

## Appendix F

### Substantive Comments received from the Greenway Commission in response to September 2007 Public Forum

Compiled by Bill Webster, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation, Town of Chapel and Katherine Gill, LHPA

- Agree we should go ahead with the draft report
- Appreciate additional comments and think they are appropriate to include in the report -- In favor of moving forward with draft on expedited basis.
- Pronounce some of the nuances more. For example,
  - add examples about how the parking area could be more than a typical parking lot and why it is such an excellent opportunity to combine design elements with Master and Comprehensive plan objectives...an entranceway feature, a public art opportunity, a greenways trail/head, a micro-park (i.e., a table or a Chapel Hill-type stone wall/seat wall that buffers the parked cars from the road and/or "amenity" onsite. Combining these could add to the beauty and aesthetics of the entranceway, while creating a place of interest that motorists would slow down to see as they pass through that location. We get traffic calming effects and some context to tie the pedestrian refuge (vegetated or not) to a destination point. Consider how people are curious about the unofficial parking along Estes Drive Extension to the unofficial trails, and how some know that parked cars there are evidence that people have found an interesting place to walk in the woods. The Dry Creek 'car park' could be like that but better designed.
- Some of the participants were also interested in vegetation preservation as a means to habitat and wildlife preservation too.
- The low profile boardwalks were favored and the general sentiment was to go with the absolute minimal amount of railings.
- There was some discussion about making sure we graphically include the regional connections of the Dry Creek in future presentations.
- Add that the Commission appreciates the work of LHPA and complimented the aesthetic ideas of the trail entrance at Perry Creek Road, and looks forward to seeing new ideas about the "car park" and refuge. We should note that there was no neighborhood or residents who were not in favor of the Trail Concept.
- Comfortable with your preparing a draft and pursuing the 'month's jump on the process, but am open to any Commission member who would like to discuss it further next month. If none do, let's proceed per your speed.
- Participants agreed that it was their desire to make the parking area more than a typical parking lot. It should reflect the nature of the project and be a positive amenity on the site.
- Participants agreed that the crossing of Erwin Road would be a key component of the plan. The proposed solution is a pedestrian refuge. Participants agreed that if the refuge crossing is selected

it should be as aesthetically pleasing as possible. It was also agreed that NCDOT should be contacted to see if a pedestrian activated cross walk light might be installed.

- The question of additional clearing along the trail corridor was raised. Staff asked if participants felt that the remote nature of the trail might justify longer than usual visual openings for security reasons. Participants stated that vegetation preservation should be a higher priority.
- The question of the boardwalk/bridge crossing was discussed. It was agreed that the bridge structure must have the smallest possible footprint in the wetland area. It should also avoid any known locations of rare plants.
- A commission member asked that the project's impact on the New Hope Corridor Master Plan be emphasized.
- A gree that we should proceed with the draft.
- Comfortable proceeding with preparation of a draft report for Dry Creek . And don't see a need to further discuss it at next month's meeting.

#### Substantive Comments on the Dry Creek Report Draft of November 19, 2007

- Refer to the New Hope Corridor Plan in the introduction and how this corridor fits into that plan.
- Explain [flood modeling] in simple language.
- Explain that the trail is designed for bicycles also.
- Add language to emphasize minimizing impact on rare species and wildlife corridors as identified in the Triangle Land Conservancy Report. Also, to not impact wildlife corridors.
- Emphasize connectivity to neighborhoods.
- Recommend specifically saying that plans would be coordinated with the New Hope Corridor Open Space Master Plan.
- Provide more context in maps and especially to areas referred to in document
- Clarify commission's process.
- Include in appendix a complete list of citizen and Commission comments from the public forum
- Attach the relevant pages from the Inventory of Natural Areas in the appendix.

- Provide further text and map that shows proposed connections on the Durham side, and how the Chapel Hill trail fits into the plan.
- Include information about potential a sidewalk on Erwin Road in Phase I, as is referred to in CH Greenways Master Plan
- Explain appropriate location of boardwalk and its “ impact to the creek banks and wetland areas,” so additional discussion of how it meets the identified goals of minimizing impacts would be desirable.
- Add text that the final location and design of the boardwalk in Phase II would be determined in the detailed design phase after an environmental assessment.
- Move the parking lot closer to the Erwin Road crossing. The text should note that the illustration is one concept; there could be others that would emerge during detailed design.
- Include updates on Duke Power easement arrangements
- Give some explanation of funding for the project, and the sources.
- Label and key maps to page numbers
- Improve the readability of the maps, figures, and labels at the 8 ½ by 11 size format.
- A motion to review by the inter-jurisdictional New Hope Corridor Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 13, prior to the Council’s public hearing.