



DURHAM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

ONLINE VIA ZOOM -

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87515862913?pwd=U3JVS3lVS3hJYUt5V1dxOWI1YnpOZz09>

I. Call to Order 7:05 p.m.

Steve Cohn, Carl Kolosna, Dave Connelly, Peter Whitehead, Lois Ballen, Deborah Luecken, Mellissa Southern, Maruren Quinlan, Qais Badsha, Jane Korest, Shakira Campbell, Audrey Vogel, Tom Dawson, Fred Myatt, Lindsay Smart, Celeste Burns, Tonia McRae, Bryan Luuckinen, Javiera Caballero, Nida Allam

New Member: Nate Dumas

II. Approval of Minutes

a. **Approval of January Minutes:+**

- Dave entertained the motion to approve the January minutes, Fred Myatt, Peter Whitehead second; Unanimous approval

Approved unanimously

III. Excused Absences- None

IV. Adjustments to the Agenda None

V. Presentations:

- **Tom Dawson**, Durham Parks and Recreation--Brief review of urban open space plan as it relates to parks. (Durham Splash and play. What to do with Wheeler Park) Review Urban Open Space Plan and Downtown Open Space plan and review the status. Recreation advisory commission regarding the state of the trail. What is funded? What isn't funded? How is it funded? Capitol improvement?

VI. Old Business:

a. Review and potentially comment on the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Dave asked if anyone has attended any of the meetings.**

Answer: Deborah Luecken stated she has been to a meeting but found reading the plan was more beneficial.

- **Jane Korest** asked Carl what the role of DOST is in the comprehensive plan.

Answer: Meeting with the planning commission Feb 28. March 20th deadline for the online survey.

- **Carl-** DOST has been involved in the creation of the comprehensive plan in past years. Residents and staff and some members of the advisory council. Community goals and objectives were reviewed by Reynolds, a previous DOST member. There are a lot of components in the comprehensive plan that relate to trails and open space.

- **Dave-** maybe we should have an presentation on the comprehensive plan in the near future. What should DOST members be looking at related to the comprehensive plan?

Answer: Javiera Caballera stated it's a very dense document. Look at whatever interests you. These are guidelines, not legally binding. The legally binding document will come later. We are a unique county in that we already have heavy regulations. Some of the heaviest regulations in the state are in Durham County.

- **Maureen Quinlan:** Is reviewing the comprehensive plan something we want to use our sub committees? Are there other tools at our disposal. Melissa Southern recommended Punchlist (free tool). Volunteered to add the comprehensive plan to Punchlist and send it out to the commission.

- **Maureen Quinlan:** What constitutes a meeting?

Answer: Carl stated that he doesn't think there is an issue with DOST member collaborating. There needs to be a written statement and officially submitted to the planning department documenting the background work.

- **Javiera Caballero:** stated that the comprehensive plan document is user friendly

Dave: stated he thinks assigning tasks to different committee sounds like a good idea. Asked Melissa to send the Punchlist to Carl or him and they would send to the group. Comprehensive plan will be a presentation item for the next meeting.

VII. New Business:

a. Discuss trail safety (recent shooting near Hillside)

- **Dave Connelly-** notified everyone of the incident that happened along-side Hillside High School and ATT. We are not really sure exactly where the shooting took place.
- **Peter Whitehead-** did not think it was an appropriate time to discuss the incident. It is still an active investigation.
- **Shakira Campbell-** Agreed with Peter. It is too soon to discuss the incident.
- **Tonia McRae-** stated she felt is necessary to discuss the incident with DOST members although we do not have all of the answers, we can still talk about how we

feel about what happened. Tonia stated she would like to see more changes on the trail related to security.

- **Javiera-** stated we must be careful when it comes to requesting additional security in an error that has a history of being over policed.

VIII. Updates

a. **Updates from staff (None)**

b. **Updates from liaisons:** Shakira is our new liaison to Farmland Protection Advisory Board

c. **Updates from committees (None)**

d. **Announcements:** The next DOST meeting is scheduled to be an in person meeting.

Carl- will check to see if virtual access is possible.

Adjournment: Dave-entertained motion to adjourn. Tonia McRae 2nd, Unanimous approval

DOST Priorities

1. Advocate for increased funding to build out and maintain priority trails and open space
2. Support the implementation of the Durham Beltline Master Plan with a specific focus on equitable community engagement for the components of the plan that can still be addressed
3. Examine the Matching Grants process to encourage applications that reflect the racial and economic diversity of Durham
4. Support implementation of the Trails and Greenways Master Plan with a specific focus on equity.
5. Encourage implementation of the Urban Open Space Plan
6. Pursue ongoing professional development on trends in equitable development of trails and open spaces.
7. Proactively research and implement open space and trails acquisition best practices for ordinances and policy.

DOST Committees Committee Chair Meeting Date/Location

Matching Grants Annette Montgomery As needed

Open Space Steve Cohn First Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Trails Dave Connelly Second Wednesday at 6:30 pm Equity Shakira Campbell First Thursday at 6:30 pm

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DOST Committees

Committee	Chair	Meeting Date/Location
Matching Grants	Annette Montgomery	As needed
Open Space	TBD	TBD
Trails	Dave Connelly	Second Wednesday at 6:30 pm
Equity	Shakira Campbell	First Thursday at 6:30 pm