

RES-2020-001

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION FOR A PATH FORWARD PROCESS FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT
OF THE GREENE TRACT**

WHEREAS, in 1984, Orange County and the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill jointly purchased the property known as the Greene Tract (164 acres more or less); and

WHEREAS, in 2000, title to 60 acres of this property was deeded exclusively to the Orange County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for non-landfill solid waste purposes under provisions of the 1999 Interlocal Agreement for Solid Waste Management; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the remaining 104 acres was retained in joint ownership by the three governments (with the intent that the future uses of the property would be determined at a future time); and

WHEREAS, the 60-acre parcel (designated as the Headwaters Preserve by the Orange County Board of Commissioners on October 18, 2016) was purchased by Orange County via reimbursement to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 Orange County and the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill adopted the 2002 Resolution which called for approximately 86 acres for open space and 18 acres for affordable housing on the jointly-owned land; and

WHEREAS, the Greene Tract is part of the Historic Rogers Road Neighborhood where the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro have researched market development potential and zoning to implement a planning program in the overall area; and

WHEREAS, over the last 16 years, various joint planning studies including the Historic Rogers Road Task Force Report and Mapping Our Community's Future, and collaborations with the community and school district have suggested land use and acreage needs; and

WHEREAS, Mayors for Carrboro and Chapel Hill and the Orange County Commissioners Chair have agreed to jointly pursue an update to the 2002 Resolution and have been meeting with respective management and supporting staff, as suggested by the elected officials at an Assembly of Governments meeting in 2017, to determine next steps for preservation and development of the Greene Tract; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2019 the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and on February 19, 2019 the Orange County Commissioners voted to approve a resolution to support adjusting the property lines of the 104-acre jointly-owned tract and the 60-acre Headwaters Preserve, creating a jointly-owned preserve, indicating land uses, and conceptually agreeing to consider development of the Greene Tract; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2019 the Chapel Hill Town Council voted to approve the exploration of ways to protect the County-owned Headwaters Preserve and a proposed jointly-owned preserve area; and

WHEREAS, the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools in a letter dated May 22, 2019, have

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indicated the district's continued interest in designation of a school site to be located on the Greene Tract; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2019 the Chapel Hill Town Council adopted a resolution to support adjusting the property lines on the tract and the Headwaters Preserve, creating a jointly-owned preserve, and conceptually agreeing to consider development of the Greene Tract; and

WHEREAS, at that time the Chapel Hill Town Council did not agree to designating the land uses indicated on the maps attached to the Carrboro and County's resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the three jurisdictions agreed conceptually to the following land use designations:

- Approximately 22 acres for joint preserve;
- A minimum of 16 acres for public school site and public recreational facility site;
- Approximately 66 acres for housing/mixed use; and

WHEREAS, the Chapel Hill Town Council also adopted a resolution on July 15, 2019 committing to holding a series of community meetings, soliciting input from the public and respective advisory boards regarding land uses and densities, initiate environmental and connectivity assessment; and initiate steps to protect the jointly-owned preserve and the Headwaters Preserve in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, an environmental assessment would be based on the highest protective environmental regulations of the three jurisdictions (Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Orange County) and as also defined by the Army Corps of Engineers for wetlands determination; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of working together, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Orange County elected boards have considered this resolution to determine a joint path forward; and

WHEREAS, each board will consider this resolution in January 2020 outlining next steps and provide direction to their respective staff; and

WHEREAS, this resolution attempts to consolidate the differences and supersede the resolutions adopted in February 2019 by the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and the Orange County Commissioners and the resolution adopted in July 2019 by the Chapel Hill Town Council; and

WHEREAS, analysis of the Greene Tract's past, present, and future identified the following land use needs and goals:

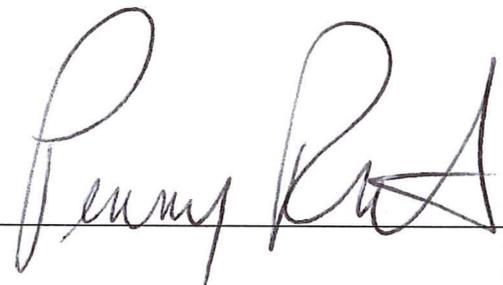
- Promote mixed-income housing opportunities; development of housing that serves a range of incomes
- Preserve valuable environmental features including tree canopy, open space, stream buffers, and wildlife corridors;
- Protect historical and cultural resources;
- Promote cost effective infrastructure;
- Incorporate school and recreation sites;
- Earmark development areas for mixed income housing and mixed use potential; and

WHEREAS, the staff work group considered direction from the respective governing boards, specialized staff, housing partners, and community in developing a conceptual process for the

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Orange County Board of Commissioners:

1. Jointly pursue an environmental assessment of the entire 164 acres to consider designating the most environmentally sensitive area as the Headwaters Preserve with a cost share Interlocal Agreement for that analysis of 43/43/14 percent (Orange County/Chapel Hill/Carrboro respectively).
 - a. Environmental assessment of the site should include site topography, habitat for species of special concern, wetlands, stream corridors, and cultural and historic resources.
 - b. Best practical alternative shall be evaluated to balance environmental and infrastructure needs (i.e. roadway, water, sewer, stormwater, etc.).
2. Jointly pursues a Memorandum of Understanding for future decision-making process. This document will be used to ensure the parties participate in good faith in the planning process for potential development of the Greene Tract. The document will describe community outreach efforts.
3. Jointly agrees to have a joint public information session that includes Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro a minimum of 2 months after the Environmental Assessment has been completed by the consultant and received by the jurisdictions.
4. Jointly agrees to not initiate formal further public engagement until completion of the Memorandum of Understanding document.
5. Jointly agrees any potential developers of the Greene Tract may rely upon and utilize the environmental assessment contemplated herein and shall not be required to conduct or obtain a separate environmental assessment.
6. Agrees to discussion of the Greene Tract at the 2020 Assembly of Governments meeting on January 28, 2020.

This the 21 day of January, 2020.



Penny Rich, Chair
Orange County Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Donna Baker, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners