

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2003

TITLE: Report: Recreation and Parks Commission and Planning Board Review of Active Recreational Facilities Requirements

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Recreation Points Review Subcommittee Points of Agreement C. Recommendation D. Land Use Ordinance Excerpt: Section 15-196 Active Recreational Facilities Requirements E. Appendix G	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Murrell, Chair, Recreation and Parks Commission - John Marshall, Chair, Planning Board -- Patricia McGuire, Planning Administrator -- 918-7327 Anita Jones-McNair - 918-7381

PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen's 2002-2003 Action Agenda assigned the Recreation and Parks Commission and Planning Board the task of reviewing the active recreational facilities requirements of the Land Use Ordinance. The advisory boards have completed this review and drafted a recommendation for the Board's review. Recreation and Parks Commission and Planning Board chairpersons, Doris Murrell and John Marshall will provide additional information at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION

The full membership of both the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Planning Board was invited to meet in late August 2002 to initiate the review assigned to them in the 2002-2003 Action Agenda. That Action Agenda Item called for a review of recreation points in lieu of facilities provisions of the land use ordinance. (Planning Board, Recreation & Parks Committee, and staff to examine the use of the recreation point system and its effectiveness for providing usable recreational facilities; where are we now? What does and does not work? The Planning Board to present a report considering the legal aspects.) Is the Board satisfied with the point system? What does the Board want the developers to do?

After an examination of the assignment and delineation of issues associated with the review, a subcommittee of the two boards was formed to continue the review. The subcommittee members included:

Recreation and Parks Commission	Planning Board
Salli Benedict	Stan Babiss
Doris Murrell	John Marshall
Marianne Nicholson	Ande West/Randee Haven-O'Donnell

The subcommittee met on a monthly basis between October 2002 and February 2003. During this time, the group reviewed Town and national standards for recreation facilities, examined the legal parameters within which the existing requirements are framed and discussed alternative strategies for achieving community objectives associated with active recreation facilities.

At its meeting on February 24, 2003, a set of findings was formulated by the subcommittee (*Attachment B*) for presentation to each board at its first meeting in March. The full membership of the two boards met again on March 20, 2003, to prepare a recommendation for the Board of Aldermen and was not able to reach a consensus decision on all points, although there was agreement that Carrboro was not meeting national and community standards and had not kept up with the *Master Plan for Parks and Greenways*. A motion was made and acted upon as presented in *Attachment C*. All the votes in favor of the recommendation were Planning Board members. All the votes against, except one, were Recreation Commission members. Doris Murrell and John Marshall will be on hand during this evening's meeting to elaborate on the review and the outcome of the efforts of their respective boards on this topic.

Overview of Active Recreational Facilities Requirements

Active Recreational Facilities requirements are specified in Section 15-196 of the Land Use Ordinance (*Attachment D*). Active recreational facilities and open space are required in conjunction with all residential development. The amount of recreational facilities required is based on the type of housing unit. The requirement is highest for single-family residential units and lowest for single-room occupancy units. The active recreational facilities are to be met by providing facilities on site. However, small developments are allowed to make a payment-in-lieu to the town's open space and recreational facilities fund if the town determines that it will be possible to provide the facilities in a manner and time frame that can reasonably serve the residents of such development. The facilities that may be selected to meet the requirement are presented in a table in Section 15-196. Alternative facilities may also be selected, and a methodology for determining how these facilities can meet the recreation requirements is specified in Appendix G (*Attachment E*).

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff analysis of the recommendation will involve staff time of the Recreation and Parks and Planning Departments, as well as assistance from the Town Attorney. No direct expenditures are anticipated in association with the analysis, although other steps, such as amending the active recreational facilities requirements in the Land Use Ordinance would involve staff time and advertising costs associated with ordinance preparation and public notice.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board that the Board of Aldermen direct the staff to prepare a report that summarizes the effectiveness of the land use ordinance in achieving town goals with respect to the provision of recreation facilities, and that the Board schedule a work session to discuss these issues.