

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Special Called Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 25, 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 Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission Special Called Meeting was called to order at 5:30 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	Arrived after ratification of May minutes	

Attending Staff & Public

Michael Jones – Staff Liaison

Len Housley – Director of Parks, Public Works & Utilities

2. Action Item: Ratification of May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission – Regular Meeting – May 15, 2025 5:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kassie Diehl, Commission Member
SECONDER:	Joe Weber, Commission Member
AYES:	Tixie Fowler, Joe Weber, Kassie Diehl, Scott Leslie
ABSENT:	Jon Davis – Arrived after ratification of minutes

3. Ongoing Business

A. Council Update - (Councilman Bruce Gaynor)

Councilman Gaynor was not present.

In Gaynor's absence, Len Housley presented the concept drawings being developed under the direction of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) with support from Council. Len noted the following:

1. Columbia Engineering is drafting the concept plan
2. All trees behind City Hall will be cut, new trees planted
3. Current plan is to honor the city's agreement with adjacent resident to preserve 2 parking spaces (resident's only parking for house)
4. Stormwater calculations not done to date - may require underground retainment if don't impact existing pollinator demo garden in front of city hall (potential cost ~ \$300,000)
5. Len is proposing trees be planted in "diamonds" throughout new parking area to increase shade and aesthetics without decreasing parking.

PG&T voiced the following concerns and recommendations:

1. use pervious pavers for parking surface instead of asphalt, as could potentially reduce cost of stormwater mitigation and also increase aesthetic and reduce heat island affect of area.
2. Proposed concept is mediocre at best. The Board agreed "say no to mediocrity" recommending a more innovative approach to solving stormwater and maintaining/increasing aesthetics that support overall community goals and values.
3. History has not proven additional parking solves parking problems in downtown, noting that many spaces around City Hall are empty during concerts, downtown events and peak business hours. What will be done differently? How will visitors know about new lot
 1. add tiny boutique kiosks along brick pavers through Betty Mauldin Park to extend downtown towards new parking lot.

2. Theme the area more robustly so it (Betty Mauldin and the new parking lot itself) become destinations, such as art, sculptures, gardens, etc.
3. add parking for bikes and golf carts
4. Board asked Len what the future cost savings would be if more money were invested up front on innovative stormwater mitigation vs saving money in the short term with less innovative practices? Len agreed to see if he could find case studies and/or calculate potential savings.
5. Tixie reported that she had attended the most recent “Coffee with Council” and that Councilmen Gaynor and Cheek, and DDA Chair Jim Eyre had assured her “publicly and confidently” that there are no plans to impact the existing Pollinator Demo Garden at all during this project.

Overall, PG&T is not satisfied with first concept drawing, noting lack of more modern stormwater mitigation trends and innovative design.

B. Tree Preservation Board Update - (Terry Sutton)

C. RFP for Piedmont Pathway Concept Report Update (Michael Jones)

Michael reported that the City has received 4 proposals from contractors and RFP is closed. He will work with PG&T members Scott Leslie and Jon Davis to review submissions and use an approved rubric to select contractor to prepare feasibility study for proposed area(s).

D. Proposed Bike Trail Route Update (Len Housely and Scott Leslie)

Scott reported a conversation with Councilman Gaynor in which Gaynor recommended PG&T not focus on this initiative until a transportation study for Vision Zero is finalized and approved by the City. Gaynor felt that once that study is in place, it would make more sense for PG&T to move forward with identifying and formalizing a bike route with related safety measures throughout the city.

Scott had already drawn a proposed bike route for tis initiative - it was suggested he share it with Norcross Sustainability Man anger Jalia Killings to consider for expanding the Pedal Norcross event route.

TO DO: Scott to send his route draft to Jalia.

E. Neighborhood Landscape Improvement - (Tixie Fowler)

Tixie reported on her meeting with City Arborist Bruce Avery, Discovery Garden Park Chairman Paul Sumner, and Parks Superintendent Michael Jones. Topic was Bruce's idea for improving greenspaces that connect neighborhoods and line sidewalks (potential linear parks) throughout the Norcross community on East side of Buford Highway. Discussion included identifying the right-of-way along Mitchell Road as a linear park, with effort made by the city to improve maintenance and landscape management where feasible for an improved aesthetic and to increase ecological health.

ACTION ITEM: A motion that the city address existing invasive plant and tree management concerns along Mitchell Road in preparation for the future route of the Norcross Greenway.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS 5:0]
MOVER:	Jon Davis, Commission Member
SECONDER:	Kassie Diehl, Commission Member
AYES:	Jon Davis, Tixie Fowler, Joe Weber, Kassie Diehl, Scott Leslie

4. New Business

None.

5. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda
None.

6. Adjourn
Next regularly scheduled meeting July 17, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.