



Greenways and Open Space (GOS) Commission

08-12-26 Notes

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Recording:

[08/12/26 Greenways & Open Space Commission](#)

In Attendance:

- Jeanie Nelson, Commission Chair
- Mark Deutschmann, Commission Vice-Chair
- Joseph Y. Lee
- Tonya Hancock
- Morey Hill
- Edward Henley

Absent:

- James H. Moore
- Brenda Gilmore
- Olivia Hill
- Cedric Duncan

Metro representatives in Attendance

- Francois de Kock, Greenways & Open Space Asst Director
- Amrita Chatterjee, Metro GOS
- David Diaz Barriga, Metro GOS
- Anna Grider, COO, EBDA
- Kendra Abkovitz, Deputy Chief of Operations
- Will Ezell, Planner 3, NDOT

Other

- Meg Morgan, Executive Director Greenways for Nashville

Meeting Proceedings

1. Call to order

- Jeanie Nelson, Commissioner Chair, calls the meeting to order. Invites public comments and outlines rules for the same.

2. Consideration of Notes from June 10, 2026, GOS Commission meeting

- Notes approved.

3. Public Comment Period

- Mark Schlicker, District 27 Participatory Budget Delegate – Requests Parks to prioritize and fast track the completion of the Seven-Mile Creek project.
- Asst. Director Francois de Kock acknowledges that this project is on Metro’s high-priority list to be implemented.

4. Parks Framework & Greenways Network for the East Bank

- Asst Director Francois de Kock introduces Anna Grider, COO for EBDA – East Bank Development Authority.
- Anna Grider (EBDA) presents an update on the Parks Framework and Greenways Network for East Bank.
- The Parks Framework outlines 120 acres of open space across the 550-acre district.
- The greenways preferred network proposes a continuous 2.7 mi greenway along the riverfront, 3 lateral connections, and district wide 5-minute access for all future residents.
- Current Actions & Projects were presented including Oracle’s pedestrian bridge that is pending federal permitting. The segment will be privately maintained.

Response from Commissioners

- Commissioner Mark Duestchmann asked about extending the connections towards Shelby and connection past Oracle along the riverfront.
- Commissioner Joseph Lee asked about maintaining the Davidson street connection to the Siegenthaler Bridge, which Anna Grider confirmed.
- Commissioner Morey Hill wanted to know more about the connectors.
- Commissioner Edward Henley appreciated the presentation, emphasized maintenance of the existing Greenway infrastructure and requested regular updates.
- Chair Jeanie Nelson asked about collaboration with the Parks and Greenways division. Anna Grider notes that Asst Director Francois de Kock has been involved with the effort.
- Chair Jeanie Nelson mentions the importance of collaborating with developers on the funding and delivery phase of the greenway system.
- Chair Jeanie Nelson requested the Oracle bridge construction timeline, which Anna Grider agreed to follow up on and respond.
- Chair Jeanie Nelson thanks Anna Grider for the presentation.

5. Action items from previous meetings

- Asst Director noted printed copies of Plan to Play are available for Commissioners.
- Commissioner Tanya Hancock pointed out that the Peeler Park bridge was missing from the list of the projects in Plan to Play. Asst Director Francois de Kock agreed that the proposed bridge should be included as part of the greenways map when updating it in the future.

6. Greenways for Nashville (GfN) Report

- Meg Morgan, GfN Executive Director, provides an update on the events since the last meeting, including the Dinner by the Bridge on October 1st, 2026, at the Ascend Amphitheatre.
- Commissioner chair Jeanie Nelson thanks Meg Morgan for the report.

7. Asst Director's Greenways & Open Space: Report and Discussion

- A written project update report was provided.
- Emphasizes collaboration and meetings held with internal and external stakeholders, friends' groups, non-profits and developers.
- Discusses Land acquisition and greenway opportunities.
- Emphasizes the need for funding for planning and design for the Greenway system.
- Commissioner Mark notes the need for philanthropy, collaboration and branding.
- Commissioner Henley highlights considerations for safety.
- Commissioner Hancock suggested the logo of the HubNashville website for reporting complaints, to be incorporated on the trailhead map. Additionally requests for a planning representative to speak about easements around the county and potential plans for those.

8. Greenways & Open Space Commission retreat

- Discussion of holding a retreat and forming subcommittees/working groups to provide focused attention on numerous topics.
- Proposed identifying the most essential subgroups/working groups, with some potentially permanent and others temporary.
- Commission discussed holding a facilitated retreat (6–7 hours), with broad support.
- Next step is to organize potential dates and venue, possibly incorporating a greenway walk.

9. Commission Subcommittees and/or Working Groups

- Commissioners encouraged to review the initial topic list provided by Asst Director Francois de Kock, provide additional ideas, and consider Plan to Play content to refine retreat and working-group priorities.

10. Other Business

- Discussion was held about the Commission meeting more frequently.

11. Final Comment

- Commission Chair Jeanie Nelson thanks everyone for joining the meeting and adjourns.

Remaining 2026 Meeting Dates: 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. (venue TBD due to construction of the Parks Boardroom)

- October 14, 2026
- December 9, 2026