

## **New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes for March 10, 2016**

(Present: Boyarski, Crouse, Goebel, Moore, Kent, Harrison, Youngblood)

- (1) Chapel Hill Report. Crouse said that the Parks, Greenways and Recreation Commission as well as Town Council have approved an alternative plan for the Estes Drive trail crossing. The Commission has approved a list of what environmental features they would want if the Legion Road property is developed for apartments. Last week there was a Joint Chapel Hill-Orange County Advisory Board meeting on recreation. They are trying to work toward a county-wide conservation plan, including connectivity and trails.
- (2) Duke Forest Manager Sara Childs has been convening a monthly group of experts and organization representatives who are trying to encourage a landscape level approach toward connectivity and conservation. They last met at North Carolina Botanical Garden.
- (3) Sandy Creek Park. Durham Creek Week will be celebrated for the ninth time March 12-19. Events programmed for Sandy Creek are a guided bird walk, a night-time "frog event" led by Duke professors Nikki Cagle and Ron Grunwald, and a park and stream cleanup. A committee is already planning the Monarch Butterfly Festival, scheduled for October 8 (rain date October 9).  
Rosetta Radtke is retiring from Durham Parks and Recreation Department and Annette Smith will replace her in roles relevant to Sandy Creek Park. A preliminary meeting was held with city staff on the accessible trail project. The trail that goes from the bridge to Garrett Road is a maze of dry and wet areas and part of it must be relocated. With regard to the smaller ADA loop, repaving will not require a site plan (but lots of asphalt) and the 200 ft. of new sidewalk will likely require one. A neighborhood meeting is to be held next Sunday at the Church of the Good Shepherd, with the goal of getting both volunteers and contributions to the Parks Foundation.
- (4) Patterson Place LRT Station. Kent has submitted a resolution passed last meeting by this committee expressing concern for the many environmental

elements contained in the New Hope Plan that could be affected by building around the station as governed by the (now vague) compact neighborhood plan. DOST has also passed a resolution of concern. At its last meeting the Durham Planning Commission voted to defer the drawing of boundaries for the Patterson Place neighborhood. Kent said the problem was that the plan contained no text governing uses and densities—what a compact neighborhood should look like. Kent said that density should decline from center to edges and that there be specific attention to the transition between development and the adjoining Natural Heritage Area.

(5) Hollow Rock Environmental Park. Orange County has identified funding to pave the parking lot (asphalt) instead of leaving it in gravel. A mid-May opening is planned. Boyarski called for outreach to the people who were involved in the initial purchase of the parkland more than ten years ago. Harrison said that a biological/scenic inventory of the park would reveal yet more important natural features. Moore said that there are plans for an accessible trail at Hollow Rock, and a second parking lot (off Pickett Road). He said that information on the park should be posted on the Durham and Orange County websites.