



D U R H A M 2012

Open Space & Trails Commission

M I N U T E S

April 18, 2012
2nd Floor, Committee Room
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Will Wilson, Vice-Chairman LaDawanna Summers, and Commissioners Jeffery Bakalchuck, Glen Bowles, Dan Clever, Anita Daniels, John Goebel, Artemas Holden, JoEllen Mason, Annette Montgomery, Deborah Morgan, Jason Nelson, Steve Schewel, Reynolds Smith, David Smudski, Tom Stark, and Charlie Welch

Excused: Commissioner Kelly Bryant, Jr

Absent: Commissioners Toby Berla, Adam Brakenbury, Derwin Dubose, Bo Glenn, and Ellen Reckhow

Staff Present: Jane Korest, Stacey Poston, Beth Timson, and Helen Youngblood

Guests Present: Sarah Childs and John Kent

I. Call to Order 7:01pm Chairman Will Wilson

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Bakalchuck to approve the February minutes.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. Agenda Adjustments

None

IV. Consent Agenda

None

V. Announcements and Introductions

Chairman Wilson introduced new Commissioner Anita Daniels and guest Sarah Childs, a potential DOST member.

VI. Presentations

ADA Issues with Trails

Ms Stacey Poston, ADA Coordinator for the City of Durham, gave a briefing on ADA compliance issues with respect to trails.

Ms Beth Timson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Durham, recommended that the Trails Committee identify a proposed pilot project for a natural surface trail, and meet with her and Ms Poston to discuss specific compliance issues with it.

Commissioner Goebel, Chairman of the Trails Committee, will add this as an agenda item for the Trails Committee.

Ellerbe Creek Trail Width

Commissioner Clever presented his findings from his field survey of the proposed routing of the final section of the West Ellerbe Creek Phase II Trail. This section is a sidewalk trail, which, per the preliminary site plan, is not compliant with the Durham Trails and Greenways Master Plan with respect to width.

Ms Beth Timson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Durham, presented the features of the site that led to the design as currently shown on the site plan.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Bakalchuck that if funding permits, the paved portion should be eight (8) feet wide.

Substitute Motion: Moved by Commissioner Clever to delay making a recommendation for a month.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEPA EIS Scoping Process Public Workshop

Chairman Wilson requested that DOST members attend public workshops and restate the resolution previously adopted by DOST; and to go to the website and provide comments on behalf of themselves as citizens. He will attend and provide comments on behalf of DOST.

Mr. John Kent stated that the deadline for written comments is the 18th, so DOST members could attend the workshop, ask questions, and formulate written comments for submittal after the workshops.

Conservation Easement

Ms Jane Korest, Open Space and Real Estate Division Manager for Durham County, presented information regarding the County's planned purchase of two parcels of land for open space preservation: the South View Tract, 100 acres for \$200,000; and the Santee Road Tract, 263 acres (it is a "value" property because of the significant reduction in asking price from when it was first considered).

Motion: Moved by Vice-Chairman Summers, on behalf of the Open Space Committee, that DOST continue its support of the purchase of the South View Tract.

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion: Moved by Vice-Chairman Summers, on behalf of the Open Space Committee, that DOST support the purchase of the Santee Road Tract.

MOTION CARRIED.

Annual Report

Ms Youngblood, staff liaison to DOST, said that she would present DOST's annual report to the Joint City-County Planning Committee on May 2nd and to each of the governing bodies (City Council and the Board of County Commissioners) at their May meetings.

VII. Committees

Vice-Chairman Summers gave the report for the Open Space Committee: They reviewed two key sites needing their recommendation. They also reviewed staff recommendations on what is a high value open space in urban areas and will be making comment by next month.

Commissioner Nelson gave the report for the Education Committee. He requested that DOST members volunteer to man the DOST booth at the Earth Day Festival on Sunday. (DOST will be sharing a table with BPAC at their bike valet racks.) Ms Youngblood will send out a sign-up sheet.

Commissioner Montgomery, on behalf of the Matching Grants Committee, requested that DOST members attend and express support for the Matching Grants program at the County's public budget hearings.

Commissioner Goebel gave the report for the Trails Committee.

Ms Youngblood gave the report for the Development Review Committee.

Vice-Chairman Summers, on behalf of the By-Laws Committee, requested that DOST members review the proposed changes to the By-Laws and provide comments to her.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Goebel, liaison to, and on behalf of the New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee: Whereas Ken Coulter was instrumental in writing the original Sandy Creek and New Hope Creek Corridor Master Plans, we strongly recommend that the new bridge/observation deck at Sandy Creek Park be named in honor of Ken. Members of the New Hope Creek Advisory Committee were instrumental in constructing this structure, and we are confident that Ken would be pleased with it and with having it named in his honor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Clever, reported on Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) activities: He is serving on the Ad Hoc Committee formed by the Director of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation to name the bridge at Sandy Creek Park.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Stark at 9:05pm to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared by Commissioner Morgan, Secretary

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