Recreation Department, Kevin Robinson and Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner

8. Liaison Reports– Receive reports from Commission members who liaise with Advisory Boards.

9. Recommendation to Fill Commission Vacancy - This item will require a motion and the approval of a motion.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

- Parks and Recreation Department Project List and Priorities
- Town of Carrboro Capital Improvement Program Projects - Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department
- Orange County Capital Improvement Program Projects - Orange County Parks and Recreation Division
- Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO) Rewrite Project Update - To include discussion about Payment-in-lieu Program Modifications
- Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department joint meeting with Parks, Recreation and Greenway boards and commissions from Carrboro, Orange County and Hillsborough in Chapel Hill later this year (date to be determined).
- Parks and Recreation Department Overview - Grants applications and receipt
- American Legion Update
- Sidewalk Maintenance
- Affordable Housing
- Sponsorships and Parks Donation Program
- Park Fees and Cost Recovery Overview