

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, March 20, 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

The PGT Commission meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM by Chair Tixie Fowler.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tixie Fowler	Chair	Present	
Joe Weber	Commission Member	Present	
Kassie Diehl	Commission Member	Present	
Scott Leslie	Commission Member	Present	
Jon Davis	Commission Member	Present	

Attending

Len Housley - Director of Public Works

Michael Jones - Staff Liaison

Terry Sutton - Tree Preservation Board liaison

Kajal Jain - public (parent of Taylor Jain)

Taylor Jain - Girl Scout

2. Action Item: Ratification of February 2025 Meeting Minutes

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission – Regular Meeting - Feb 20, 2025 5:00 PM

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

3. Ongoing Business

A. Council Update - Councilman Bruce Gaynor was not present; no updates reported.

B. Tree Preservation Board Update

Terry said that there were no relevant updates to share other than the one Charlie gave regarding the TPB's continued interest in working with Christ Church to extend a trail through Johnson Dean Forest. Since Kassie has been working with Charlie on this project, Kassie reported. In her report she noted that the church is open to discussions and is asking the Diocese for permission to consider a land sale or other option for public use. She noted that the TPB recognizes funding is a concern, adding that Charlie is suggesting short term and long term options to securing church-owned land for a trail extension. Charlie proposed a trail lease until a purchase can be negotiated.

Discussion: While the PGT&GI Plan recommends using available SPLOST funds to use as matching funds for greenspace development grants, an agreement to extend the trail in Johnson Dean Forest Preserve seems like a valuable investment for the city. It was also noted that TPB is assigned management of the forest preserve and therefore members agreed the TPB should move forward with their interest in confidence that the PGT Commission supports them per the following action item. Tixie underlined that the City Manager Eric Johnson has, in the past, made it very clear that city legal advisors are the ones to pursue any financial or contractual discussions; therefore, pending the following action item, the PGT Commission recommends TPB takes the lead on this specific trails project and work with City Legal per protocol.

ACTION ITEM: A motion that the PGT Commission supports Tree Board's interest in expanding access into Johnson Dean Forest Preserve with preference to prioritizing land/trail use lease opportunities.

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

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

Len Housley shared his observations made during a walk with Council members along the site proposed for the Piedmont Pathway and adjacent city-owned greenspaces being reviewed for future greenspace development. Len noted that Councilman Gaynor suggested an informal short term approach that includes bulldozing or mowing an informal trail along the route proposed for the Piedmont Pathway. Tixie supported this approach noting that this informal and low cost approach is called “tactical urbanism” and could potentially be implemented for low cost using volunteer labor and engaging Eagle Scouts to build bridges over the creek where needed. Len didn't voice his opinion of this strategy, but continued explaining his recommendation that a more wholistic view of a “larger picture” area of greenspace be considered, as opposed to the more limited greenspace area initially proposed for review by PG&T. Len proposed an RFP be generated as a concept scope also incorporating Gwinnett County's conceptualized Piedmont Pathway (as it passes through the City of Norcross) and to include phasing recommendations for the entire greenspace. The Commission agreed that the goal is to secure a wholistic picture of the greenspaces and their development opportunities in a format that will support grant applications as well as allow the city to move forward more quickly and efficiently with phasing specific site planning.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to support staff's recommendation of an RFP for a scope concept report that provides a wholistic perspective of the Piedmont Pathway Concept extending to Jimmy Carter Blvd, with the goal of supporting better and more informed decisions for phasing strategies and also strengthens future funding opportunities.

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

4. New Business

None.

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

None.

6. Adjourn: Next meeting April 17, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM with a motion made by Jon Davis, seconded by Scott Leslie.