



Greenways and Open Space Commission

Metro Parks

12-11-2024 Minutes

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Parks Boardroom 2565 Park Plaza

In Attendance: Chair Jeanie Nelson, Vice Chair Mark Deutschmann, Brenda Gilmore, Tyler Yarbrow, Joseph Y. Lee Jr., Council member Clay Capp, and Metro Park Board Representative Ed Henley, Mayors Sustainability Office liaison Kendra Abkowitz, Metro Planning liaison Donald Anthony, Greenways and Open Space Director Cindy Harrison, greenways staff.

- I. **Call to order** – meeting was called to order by Jeanie Nelson.
- II. **Consideration of October 9, 2024 meeting minutes** – Minutes were approved.
- III. **Public comment period, 5-minutes Jeanie** – No public comment was offered.
- IV. **Updates since October 2024 Meeting** –
 1. Transit Referendum – Kendra Abkowitz provided an update.
 - A. Work is transitioning from planning to implementation.
 - B. Primary activities
 1. Council approved resolution RS0224-880 for the formation of an advisory body that will inform overall strategy.
 2. Recruitment is underway for a CPO. Selection is expected to be announced in early March.
 3. Partnerships with Vendors. Hosted a procurement info session, which did not present vendor options, just set the stage for future needs. Setting up a program management structure that aligns resources, project specific opportunities from design to build. Program management office will be working on foundational elements of partnerships.
 4. The team will be intentionally thinking about connections and will ask for the Greenways and Open Space Commission's input. Voters approved a tax increase and a plan will be developed for the use of that money. The first projects are expected to begin in late Spring/early Summer 2025. First projects are expected to be service enhancements such as signalization upgrades, Planning and design work that has been ongoing – Main/Gallatin; Murfreesboro Pike. The advisory group will work to identify objectives for years 1-2, and then for 2+ years. Program management office will take 6 months to begin. Development standards are being

reviewed and opportunities suggested for private developers to invest in public infrastructure – freeing up money for other program investments. Current conversation is about plan alignment. Updates are anticipated to occur next year. A team of vendor support (FTE's), and employees for the 1st 3 years will be working together, with legal, procurement, accounting etc. Staff will be built out as needed. Oversight will be provided by mayor's office for first 3 years.

5. Two currently employed Park police officers will be assigned specifically to patrol greenways.

C. FY 25 Capital budget includes maintenance dollars for greenway boardwalks and bridges.

D. New board and commission legislation clarifies that new members' terms will begin at end of vacancy vs when they actually begin their service. Council persons role is now definitively Ex-Officio meaning non-voting. Members must be present for 2/3 of meetings to maintain their seat.

V. Plan to Play Update – Cindy Harrison

1. Staff will host a commission workshop for commissioners to prepare for their input meeting with the consultant team.

2. Team is currently updating state of the parks, preparing the public engagement plan and a public input survey.

3. We are anticipating 3 commission opportunities to interact with the consultant team.

VI. Annual Recap – Cindy provided a brief update on greenway segments being planned, being built next year, and easements acquired for future greenway development including design of the 440 Greenway Park Plaza to Centennial Park, 440 Greenway Sevier Park to Browns Creek Park and Whites Creek Greenway Hartman Park to Buena Vista. The two 440 Greenway segments are expected to be put out for bid in 2025.

Cindy reported that Greenways staff has finalized 10 greenway easement dedications this year, with 29 agreements in 10 council districts underway. Current open space acquisitions in progress include 21+ acres along a new planned segment of the Harpeth River Greenway as part of the Ariza Bellevue residential development, and 2.36 acres adjacent to Ft Negley that is grant-funded through a partnership with the American Battlefield Trust. Greenways for Nashville has funded another 30 trailhead renovation projects, talks about next to be installed. Inter-agency partnerships in 2024

Choose How You Move Technical Advisory Committee

Metro Water Services and Root Nashville tree planting projects

NDOT Shared Micromobility RFQ

Metro Planning Department – rezoning projects related to greenways

Upcoming greenway openings in 2025

Cumberland River Greenway at Brookmeade Park

Cumberland River Greenway at Peabody Union mixed use development

VII. Greenways for Nashville Report – not present this meeting

VIII. Metro Department Reports

Metro Planning -Donald Anthony, Community Planner provided highlights of Planning's work with the Cane Ridge/Antioch small communities study including conservation planning.

IX. Commissioner Input –

Jeanie discussed the opportunity to develop sub-committee(s) to focus on moving greenway development and open space acquisition forward. These small group discussions would be brought back to the commission for discussion.

Edward Henley suggested to meet in the off months when we don't have a regular meeting, which might be a good schedule. The Planning Commission has work sessions and we could have those to discuss lessons learned, talk about what makes a good greenway, what partnerships and strategies are impactful?

Tyler Yarbro offered that workshops would be useful since we don't have a lot of time to discuss issues in detail during regular meetings. Having a work session is important to her to have a meaningful impact.

Joseph Lee was willing to consider this.

Mark noted that we have 4 council people on this commission, and we need them to educate and inform the council at large to move greenways

Cindy noted that field trips are important opportunities to get out and look at both private and public funding projects and to help understand the design and development process.

Commissioners noted that the 440 Greenway field trip in October 2024 was very worthwhile.

X. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at – 1:06 pm.

2025 Meeting Dates: 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m., Parks Boardroom 2565 Park Plaza, unless otherwise noted:

February 12, 2025

April 9, 2025

June 11, 2025

August 13, 2025

October 8, 2025

December 10, 2025