

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: C(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2011

TITLE: Report on Activities and Workplan for Greenways Commission

DEPARTMENTS: PLANNING, RECREATION AND PARKS	PUBLIC HEARING: No
ATTACHMENTS: A. Draft ordinance amending Town Code B. Minutes from January 24, 2011 – Discussion/Motion related to Bolin Creek Greenway, Phases 3 and 4 C. May 16, 2011 minutes, draft minutes, June 20, 2011 Greenways Commission meeting	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: PATRICIA MCGUIRE -- 918-7327 ANITA JONES-McNAIR –918-7381

PURPOSE:

This report responds to a request from the Board of Aldermen for information on recent and upcoming activities of the Greenways Commission.

INFORMATION:

In considering applicants for possible appointment to vacant seats on the Greenways Commission on June 28, 2011, the Board of Aldermen recognized the work of the commission and requested some additional information:

- 1) 2011 Activities and Initiatives – *The Greenways Commission received citizen comments and discussed Phases 3 and 4 of the Bolin Creek greenway and adopted a resolution (modified once) indicating that discussion of these phases would be suspended for the time being (copy of resolution is attached- Attachment B). The Commission also reviewed its 2010 accomplishments, received reports on the conceptual design processes for Bolin Creek, Phase 1A and Morgan Creek, and received information on conservation easements, particularly the process underway at UNC- Chapel Hill to identify possible holders of the easements that are to be established at Carolina North per the Development Agreement for that property.*
- 2) Status report on bond funding for greenways – *Approximately \$328,422 from the 2003 bond referendum has been allocated to match STP-DA and other funds towards preliminary engineering, design and construction of Bolin Creek Phases 1A and 1B and Morgan Creek Phase 1. This amount is greater than the \$291,400 estimated in 2003. Further information will be provided as part of the Board's consideration of the Capital Improvements Plan update scheduled to take place later in the late fall of 2011.*
- 3) Scope of work for next 12-18 months – *At the present time, receipt of updates on greenway design and construction is the only work item that staff has identified. Staff notes that at that time the Commission was established, the possibility of some waning demand on the Commission members' time, due to the increase in technical aspects of greenway development which was expected to be the responsibility of staff, was projected. The possible shift to a quarterly meeting schedule was described. A draft ordinance amending the Town Code meeting requirement for the Greenways Commission in this way is provided for the Board's consideration (Attachment A).*

- 4) Status of conservation easements at Carolina North – *UNC-Chapel Hill facilities planning staff continue to work with the State Property Office on the details of the conservation easements and will provide additional information when it becomes available.*
- 5) Discussion from the last two Greenways Commission meetings on conservation easements for Carolina North. *The Greenways Commission met most recently on May 16th and June 20th. Copies of the minutes are attached (Attachment C).*

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT:

The change in schedule would reduce staff time needed for meetings by approximately 48 less hours per year. Additional time related to agenda and minutes preparation would also be available for other staff responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the BOA consider the attached ordinance amending the Town Code to revise the meeting schedule for the Greenways Commission (*Attachment A*).