This meeting was conducted through simultaneous communication pursuant to NCGS 166A-19.24. All votes were taken by roll call vote unless otherwise noted.

Participating through simultaneous communication via Webex for the entire meeting:

Others present: Council Liaison Jack Smith, Danna Widmar, Director of Special Projects, Marie Cefalo, Water Resources Outreach Supervisor, Matthew Flynn, Stormwater Development Manager, Todd Milam, Facilities Planner, Sami Bommu, Teen Council Representative, Sarah Schubert, Assistant Clerk.


1. CALL TO ORDER

Daly called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Scott Merkle
SECONDER: Patricia Cervenka
AYES: Merkle, Nanekar, Cervenka, Falk, Grieger, Daly, Cozzolino, Shouse, Gupta

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Khara Grieger
SECONDER: David Shouse
AYES: Merkle, Nanekar, Cervenka, Falk, Grieger, Daly, Cozzolino, Shouse, Gupta

3.1 Environmental Advisory Board - Advisory Board Meeting - Sep 8, 2020 6:00 PM
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Schubert shared with the board that they received two comments for the Public Comment period for this EAB meeting that were collected through email since Friday, October 9, 2020, and are attached to and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**. These emails had a variety of topics and all board members were sent a copy verbatim of each email received. One comment was received after the Public Comment period had closed and has been included in Exhibit A.

5. **CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

5.1 **Welcome new member**

Daly welcomed new member Miles Grubbs.

5.2 **Contact information request**

Daly shared that EAB Clerk, Schubert would reach out requesting updated contact information.

5.3 **Roles**

Daly explained transitions and role changes in the start of this new board year. Cefalo is officially the new staff liaison to the board. Widmar and Flynn will be providing support and expertise.

5.4 **Focus Work Topics: Carbon & Energy; Green Solutions; Solid Waste**

Daly shared that the board would be focusing on the three focus work areas, carbon and energy, green solutions, and solid waste. These areas are not official subcommittees, but a great way for board members to share their interest in these areas so staff will know who to reach out to when they are working on these topics, such as a policy up for review, documents up for review, or guidance and advice from the different expertise the board has to offer. Daly shared that the staff is committed and will provide an update in each area at EAB meetings.

Member asked who was determining what board members are interested in what areas. Daly suggested members make it known the areas they have expertise in and a passion for.
Daly reminded the board of quorum laws when meeting and discussing topics. Cefalo elaborated that the board can share information but cannot engage in a discussion if there is a quorum. Cefalo reiterated that staff will reach out to board members as related to their priorities and interests. Cefalo shared that staff welcomes the board’s opinions and advice.

Member shared that what the board needs to do is work in partnership with staff and in a way that does not move into the area of having a public meeting. Daly shared that anything done in these smaller discussions will be brought back to the full board for sharing and discussion.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Focus Work Report Outs

a. Carbon and Energy

Flynn shared Town Hall roof replacement will include provisions to ensure roof is solar ready, and a feasibility study will be conducted regarding the installation of solar on Town Hall. Staff will be bringing a subsequent staff report to Council for the installation of solar on Town Hall. Flynn shared staff is looking into the technology of titanium dioxide, which is proven to reduce emissions, but is under further investigation. Flynn shared the following upcoming meetings for staff with the following groups: National Home Builders, USGS Climatologist, and SolSmart.

Members are looking at draft results from the CO2 baseline.

b. Green Solutions

Cefalo provided an update on trees. The tree planting at Town facilities and greenways and parks is moving along with the North Cary Water Reclamation design being in the final stages, as well as at Carpenter Park. Wake Med Soccer Park is in the early stages of this process. Citizens have been engaged regarding the tree planting plan for Heater Park and Dorothy Park and Cefalo has received excellent feedback.

Member asked who is overseeing the tree plantings. Cefalo shared Cary’s horticulturalist, along with a contracted master arborist are overseeing and involved in those plantings.

The tree distribution program has been proposed and is being vetted. Tree pegs associated with the program that will link these trees with the Cary150 Celebration commemorative piece has shifted from being plastic to metal, which was advocated for by the board.
c. Solid Waste
Widmar shared there was a meeting with Towards Zero Waste that resulted in staff thinking there could be good partnership opportunity with them. They want to work together to get base line information on what is going on within the Town. Widmar encouraged the board to check them out if they are not familiar with Towards Zero Waste. The focus around their conversations has been on composting.

Member shared they want to reach out to staff to find out the full picture of what is being done with composting throughout the Town.

7.  NEW BUSINESS

7.1  Appointment of Vice Chair
Daly explained to the board how appointing of the Vice Chair will go. Daly nominated Merkle for the position. Daly opened it to the board for other nominations. Members concurred on electing Merkle as the Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Board.

RESULT:  APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:  David Shouse
SECONDER:  Shuchi Gupta
AYES:  Merkle, Nanekar, Cervenka, Falk, Grieger, Daly, Cozzolino, Shouse, Gupta

7.2  Open Space
Milam presented the open space proposal to the board, followed by a discussion. Milam’s presentation is attached to and incorporated herein as Exhibit B. He shared that staff is developing an open space policy and wanted to introduce it early to the board as their feedback will be important.

Milam explained that the open space policy will be unlike anything Cary has had before. Cary is transitioning from a development pattern of outward growth and greenfield development to one of redevelopment, infill, maintenance, and management, so the policy must transition. In this policy, there needs to be consideration to expand on the natural areas and open space Cary currently has, ask where are current gaps are and how we can connect them, and ways to enhance the natural systems that provide valuable ecosystems.
The policy is an opportunity to identify the goals and highlight the benefits, along with clarifying the public purpose of open space. Milam shared the following five topics to consider:

Access: Equitable access to open space and natural areas, providing citizens with spaces for physical activity and social interaction.

Preservation: Protection of ecological function and ecosystem services.

Restoration: Restoring the floodplain, wetland restoration, tree canopy plantings.

Connections: Wildlife move both daily and seasonally to survive. However, the habitats animals rely can be fragmented by housing, roads, fences, and other man-made barriers to reach food, water, shelter, and breeding sites.

Community: Enhancing Cary’s parks and other Town owned parcels for recreational and educational opportunities.

Widmar discussed mapping in relation to Milam’s presentation, with the focus on tree canopy.

Member questions and comments include:
- Liked the principals of the policy.
- Program involving a ten-minute walk to a park or natural area.
- Recommendation to look at what other communities have done with their policy.

### 7.3 Work Plan

Daly started the conversation with members on their priorities that they would like to see the board work on this year. Members shared the following priorities to be considered for the EAB’s work plan for the upcoming year. Daly shared they will continue work on the Work Plan at the November meeting.

Members shared the following interests to be considered for the work plan:
- Economic recovery after Covid, green recovery, transforming abandoned businesses, supporting active transportation, etc. related to the pandemic.
- Bringing in environmental and social expertise to a meeting.
- Composting
- Sustainable event guidelines
- Carbon goals, visualizing them and pathways to get us there (input gathering ways so we can see what will work for Cary)
- Strategy, priority, and plan for carbon goals and all EAB topics
- Communications within the EAB and staff
- Strong communications to citizens. How can we show Cary what we are doing and built trust?
- Quantifiable metrics for all we do; share with citizens
- Move carbon plan to actionable items
- Tree canopy, storm water, and open space initiatives
- Pando Project and education to citizens
- Jordan Lake One Water
- Council approval for Tree Canopy and open space policies
- Procedures /standards for building docs reviewed and updated by EAB
- Reduce carbon as related to GoTriangle, GoCary, and bus rapid transit
- Climate action plan
- Green infrastructure
- Jordan Lake One Water tie in
- Work with staff to strengthen staff communication to citizens through awareness and education

8. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS
   Council member Smith provided several updates, attached to and incorporated herein as Exhibit C.

9. STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS
   None

10. MEMBER SHARING
    None

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
    None

12. ADJOURNMENT
    The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.
Unfortunately, the rapid overdevelopment in combination with climate change in Cary has strained our natural resources and is decimating what currently makes Cary such a special town. As we see individual developments actively seek approval to shrink tree buffers and remove the buffers that absorbed storm water and minimized runoff, the Town has become more vulnerable to heavy rain events. Unfortunately, as we are already experiencing, rain events are becoming increasingly voluminous, which cause heavy erosive periods.

The pictures below is from an area around the Bond Park trail that my wife and I have walked hundreds of times. Unfortunately, because the individual developments upstream of this park are allowing large amounts of runoff, the trees have fallen, roots have become exposed, and soil eroded. We have only started coming to this park in 2012, so the impact on this is dramatic. Unchecked, the pedestrian bridge that connects the park will be unstable. In less than 10 years, the Town of Cary has contributed to this by allowing important tree canopy to be removed, allowed the shrinking of tree buffers, allowed clear-cutting, and not comprehensively looked at the amount of development as a whole to preserve these areas.
This picture was taken in the same area as the previous picture.

Not surprisingly, if we look at the stream buffer upstream of this part of the park, it is loaded with development, and the 100 ft. stream buffer required does nothing, but cause a funneling effect of runoff into this area.
“X” marks the spot where SIGNIFICANT erosion issues are occurring. This DID NOT look like this 8 years ago!!! Bond Park is packed with people every week where people enjoy the outdoors. The appearance and quality of life are in jeopardy under the watch of this current Town Council, unless they adopt the EAB recommendations to preserve tree canopy and restore natural areas. I encourage that the EAB challenge the Town Council TODAY, to adopt the EAB Tree Canopy recommendations, continue to encourage the P&Z board to reject requests to shrink buffers, amplify efforts to restore natural areas, buffers, and stop allowing developments to push their storm water into already overwhelmed receiving streams.

Thank you,

Nick Borisow

121 E Johnson St.

910-409-9974
May it please the Board:

You are cordially invited to Morrisville Fire Station 1 on Friday, October 16 between 7:30 and 9:30 am. [next to Morrisville Town Hall]

In front of the Fire Station there are two Longleaf pines [Endangered Species; was the dominant tree in Cary and Morrisville before Page cut them all down] along with a dogwood and a gingko. All are volcano mulched. There were three Longleafs. One died last year. The dogwood is near death. The gingko is severely desiccated.

Leaf & Limb has kindly offered to remediate the two remaining Longleafs at no cost to the Town, in hopes they can be saved. Mayor Cawley will be there along with some Longleaf lovers and a bunch of other folks. Should be quite a party.

The purpose of the demonstration is to persuade the Town that volcano mulching is the reason its parking lots, medians, and public grounds look so terrible, that it deprives citizens of the myriad benefits of healthy trees, and that it simply is a wanton waste taxpayers' money. Masks and distancing, please.

This video shows a remediation:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DfI12XNNqldA&data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;data=02%7C01%7Ceab.clerk%40townofcary.org%7Cb5a6e9a76b684dd8d03408d86f0559ed%7C23f98eb6c8ce4a93856244f005daf93f%7C1%7C0%7C637381416958084096&amp;reserved=0

Respectfully submitted,

~George McDowell
Based on my recent conversations with former and current town council staff in Apex, solar is a doable plan to achieve on all town-owned buildings. Actually, Apex has just now completed installing all of them on their buildings. The motivation Apex town council had with moving forward on this was from a simple cost benefit analysis, resulting in savings for the town after the first 7 years. And according to Bill Jensen, former Apex town councilman, it was not successful in the town of Apex just because Apex owns its own electric utility....

In fact, Bill Jenson is offering to share with the Town of Cary a strategy to get this done in our town. He has offered to work along side our town staff as a task force member to make this happen for Cary.

I see on tonight’s agenda that there is a Carbon and Energy Team associated with the EAB. And I know from Emily Barret’s update at the last EAB meeting, she is looking into ways to bring solar to the town of Cary. We do not have to waste time re-inventing the wheel. If anything, solar has gotten cheaper and more productive since Apex did their cost analysis a couple of years ago. I am imploring you to use Bill Jensen as an asset, as someone who has already figured out the math and actually gotten solar done for the town of Apex. So that Cary can have a smooth path forward to converting to solar.

Additionally, I have learned that town council in Apex have set a general and consistent expectation that all developers in Apex include solar conduit on all newly built homes, as well as solar panels and 2-ish EV charging stations at the clubhouse/amenity center, solar panels on the model home, and solar panels on some homes, particularly along the street to the development’s main entrance. While these are things that cannot be demanded or mandated by towns to
developers, Apex town council takes strong consideration and probable refusal to approve a rezoning request if the developer does not act in good faith to make these simple things part of the development plans. I know Cary town council understands this, as they have alluded to “setting a precedent” regarding rezoning requests of open space and the 1 instance of a request for solar conduit on the Silverton property rezoning request.

Apex is supporting a clean economy and quality of life for their residents through these simple and consistent requests. Cary residents are demanding the same. While the Dillon Rule and other state laws restrict towns in certain ways, they can no longer be Cary’s excuse to not move forward on these issues.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Borisow
Open Space in Cary

- Connections
- Enhancement
- Management
Open Space Policy

- Transition
- Expand
- Foundation
Access

Equitable access to open space and natural areas, providing residents with spaces for physical activity and social interaction
Preservation

Protection of ecological functions and ecosystem services
Mitigation of damaging flood events
Enhancement of water resources
Growing the tree canopy
Connections

Connecting wildlife habitat and forested areas to create functional corridors
Community Enhancing parks and other Town owned parcels for recreational and educational opportunities
• Access: Equitable access to open space and natural areas, providing residents with spaces for physical activity and social interaction

• Preservation: Protection of ecological functions and ecosystem services

• Restoration: Mitigation of damaging flood events, Enhancement of water resources, and Growing the tree canopy

• Connections: Connecting wildlife habitat and forested areas to create functional corridors

• Community: Enhancing parks and other town owned parcels for recreational and educational opportunities
Thank you

Todd.Milam@TownofCary.org
From the desk of

JACK SMITH
Council Liaison and District C Representative

TOP THREE ITEMS:

- I’m proud to share with you that Cary’s three water reclamation facilities received Platinum Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The awards recognize excellent sustained performance for greater than 5 consecutive years.

  Applicable to EAB . . . It’s important to acknowledge that in our everyday operations such as wastewater treatment, Cary’s water reclamation facilities protect the environment by removing nutrients and returning highly treated water back to our natural streams, and by recovering nutrient rich biosolids—which we call Enviro Gems—that are sold and used as a soil conditioner and fertilizer in agribusiness applications.

- Connecting with Cary’s Crabtree Creek Greenway, the last link in Morrisville’s Hatcher Creek Greenways opened last month. This connection provides an alternate method of transportation for Morrisville and western Cary residents to commute to the Weston business area and/or to parks such as Umstead without using a car.

  Applicable to EAB . . . As noted in the Carbon Reduction Recommendations and Cary Community Plan, these
greenway connections make us more of a bike friendly community and support a healthy environment.

- At the last Council meeting in September, the Silverton multi-family proposal passed. The applicant committed to hiring a consultant to study the feasibility of using solar panels if it doesn’t exceed $10,000. They also committed to two EV charging stations; on-site composting; glass, plastic, and paper recycling (we don’t collect from multi-families), and LED lighting.
  
  Applicable to EAB . . .We continue to work with/encourage/nudge developers to provide elements that support a healthy environment.

OTHER UPDATES:

- Last week we received confirmation of Cary's exceptional credit ratings. Three agencies, Moody's, Standard & Poors and Fitch, each recognized Cary's consistent strong management, planning and financial performance and awarded their highest AAA credit rating for both Cary's general obligation bonds and revenue bonds.

- Early voting for the November 3 general election starts this Thursday, October 15. Cary sites include the Senior Center in Bond Park and the Herb Young Community Center on Town Hall campus. We have added a temporary GoCary stop near Herb Young.