

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 16, 2025
5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission

Tixie Fowler, Chair

Joe Weber, Commission Member

Kassie Diehl, Commission Member

Scott Leslie, Commission Member

Jon Davis, Commission Member

1. Call to Order

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

2. Action Item**Ratification of December 2024 Meeting Minutes**

[Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission – Regular - Dec 19, 2024 5:00 PM](#)

3. Ongoing Business**A. Council Update - (Councilman Bruce Gaynor)**

- Status of opportunity requested by PG&T to share the Commission's strategic recommendations for 2025 at Council Retreat.
- Status of policy regarding future placement of speed bumps, pedestrian crossings, etc within City limits.
- Update on Downtown Development Authority re: Extension of Skin Alley into Betty Mauldin Park.

B. Tree Preservation Board Update (Terry Sutton and Charlie Riehm)

- Terry and Charlie to provide update on December Tree Preservation Board (TPB) meeting as relevant to collaborative action. Charlie sharing thoughts regarding TPB's vision for PG&T support of projects proposed for Johnson Dean Forest Preserve.

C. Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan Updates

- Joe Weber will provide highlights of 2025 AARP Community Challenge grants opportunities
- Hunter Rawls will share overview of the following projects currently underway:
 - proposed green roof kiosk in Pinnacle Park
 - trees installation at Summerour Park
- Scott Leslie will share findings and progress on trail development on East Norcross leveraging land that is already owned by City. Scott will also update the Commission on status of LCI Grant + ARC "Call for Projects" (open now)
- Tixie Fowler will facilitate assignments of projects and/or tasks to board members re the following:
 - Grants (research and develop list of opportunities w cycle dates and potential project goals)
 - RFP Development (church parking)
 - Signage and kiosk development in Pinnacle Park

Suggested Reading (for discussion). Source: PGT&GI Plan, 2024:

"Protect the City's Ecological Bones" (p. 117, 119)

"Strategic Stewardship to enhance Nature" (pgs 121 - 131)

"Create Natural Connections to Recreation" (pgs 135 - 137)

"Optimize Green Spaces to Serve Community Needs" (pg 139)

"Funding" (pgs 151-154)

4. New Business

None.

5. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda**6. Adjourn**

Next meeting March 21, 2024

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 19, 2024
5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission

Tixie Fowler, Chair

Joe Weber, Commission Member

Kassie Diehl, Commission Member

Scott Leslie, Commission Member

Jon Davis, Commission Member

1. Call to Order

The Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission was called to order at 5:04 PM by Chair Tixie Fowler.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Departed
Tixie Fowler	Chair	Present	
Joe Weber	Commission Member	Present	6:30 PM
Kassie Diehl	Commission Member	Present	6:30 PM
Scott Leslie	Commission Member	Present	
Jon Davis	Commission Member	Present	

Additional Attendance

Michael Jones - Parks staff liaison
 Hunter Rawls - Landscape and Beautification Manager
 Terry Sutton - Tree Preservation Board liaison
 Matthew Myers - City Council

2. Action Item

Ratification of November 2024 meeting minutes.

1. Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission - Special Called Meeting - Jul 10, 2024, 5:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kassie Diehl, Commission Member
SECONDER:	Jon Davis, Commission Member
AYES:	Fowler, Weber, Diehl, Leslie, Davis

2. Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission – Regular Meeting – Nov 21, 2024, 5:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kassie Diehl, Commission Member
SECONDER:	Jon Davis, Commission Member
AYES:	Fowler, Weber, Diehl, Leslie, Davis

3. Ongoing Business**B. Council Update – (Councilman Bruce Gaynor)**

*****Item “B” on agenda moved up to accommodate schedule of Councilman Matt Myers.

- Councilman Myers noted that council is currently reviewing city policy regarding location of speed bumps, pedestrian crossings and other key transportation safety elements in the city. Tixie asked if bike paths or share-ways were being considered in that review, noting that share-ways could be added without widening streets or sidewalks. Councilman Myers suggested identifying a contiguous route for bicyclists throughout the city where a share-way could potentially be created, keeping in mind significant safety concerns like hills and corners (i.e. limited sight lines for drivers.) Myers felt it would be “ideal” if this contiguous trail could touch on the future Greenway and told the Board about an existing “Gwinnett Bike Trail Map” that they might review for this project.

TO DO: Tixie to locate this County map and share with Board before next meeting.

- Myers also suggested this kind of “brainstorming” could be beneficial at upcoming Mayor and Council Retreat if the agenda allows time, and suggested asking Mayor and Council (via email) if PG&T can get on the Retreat agenda for this purpose.

TO DO: Tixie to send out email asking Mayor and Council for permission to be added to agenda at 2025 Retreat.

- Discussion:
Myers asked PG&T to reconsider their recommendation to NDA (Norcross Development Authority) in 2024 and Chairperson Kathleen Allen regarding the Syriac Orthodox Church's request for parking space on City land adjacent to the church along Mitchell Rd. Myers shared Council's ideas for use of that 10-acre parcel, noting recent site quality tests deemed it too impractical to remediate for residential or commercial development. PG&T was aware of this impracticality; however, the Board was not aware of Council's ideas for the space. All ideas consistently included the need for a public bathroom and parking area somewhere on that 10-acre parcel (not all of it). PG&T agreed (informally) to support more research into the feasibility of developing a private/public parking space in that area, noting that a private/public parking lot there could provide improved access to the future Norcross Greenway and Piedmont Pathway.
- TO DO(s):
 - Councilman Myers to contact Church and ask for # of spaces needed, and envisioned timeline.
 - Tixie to inform Mayor and Council of PG&T recommendation to set aside identified city-owned parcels on East side of Norcross for a dedicated trail/greenway with 10 acres in discussion with the Church to be considered a trail access for the future Norcross Greenway.
 - Jon Davis to work with Staff to draft an RFP for a conceptual design and budget proposal in time for Council reviews to include in 2026 budget planning.
- Scott reported he has identified the key land parcels on the East side trails system (includes privately owned, County owned and City owned) as proposed by the PGT&GI Plan trails map - the thumb drive with this information was hand delivered to Councilman Myers at this meeting.
- Councilman Myers left the meeting at the end of his presentation, approximately 6:15pm.

A. Tree Preservation Board (TPB) Update *(Terry Sutton)*

Terry noted TPB continues to be concerned about Skin Alley extension into Betty Mauldin Park and PG&T once again agreed they supported a collaborative interest between PG&T and TPB in being kept advised by Council and/or the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of any development in concept planning and planning advancements in general. Terry also noted TPB's ongoing interest in developing Johnson Dean Forest Preserve to increase connectivity between Barton Street and Holcomb Bridge. Terry said that he had invited TPB members to attend the next PG&T meeting to discuss and Charlie Riehm agreed he would attend, and Tixie said she would add Charlie to the January agenda.

B. (see Council Update above)

At 6:30pm, Board members Joe Weber and Kassie Diehl left the meeting.

C. Parks, Greenspaces, Trails & Green Infrastructure Master Plan - *(Tixie Fowler)*

Due to the lengthy discussion relevant to this topic earlier (with Councilman Myers) and the fact that 2 of the 5 Board members had left the meeting, Tixie proposed delaying the project assignments until the January meeting. Board members Jon Davis and Scott Leslie agreed.

The following agenda items were addressed briefly:

- Tixie reported that she was able to reach the Gwinnett County director in charge of the Gwinnett Piedmont Pathway develop and was told Len Housley had already contacted him to provide an update of the PGT&GI Plan and Norcross' interest in collaborative development. The director Glenn Boorman confirmed that he is aware of the new Master Plan.
- Hunter reported that he continues to work on forest management plans for both Pinnacle Park and Johnson Dean Forest Preserve and is actively working to increase the quality of native plant habitat as well as document best practice

4. New Business

None.

5. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda**6. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm made by Scott; seconded by Jon. Motion passed 3-0.

Next meeting is January 16, 2025, at 5pm.