



## DURHAM OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COMMISSION

### AGENDA

October 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

IN PERSON – COMMITTEE ROOM 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR OF CITY HALL, 101 CITY HALL PLAZA

#### I. Call to Order

Members present: Bryan, Qais, Carl, Celeste, Dave, Tonia, Reynolds, Shakira, Harrison, Javiera, Alam

Call to order: 7:06 P.M.

#### II. Introductions-Reynolds announced this is his last meeting. He is retiring as a commissioner.

#### III. Approval of Minutes

Harrison motioned to approve minutes

Shakira second the motion

Approved Unanimously

##### a. Approval of September Minutes

#### IV. Excused Absences-LaDonna

#### V. Adjustments to the Agenda

Introductions

Review DOST Priorities

#### VI. Presentations

##### a. Presentation from Parks and Recreation – Tom Dawson

- Update: City County gave money for full time GIS profession. The role will benefit Open space preservation because they can look for large areas and see the pattern of real estate opportunities. The person has not been hired to date.
- DPR Transition. There are 12 Focus Parks that need "love". Will send a list of all the parks. Parks need short term fixes and long-term vision. Visiting all the parks to develop a rapport by listening to community concerns.
- One of the mandates was to increase aquatics in East Durham. Children need to learn how to swim. There are disparities across the city in terms of where pools are located. Council dedicated money to increase aquatics. Money was allocated, but the land needed to be located or else the money sits on the budget. A spaced called Merrick Moore Park was found. Noticed Wheels fun park across the street. Relayed the value to the community. Read about it in the Durham Splash and Play. Resident steering committee was formed.
- How does this relate to DOST? Built something new but wanted to take care of something old. Long Meadow pool exists in Long Meadow Park. Built in the 1950's and restored in 1990's. The problem is that it is in a flood plain and is in a vulnerable position. Needing constant repairs. With the money set aside for aquatics finding

new aquatic facilities. Wheels Fun Park became an option. Various options but finding a location outside of the flood plain is what's needed. Long Meadow Park was segregated. Old maps show Long Meadow parks was chartered as the white park and East end was chartered as the black park. A lot of work has gone into integrating the parks; however Long Meadow Park and East End parks are functionally disconnected. The R. Kelly Bryant bridge connects the two parks. With the aquatics plan we can look at the corridor from Long Meadow to East end and understanding the aquatic needs for Durham and recreation needs for the two parks. Worst scenario is to have the pool fail and not have any alternatives.

- DOST Reviewed two options basketball courts, footsol court, pickle ball various activities within the park. Getting feedback from the community.

**VII. Old Business-None**

**VIII. New Business- Review DOST Priorities**

**IX. Updates**

**a. Updates from staff**

**Celeste**-Matching grant cycle is open. Grant deadline Nov 15, 2022.

**Brandon Moore** DCONC manages the program. County allocates \$100K annually.

**Carl**-Update on comprehensive plan. The start of next month releases number of key revised component draft policies. New version of land use map for every parcel that exists in Durham. Will share link. Want people to review it. Hopefully January 1st will have last round of engagement phase and executive summaries, hearing with the planning commission and advisory vote.

By summer of next year hopefully a new comprehensive plan will be adopted.

**b. Updates from liaisons**

**Javiera**-Pay attention to budget cycle. There is interest on Council doing Infrastructure bond, in the early cycle.

**Commissioner Alam**-Neuse river folks has an event coming up. Will send the information. Farm tour with the rest of the commissioners Natalie Buyer from School Board. Heidi Carter is the liaison. Got on a school bus and drove to different working farms in Durham to observe set up of their land, microgreens, produce, flowers etc. They sell at the Farmers Market. Some farms had horses they were rehabilitating used for therapy services to young people across Durham. Some farms were running on less than an acre of land. The farms are sustaining by applying for grants through the county and federal. May be good for DOST commissioners to see the farms.

Javiera added- All of the farms were within Urban Growth Boundaries.

**Commissioner Alam**- asked about the electric bike program

**c. Updates from committees**

**Dave**-currently trails committee meeting full DOST meets in person and committees meet online or in person. Trails were scheduled to meet this past Wednesday night. Dave and Lindsay were the only participants. As new DOST commissioners come on board will try to make the schedule clear (1 monthly DOST meeting and 1 committee meeting.)

**Reynolds**-putting in a pitch for people to participate in open space. How open space relates legally and socially.

**Shakira**-what is the status about Derrick? He technically resigned a month early per Carl. Equity and Open Space needs new chairs if they are going to continue to function. End of year set the schedule for the upcoming year in terms of what day and time for the

meetings. Next meeting may be a better time to determine the status of Equity and Open Space.

**Dave-**for 2023 we need to determine if we are going to continue to meet in person or virtual.

**Javiera-**stated that other committees are meeting twice a year meeting in person. She advised that she not recommend going to an “all virtual” schedule.

**d. Announcement.**

**NONE**

**Harrison:** Motion to discuss DOST priorities at next meeting

**Bryan:** Second

**Approved Unanimously**

**Adjournment**

8:19 p.m.

**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**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Meeting Date/Location</b>
Matching Grants	Annette Montgomery	As needed
Open Space	Reynolds Smith	Third Wednesday at 5:30pm
Trails	Randy Akin	Second Wednesday at 7 pm
Equity	Derrick Beasley	First Thursday at 6pm