

A regular meeting of the Carrboro Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

Present and presiding:

Mayor	Michael R. Nelson
Aldermen	Jacquelyn Gist
	John Herrera
	Diana McDuffee
	Alex Zaffron
	Joal Hall Broun
Town Manager	Steven E. Stewart
Town Attorney	Michael B. Brough
Deputy Town Clerk	Sharmin E. Mirman

Absent:
Alderman Mark Chilton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: DECEMBER 9, 2003

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JACQUELYN GIST TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2003 MINUTES. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT ONE (CHILTON)

A REQUEST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER CERTIFICATION

To satisfy N.C. General Statute 58-86-25 which requires that all certified fire departments certify a complete roster of its qualified firefighters annually to the Firemen's Pension Fund, it was requested that the Mayor be authorized to sign the attached certification.

The following resolution was introduced by Alderman Alex Zaffron and duly seconded by Alderman Joal Hall Broun.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR,
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN,
TO EXECUTE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER CERTIFICATION
Resolution No. 92/2003-04

WHEREAS, N.C. General Statute 58-86-25 requires that all certified fire departments certify a complete roster of its qualified firefighters annually to the Firemen's pension Fund; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Fire Chief and the Board of Aldermen to certify the personnel listed on the roster have received a minimum of 36 hours of training for the year; and

WHEREAS, the roster for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 has been prepared by the Fire Chief.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Mayor, on behalf of the Board of Aldermen, is hereby authorized to execute the 2002-2003 roster certification.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 16th day of December, 2003:

Ayes: Joal Hall Broun, Jacquelyn Gist, John Herrera, Diana McDuffee, Michael Nelson, Alex Zaffron

Noes: None

Absent or Excused: Mark Chilton

REQUEST TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING: VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF THE FOWLER-WHEELER-BRIGHT PROPERTY

The purpose of this item is to accept a petition for the voluntary annexation of the Fowler-Wheeler-Bright property and to set a public hearing for January 13, 2004.

The following resolution was introduced by Alderman Alex Zaffron and duly seconded by Alderman Joal Hall Broun.

A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER THE ANNEXATION OF
PROPERTY OWNED BY JAMES FOWLER,
GINY WHEELER AND DANA BRIGHT
UPON THE REQUEST OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS
Resolution No. 93/2003-04

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro has received a petition from the property owned by Robert Fowler III, Giny Laine Fowler Wheeler and Dana Jill Fowler Bright requesting that their property be annexed into the Town of Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk has certified that the petitions requesting the annexation of this property are sufficient in all respects under G.S. 160A-31.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen hereby accepts these petitions and shall hold a public hearing on January 13, 2004 to consider the voluntary annexation of this property.

Section 2. The Town Clerk shall cause a notice of this public hearing to be published once in The Chapel Hill Herald at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 16th day of December, 2003:

Ayes: Joal Hall Broun, Jacquelyn Gist, John Herrera, Diana McDuffee, Michael Nelson, Alex Zaffron

Noes: None

Absent or Excused: Mark Chilton

PRESENTATION OF THE STEPS INVOLVED IN ISSUING BONDS AND IMPLEMENTING SIDEWALK AND GREENWAY PROJECTS

The Board was requested to make a decision on the amount of bonds to issue and to decide on sidewalk and greenways priorities. A resolution was also included for Board approval that identifies a specific amount of bonds to issue and a list of targeted projects for implementation.

Dale McKeel, the town's Transportation Planner, addressed the Board.

The Mayor and Board members agreed to honor commitments of promised priority sidewalks: Barington Hills, Hanna Street, Autumn Drive, and Pine Street. They also agreed to leave Estes Drive on the priority list although it may prove difficult in terms of right-of-way acquisition. Re: roads that have a sidewalk, all members agree not to put those in the first tier.

Alderman Herrera mentioned public safety as a priority.

Alderman Gist recommended hiring contractors in Orange County.

Alderman Zaffron stated that he thinks the Board should follow a need-based recommendation and develop a public participation process too. He suggested publishing the current plans for a 30-day comment time to anticipate problems with right-of-way problems.

Alderman McDuffee raised the question of how to factor in public process – what would it do in terms of pushing back a time frame?

Alderman Broun agreed with the difficulty of implementing a public process. She agreed that building a sidewalk on Estes is difficult, but that it should remain a priority for safety issues and so people can see what is being done with their money.

Mayor Nelson said that by the end of the decade, most of these sidewalks will be built and that is fairly quick for government work. He asked that the first third of the Sidewalk Priority list be addressed first (minus what they remove). He asked staff to come back with their suggestions.

Mr. Stewart said the list will be ready by the first meeting in January but that it will take between 12-14 months before it becomes finalized, and (re: public process), that each thirty days pushes the project back.

Alderman Zaffron requested that the town staff publish the proposed list and issue a press release for the January 13th comment time.

Alderman Broun suggested a publication along the lines of "this is what's going to happen when we build a sidewalk in your neighborhood."

Alderman Zaffron suggested putting the Boards' tentative list of priority sidewalks online for public comments, but to let people know they won't all be included.

Dale McKeel confirmed the additions to be Jones Ferry to Colson Street, Barington Hills Road, and Autumn Drive.

WORKSESSION ON GREENWAYS

Trish McGuire, the town's Planning Administrator, addressed the Board.

Alderman Gist suggested the idea of a "living lab" to be used for an educational purpose in the schools.

Alderman Herrera raised the question of whether it would make sense to have a living lab in a place as small as Carrboro. Re: the big picture, how would this idea connect with the efforts of the surrounding counties?

Alderman Zaffron agreed with Alderman Herrera and said that all aspects need to be recognized and that the Board should be aware of what is presented to be competing interests,

Aldermen McDuffee and Zaffron said that a decision needs to be made re: functionality of Morgan creek - What type of trail? Recreation? Preservation? Transportation? What is the primary interest? Pedestrian only? Bicycles?

Trish McGuire said in order to initiate the decision-making process, they would need to hire a consultant to consider aspects/characteristics of creek, soil, etc. She said process would have committee as sounding board to the consultant – citizens, general public, Board, etc.

Alderman Gist referred to an agreement made in October to form a subcommittee to bring back a proposal for a greenway plan that includes ideas from the Friends of Bolin Creek.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Friends proposal was not forgotten - that the Board needed to discuss issues, as there was no consensus at all, and that is why a work session is held first.

Alderman Broun referred to the concepts of macro (how to consider what type of greenway) and micro (application of procedure with Bolin Creek). What is the definition of open space/greenway? Part of the decision as to what greenway will go where, will be determined by the function and the land. Property must be identified. If there are areas with special vegetative or animal species that are to be protected, it should be made impossible to ride a bike.

Mayor Nelson talked about developing a trail hierarchy.

Alderman Herrera stated that if the Board knows what their vision is, they would know what to ask: Conservation? Recreation? Cultural resources? Connecting with cultural heritage/history of the area. They need to set priorities.

Alderman McDuffee asked what the process is to get to that vision? Would a consultant help them get to the vision? Or would the Board have it before hiring a consultant? How does the Board get the vision among us?

Alderman Gist suggested that the Board go for a walk along the Bolin Creek Corridor and look at it. She said it would be useful to publicly declare that they're doing it. The Board could then decide what class of trail they want. It would be tangible instead of abstract.

[Alderman Gist left the meeting due to illness.]

Alderman Zaffron expressed his desire for the Board to adopt the draft resolution.

Mayor Nelson said they have already defined the town's Greenway vision in the 2020 document, and at several different times and that it's just been a long time and they need to refresh their memories.

Alderman Zaffron said it should integrate with the county and Chapel Hill's system.

Mayor Nelson said that he has spoken with people in the community and there is a growing sentiment in favor of different kinds of trails in different places and believes that is the right approach. He said it would be a good idea to forward this idea to the consultant as the basis for where to go.

Alderman Broun stated that even though people may give input, it needs to be made clear that other people will compile the information into a policy document.

The following resolution was introduced by Alderman Alex Zaffron and duly seconded by Alderman John Herrera.

A RESOLUTION SPECIFYING NEXT STEPS RELATED TO GREENWAYS
Resolution No. 91/2003-04

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen seeks to ensure that its existing and proposed policies and plans are appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen that the Aldermen:

- 1) Clarify that the update of the greenway trail element of the Town's *Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master Plan* will include additional creek corridors (i.e. Tom's and the branches of Bolin Creek and tributaries that are included in the *Facilitated Small Area Plan for Carrboro's Northern Study Area*) and will include the development of a set of trail standards and hierarchy based on the anticipated range of uses and appropriateness of corridors identified and assign the standards to the identified trail segments.
 - a. The consultant should use a facilitated public participation process, i.e., charette.
 - b. Mayor Nelson will compile existing plans, policies, regulations, and implementation strategies related to the Northern Study Area, open space, tree protection, stream protection and land use and development within the Town's jurisdiction to bring back to the Board of Aldermen to consider as a master plan for the Bolin Creek Basin.
- 2) Allocate \$10,000 either directly from the first sidewalk and greenway bond issue or seek reimbursement from that source, to provide the match for the design/development plan for Morgan Creek West greenway trail.
- 3) That no further action be taken in relation to the Friends of Bolin Creek request.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this 16th day of December, 2003:

Ayes: Joal Hall Broun, John Herrera, Diana McDuffee, Michael Nelson, Alex Zaffron

Noes: None

Absent or Excused: Mark Chilton, Jacquelyn Gist.

Mayor Nelson asked the Board to consider the PH Craig property located next to the Horace Williams Tract and secure conservation easements for future use.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEX ZAFFRON AND SECONDED BY JOHN HERRERA TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN STAFF TO CONTACT MR. CRAIG TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIS INTEREST IN PROVIDING AN EASEMENT ALONG BOLIN CREEK. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE SIX, ABSENT TWO (CHILTON, GIST)

MOTION WAS MADE BY MICHAEL NELSON AND SECONDED BY JOAL HALL BROUN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:32 P.M. VOTE: AFFIRMATIVE: FIVE, ABSENT TWO (CHILTON, GIST)

Mayor

Deputy Town Clerk