

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

**7:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**Virtual Meeting  
Chapel Hill, NC**

Roll Call: Renuka Soll, Chair, Marcella Twamley, Vice Chair, Shane Brogan, Holly Burnham, Jane Harris, Orange County Representative, Margaret Moore, Lydia Kivihya-Ndugga, and Christopher Worrell

7:00 p.m. 1. Welcome and Roll Call – Chair

7:05 p.m. 2. Approval of Minutes (November 21, 2023)

7:10 p.m. 3. Communications and Petitions from Commission, Council Liaisons, and Staff

7:20 p.m. 4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance

7:45 p.m. 5. Liaison reports

Liaisons may make reports on topics of interest to the entire Commission:

- Community Design Commission Margaret Moore
- Community Tree Committee Marcella Twamley
- Cultural Arts Commission Kivihya-Ndugga
- Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board Christopher Worrell
- Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Shane Brogan
- New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Shane Brogan
- Orange County Department of Aging TBD
- Orange County Parks/Recreation Council Jane Harris
- Planning Commission Holly Burnham

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

- Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Renuka Soll
  - Youth Council TBD
  - Racquet Sports (Tennis & Pickleball) Stakeholders Committee Renuka Soll
  - Inclusive Playground Work Group Marcela Twamley
- 9:00 p.m. 6. Adjourn

**AGENDA NOTES**

3. Communications and Petitions:

**Year of the Trail:** North Carolina is the Great Trail State, and the NC General Assembly 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’s 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>.

Our final programming spotlight for NC Year of the Trail occurred during the Town’s Arbor Day celebration held on Friday, November 17.

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 hold a Sports Café meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Community Center on Thursday, February 8, 2023, 6 to 7p.m. To join online, please click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88348742154>

Meeting recaps are shared on the Athletics page at [www.chapelhillparks.org](http://www.chapelhillparks.org).

On December 13, Keith Dodson, Recreation Supervisor (Chapel Hill Community Center) received the **Special Citation Award at the Carolinas Recreation and Parks Conference**. Members and Non-Members of the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association who have demonstrated an

PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
AGENDA

Tuesday, December 19, 2023  
Chapel Hill, NC

outstanding interest in and dedication to the field of recreation and parks or have contributed to the advancement of the recreation and parks profession are eligible to be nominated for this award.

Keith continues to be a leader within the parks and recreation profession due to his amazing contributions and efforts related to adventure programming and outdoor recreation. We are super proud of Keith and the impact of his dedicated service to help grow community here in the Town of Chapel Hill and across the state.



**Other Events:**

## PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### AGENDA

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Chapel Hill, NC

- The Department's Youth Basketball Season started with practices on November 27 and league play started on December 16.
- The annual Climb with Santa Event was held at Chapel Hill Community Center on Saturday, December 9, 2023.
- Parks and Recreation Winter Fest 2023 will be held on Tuesday, December 19 at Hargraves Park Community Center from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
*Winter Fest is the Parks and Recreation Departments final meeting of the year for our staff team. The meeting will include a recap of the 2023 year of service, highlight key initiatives for 2024, and celebrate department staff team, including our employees celebrating milestone service years.*
- Tennis Community Engagement Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Hargraves Community Center.
- Pickleball Community Engagement Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21, from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill Community Center.

**Teen Center:** Recreation team members continue to assess the current set up of the facility and have started making improvements in anticipation of the facility reopening in early 2024. New furniture has been ordered and contracted work will enhance floor and lighting within the facility..

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. A planning and engineering firm has been selected and staff is reviewing their fee proposal.

*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 in January 2024.

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.

PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Chapel Hill, NC

*Hargraves Park Tennis Courts:* Construction is in progress to resurface the three existing tennis courts. Work is scheduled for 150 days, which results in a completion date of Friday, April 5, 2024, for this project.

*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 January and posted on the Town's webpage for 30 days. The award is expected to occur early next year.

*Homestead Skate Park:* \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding is in place for the skate park upgrades. 5th Pocket Skateparks, Inc. is under contract to provide design services for the skate park upgrade project. Their work will include design, construction documents, and specifications for a concrete skatepark. The design work phase will consist of obtaining community feedback. 5th Pocket Skateparks has recently worked with a neighboring jurisdiction on their skatepark project. There will be public meetings to obtain feedback at Homestead Park Skate Park on Monday, December 17, at 2:00 p.m. and on December 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room B. The community engagement phase will continue through the beginning of 2024.

*Inclusive Playground Equipment at Chapel Hill Community Center Park:* \$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. Staff was able 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 has sent 4 renderings and the playground work group met on Monday, December 4 at Chapel Hill Community Center to review the options. Community Engagement will commence February 2024.

*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 applied for launching 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. A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) is currently being drafted and advertising is anticipated for February 2024.

*Morgan Creek Trail Project*

**East Section:** The community engagement phase for the planning and design phase of the East Section of Morgan Creek Greenway started in November and will continue through December. The team shared the three options for the trail alignment with the Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Commission on November 21, and has posted an online survey in Burmese, English, Karen, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish.

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

There was a Public Meeting at the Chapel Hill Library on December 9, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with approximately 20 people in attendance. The project team received feedback and will be sharing notes from the meeting on the project webpage.

Staff will also host a December 14 site meeting from 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Morgan Creek Greenway parking lot and hold virtual office hours on Thursday, December 14 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Friday, December 15 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. to meet individually with public members.

For more information, please visit the project webpage:

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/parks-and-recreation/planning-and-development/morgan-creek-trail-phase-3>

### **Morgan Creek Greenway East Section Extension Project Public Meeting**



**West Section:** We have completed the selection process for hiring planning, landscape architecture, and engineering firm to finish the planning design, community engagement, permitting, and construction documents for the West Section of Morgan Creek Greenway. A fee proposal has been requested from the selected firm, and a contract should be awarded by January 2024.

*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.

#### **4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance**

PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Chapel Hill, NC

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

**FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

- 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 next 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