

Commission approves review of recreation plans

By **SCOTT GREIG**
City editor

The Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Commission met Wednesday, May 21, and unanimously voted to approve the development review criteria submitted by director James Herstine.

The commission said the criteria would be a great help in controlling and regulating development in the Chapel Hill area, which according to them, is growing too fast.

The criteria, once published, will become part of a permanent public record that can be viewed by developers who are planning to build in Chapel Hill or any of the outlying areas.

The publication will outline what would be required of developers with regard to recreational facilities at any new development.

Commission member Mike Love-

man explained that the report has been needed for a long time and could have been used to prevent problems with developers that have surfaced in the past.

"Developers often look to do what's easiest for them," Loveman said. "That's not always what's in the best interest of the subdivision residents."

He gave the Winding Ridge subdivision as an example of the many problems that can arise with new developments.

According to Loveman, the developer of that project first wanted to submit a payment in lieu of land to be used for recreational facilities in that area. He said the developer later changed his mind and decided to supply land within the development area for suitable facilities.

Commission member Gertrude London voiced concern that adher-

ence to the criteria might alleviate certain pleasurable features of present subdivisions.

She recommended that the criteria call for "active recreation areas" because nature trails or other "passive recreation areas" may be overlooked by developers.

"Facilities like tennis and basketball courts are important, but I think it's equally important to make sure that there are more peaceful forms of recreation available to the residents of these developments," London said.

On other matters, the commission voted to delay action on the proposed development of the Morgan Bluff subdivision until it had a chance to walk the grounds of the building site on June 8 with the Greenways Committee.

The commission also voted to delay action on the discussion of the

new draft interim land use plan for Chapel Hill.

The plan, which was proposed by the Planning Board to update the 1977 land use plan, will also be the subject of a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. as part of the scheduled Chapel Hill Town Council meeting.

Herstine reminded the commission that detailed studies spread out over the next 18 months would be required to refine the plan into "workable" shape.

"The plan is needed so that we can better guide development," Herstine said. "We can also use it to control growth to some extent."

The commission's proposed fee increases for next year drew opposition from London, who felt that the increase in user fees for the various facilities was too great.

"I personally think the rates shouldn't be raised," London said.

"If they have to, though, it shouldn't be more than 10 percent, which would correspond to the cost of living index."

Herstine, in reply to London's statement, said there is more than the cost of living index to look at.

"Operating costs have grown at a rate faster than that of the cost of living," Herstine said.

Kani Hurow, the commission's chairwoman, said the extra money was partly needed to pay staff members who were being lured away by higher paying jobs.

She said it was getting increasingly difficult to keep qualified people on staff because "even fast food services now pay their employees well over the minimum wage."

Hurow said, "Our big problem is that we're always in need of something, whether it's money or volunteers."

Local business falters during summer slowdown

By **RANDALL PATTERSON**
Staff Writer

The end of the spring semester at UNC signals the exodus of thousands of students, and to local businesses, the disappearance of thousands of dollars.

Greg Carroll, a computer systems coordinator who reports the enrollment statistics for the University,

said enrollment during the spring semester was 21,032 students, but the amount of students who had pre-registered for the first summer session was only 4,264.

Franklin Street businesses reported being deeply affected by the students' departure. Some stores in University Mall said that a diverse clientele buffered them against the

exodus. No establishment said the situation was life-threatening or unexpected.

Fast food, a student staple, seems to suffer most. Burger King on Franklin Street has cut its weekday hours and trimmed its staff. Management is also planning some marketing schemes to promote sales, said assistant manager Juan Johnson.

"Our business is predominantly students. We've gone from a \$2,500 day to an \$1,100 day," Johnson said.

At the Franklin Street Record Bar, employee Lisa Marie Jernigan said workers suffered along with the profits.

"You have to figure out new ways to entertain yourself," she said. "Basically, it's pretty dull."

Kenneth Mann, a chef at the Rathskeller for 35 years, said that each summer, business is progressively better than the year before.

"We get the summer students and all the seminars and stuff," Mann said. "A lot more come from all around because of the parking. It's better."

Mark Fisher, the owner of Small World Travel, said the company was not harmed by the loss of students,

their departure actually made life easier.

"We have an easier time finding a parking space," Fisher said. "So business isn't affected, but the operation of it is."

University Mall stores suffer similarly, and can find no joy in the students' leaving. Belk-Leggett and Ivey's, the two largest stores in the mall, said they have been spared the suffering because of the diversity of their clientele.

"We are a regional department store," said Harry Culp, Belk-Leggett's regional sales manager. "We draw from Siler City, Durham, all over. Our junior department is fairly affected, but that's about it."

Kerr Drugs has no such advantage. Cashier Natalie Mason-Fry said there weren't as many customers.

"I don't know how much slower it's been, but I've been able to do all my reading," she said.

Mighty Casey's, a fast food establishment at the mall, said about one-half of its business was students. Although hours are the same, the eight employee staff has been trimmed to six to compensate for lost income.

Director not to show film

From Associated Press reports

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Sir Richard Attenborough, in Zimbabwe to film a movie about the late black South African activist Steve Biko, said Monday he is concerned about possible sabotage.

Attenborough, the Oscar-winning director of Ghandi, held a news conference on his new film, "Asking for Trouble," as the continent marked Africa Day. He said he does not want the movie shown in South Africa if it is censored or its audiences segregated.

However, John Briley, who wrote the screenplay, said he hopes it will be seen there.

"There are a lot of well-intentioned Afrikaners in South Africa but they don't know the realities of daily life for blacks in segregated townships perhaps only five miles from their doors," he said.



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