

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

7:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 21, 2022

**Virtual Meeting
Chapel Hill, NC**

Roll Call: Tyler Steelman (Chair), Leah Boucher (Vice Chair), Alice Armstrong (Orange County Representative), Jeanette Bench, Hallie Cherry, William Kaiser, Lydia Kivihya-Ndugga, Wesley McMahon, Renuka Soll and Emerson Krause (Youth Council Representative)

- 7:00 p.m. 1. Welcome and Roll Call – Chair
- 7:05 p.m. 2. Approval of Minutes (May 17, 2022)
- 7:10 p.m. 3. Communications and Petitions from Commission, Council Liaisons, and Staff
- 7:15 p.m. 4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance – Chair
- 7:25 p.m. 5. Pickleball and Tennis Courts Shared Use Discussion and Status - Phil Fleischmann, Parks and Recreation Director; Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager; and Anita Badrock, Senior Ombuds Town of Chapel Hill
- 7:55 p.m. 6. Comprehensive Parks Plan Update – Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner
- 8:15 p.m. 7. Meeting Schedule July, August, September - Chair
- 8:25 p.m. 8. Liaison reports
Liaisons may make a report on topics of interest to the entire Commission:
- Community Design Commission Steelman
 - Community Tree Committee Vacant
 - Cultural Arts Commission Kivihya-Ndugga
 - Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board Vacant
 - Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation McMahon
 - Orange County Parks/Recreation Council Armstrong
 - Planning Commission Bench
 - Transportation & Connectivity Advisory Board Soll
 - Youth Council Krause
 - Racquet Sports (Tennis & Pickleball) Stakeholders Committees Soll
 - Splashpad Work Group Boucher
- 8:40 p.m. 9. Adjourn

AGENDA NOTES

3. Communications and Petitions:

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Relevant to Parks and Recreation and prior Commission requests, the Town Council voted on June 8, to allocate funding for the Cedar Falls artificial turf replacement project, the design for the Morgan Creek Trail – East section, and replacement of the HVAC system at Homestead Aquatic Center. Once a timeline is developed for the projects it will be shared. Additional decisions on ARPA funds are expected in the fall.

Budget – The Town Manager shared the FY 2022-2023 proposed budget to the Mayor and Town Council at the first public hearing on May 18, and recommended that the Council receive public comment regarding the budget. The Town’s new fiscal year budget was passed by the Council at its June 8 meeting. See <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/business-management/budget/2022-2023-budget-development>

National Trails Day – For this year’s National Trails Days Celebration, “A Day of Service for Hometown Trails and the People Who Love Them,” the Department hosted a program on June 4 at Umstead Park. Partners from the Friends of Chapel Hill Parks, Recreation, and Greenways and Town’s Public Housing Department collaborated in the ceremony. The program highlighted the benefits of having trails, parks, open space, and affordable housing options located near each other and to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers in maintaining the trail network. Attendees, including Council and Commission members, were invited to walk a nearby refurbished natural surface trail, which connects the Tanyard Branch Trail to a planned new housing development at Trinity Court. To view a recording of the National Trails Day program, visit: https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=558534295622670&ref=sharing&_rdr.

Park and Facilities Tour –The Department has identified a tentative date of July 17, 1:30-4:30 pm, to tour parks and facilities with members of the Town Council, advisory boards, and the public to celebrate Park and Recreation Month. The tour intends to promote awareness of available opportunities and highlight facility conditions. The program will also provide opportunities for participants to connect. Commission members who have ideas or would like to participate in the tour are encouraged to share ideas with staff as the planning process commences.

Greenways, Sidepaths, and Parks Projects Progress: Following are brief updates. Commission members should feel free to contact the staff if they have any questions or comments.

Cedar Falls and Hargraves Parks Tennis Court Projects - The 90% percent plans and Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) have been submitted for both projects. The staff is requesting additional funding for the projects in light of the exceptionally steep and fast-rising construction costs for various materials, compounded by major supply-chain disruptions, a shortage of available workers, and inflation. With the most recent OPCC for Cedar Falls, the Town has a funding gap of \$981,207.72 in the \$1.7 million project.

Morgan Creek Trail Projects – Design and permitting for the West and East Sections will commence later this Summer after the Opinion of Probable Construction Costs for the three greenway sections have been updated.

Community Splash Pad Project – The Department received funding for the Splash Pad feasibility study and has been asked that it include an inclusive playground with splash pad components as a potential option. The staff has contacted the project consulting firm, obtained their acceptance of this request, and is working with Town Purchasing Staff on the next steps for awarding a contract. A possible schedule could look like this: July - Contract Award and Kick-off; August-November - Preliminary Assessment and Community Engagement (such as survey, public meetings, etc.); December–February - Final Report with recommendations, costs for design, construction, start-up, operations & maintenance; presentation to Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission and Town Council.

Teen Center – Parks staff is working with Public Works, Fire, and Building & Development Services to determine what improvements are possible at the Teen Center and ideas related to the scope of work and estimated costs.

4. Questions and Petitions from the Public in Attendance:

5. Pickleball and Tennis Courts Shared Use Discussion and Status: Phil Fleischmann, Parks and Recreation Director, Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager; and Anita Badrock, Senior Ombuds Town of Chapel Hill, will provide an overview of a request submitted by Chapel Hill Pickleball related to desired shared use of 2 of the four tennis courts at Ephesus Park, responses and feedback received from the Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis Courts, and steps taken by the Department to consider and evaluate the request. Representatives from Chapel Hill Pickleball and the Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis Courts have been invited to share their respective perspectives and respond to questions posed by staff or the Commission.

Staff has been considering options which could address growth seen in pickleball while not adversely impacting tennis opportunities. To this point, staff has not been successful in identifying a solution that is feasible, timely, and meets the needs and expectations of both parties. The Commission’s guidance and support is requested regarding the following options:

1. Recommend an administrative policy that tennis courts are to be used for tennis only, and not for pickleball.
2. Recommend an administrative policy that pickleball and tennis courts at one more complexes should be made available for drop-in use by both tennis and pickleball on a first come, first served basis. Scheduled tennis and pickleball programs would continue to have priority in use of their respective courts.
3. Support piloting a shared use program on the Ephesus tennis courts. Pickleball could be allowed during scheduled, advertised times on 2 of the 4 tennis courts and potentially at other times if no tennis courts are in use. There could be a limit placed on the number of days / hours that pickleball play could be scheduled on the tennis courts.

4. Support piloting a similar shared use scenario on tennis courts other than those at Ephesus. An option could include utilization of courts at Cedar Falls Park on a short-term basis until construction begins.
5. Survey tennis players regarding their experiences on Town courts, frequency and schedule of use, and ideas related to shared use of courts by pickleball. This could occur prior to, and/or during shared use play.
6. Advise that no shared use consideration should occur until after tennis court construction at Ephesus, Cedar Falls and Hargraves Parks is completed, at which time demand would be re-assessed and future decisions made regarding options for shared use at one or more sites. (Note that through accepting USTA funding for court projects at Cedar Falls and Hargraves, permanent pickleball lines will not be allowed.)
7. Any other option(s) that the Commission may wish to recommend.

6. Review of 2013 Comprehensive Parks Plan Accomplishments – Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner will share what projects have been accomplished since the 2013 plan was produced and the status of those items that have not been completed. This agenda item is designed to continue earlier Commission discussions related to comprehensive Parks and Recreation planning efforts.

7. Meeting Schedule - Tyler Steelman, Chair will ask for input on the summer schedule. The Commission typically cancels the July meeting. The Commission also typically agrees to keep the August meeting on the schedule if needed for some review or action. In most cases, in the past, the August meeting has been canceled as well. An orientation for new members will be scheduled in August. The Commission may want to consider these or other options for the summer.