

Council Tables Affordable Housing

By KEVIN KRASNOW
Staff Writer

Council members and business leaders were divided over the effectiveness of an affordable housing proposal during a public hearing before the Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday night.

The proposal, drafted by council members Flicka Bateman and Joyce Brown, seeks to limit the size of houses in order to decrease housing costs. The plan would put a cap on how many large houses a developer could build in an area.

The proposal would require developers of major subdivisions to make 15 percent of the dwelling units less than 1,350 square feet. Developers of housing areas with 20 homes or more would have to make 15 percent of the dwelling units less than 1,100 square feet.

Carrboro Alderman Alex Zaffron, who wrote up a similar proposal that was adopted in Carrboro, said the ordinance had a number of benefits.

"This plan is a market control," he

said. "It will guarantee a diversity in housing, styles and costs."

Rich Leber, president of the Orange County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, praised the council for addressing the housing issue.

"I want to compliment you for trying to increase the stock for affordable housing in Chapel Hill," he said. "I welcome the opportunity to work with the public and private sectors on this issue."

However, other Chapel Hill residents in the community thought the proposal would have negative consequences.

John Ryan, chairman of a Chapel Hill organization called Tax Watch, said the proposal could hurt the town eco-



Town Council member **Joyce Brown** cosponsored an ordinance to help affordable housing.

nomic. "Some of the businesses would go outside of Chapel Hill and the tax base would shrink," he said.

But, Bateman said she hoped the local business area would find the proposal favorable.

"I would like to see the development community and homebuilder's association get behind this," she said.

Bateman said the large size of homes in Chapel Hill usually could only be bought by the wealthy.

"All big houses attract people at a certain income bracket," she said. "I've never heard of a rich person living in a cottage."

Brown said the issue of affordable housing had plagued the area for years.

"Affordable housing has been an issue since I joined the council," she said.

"It is a concern not just for Chapel Hill but for the entire Triangle."

Council member Kevin Foy said he was concerned that the proposal was too vague in its original wording.

"I don't know if this is the solution," he said. "I don't know what market we are aiming at - it's not clearly defined."

The council voted to have the town staff explore other options and receive a report from the town manager at the April 10 council meeting.

Bateman said she hoped the town would continue to move forward to remedy the affordable housing dilemma.

"We need to stop the rhetoric and start doing something," she said.

"All big houses attract people at a certain income bracket. I've never heard of a rich person living in a cottage."

FLICKA BATEMAN
Town Council Member

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Town Approves Mall Special Use Permit

The Town Council considered expansion plans for Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house Monday night.

By ENYONAM KPEGLO
Staff Writer

As Chapel Hill's Town Council resolved University Mall renovation problems Monday night, hearings for the expansion of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house began.

Concerned parties had one last chance to contribute suggestions regarding mall improvements, while representatives from Delta Kappa Epsilon were able to address council members in support of proposed expansions.

The proposal for renovations at University Mall was unanimously accepted by council members after the

discussion of handicap ramp installation and a time stipulation prohibiting the recycling center operation between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Council member Flicka Bateman said it was time for a decision to be made regarding redevelopment of the mall.

"I think the mall redevelopment problems would have been resolved at the last hearing, but (the council) wanted to honor the request of Binkley Baptist Church (for more time)," she said. "When such a respectable institution like that talks, we have to listen."



Council member **Flicka Bateman** said it was time for a final decision concerning University Mall.

Neighboring Ridgefield resident Gary Bird said he was glad a decision was reached concerning the recycling center operation hours.

"I'm happy that the council was able to help in addressing the complaints of residents in my area," Bird said. "Now, I'm just waiting to see their actions implemented."

Town Council member Edith Wiggins said that because council concerns were finally resolved regarding the mall she was ready to tackle the fraternity house expansion.

"The council will work with the fraternity and owners to get the proposed renovations," she said. "We want to ensure that a sprinkler system is installed because it's the most important addition."

The renovation proposition includes the addition of a fire sprinkler system, and 1,720 square feet added to the site in the form of two stair towers, a paved terrace, a brick walkway and widened drive-

way entrances with one-way traffic through the parking lot.

In addition, the plan calls for a reduction in the number of parking spaces at the fraternity house and the addition of one handicapped space.

Bateman said she was not opposed to expansion of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house, which is located at 132 S. Columbia St., but she was concerned about building a terrace on the front lawn.

"A patio means an outside place to drink and make noise," she said. "I think the council has a responsibility to ensure that neighboring residents will not be disturbed by unwanted noise from outside the house."

The council delayed decision on the fraternity house expansion until April 10 for further input.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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Campus Calendar

Today

12:30 p.m. - The James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence will hold "Tuesdays With Friday," a discussion with N.C. Supreme Court Justice Henry Frye and N.C. Central University Chancellor Emeritus LeRoy Walker. The discussion will be facilitated by UNC-system President Emeritus Bill Friday.

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - The International Center will sponsor a **tax seminar** for all international students and scholars in 268 Venable Hall to provide help with doing taxes.

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Ambassador Robert Seiple, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom and former president of the humanitar-

ian group World Vision, will speak along with his son Chris Seiple, who is the author of the book "The U.S. Military/NGO Relationship in Humanitarian Interventions," to Great Decisions on the subject "Humanitarian Intervention" in 100 Hamilton Hall.

The lecture will include a 30-minute period of questions and answers and is free to the public.

7 p.m. - **Campus Crusade for Christ** will hold a Jesus Film showing in 265 Phillips Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Senior Information Day** will be held in the Great Hall of the Student Union. Caps and gowns, door prizes, free Coke and popcorn will be available. Representatives will be on hand from several University departments to assist students with graduation plans.

3:30 p.m. - The **Anthropology Club** will hold a Course Critique in the Anthropology Lounge in 313 Alumni Building.

2ND ANNUAL TIMOTHY B. BURNETT SEMINAR FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

"Promoting Best Practice for High School and College Students With LD and ADHD"

with keynote speaker
Edward Hallowell, M.D.

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March 28, 2000

The Friday Center, UNC-CH

MORNING, PROFESSIONALS ONLY - \$35 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

8:00 Arrive and sign-in
9:00 Welcoming comments: **Dr. Edward Hallowell**
9:45 Break-out sessions
11:30 Panel Discussion with morning speakers
12:45 Buffet lunch at Friday Center

AFTERNOON, GENERAL PUBLIC & PROFESSIONALS - FREE OF CHARGE

1:00 Arrive and sign-in
2:00 Keynote address by **Dr. Edward Hallowell**
3:30 Snack break/book signing
4:00 Break-out sessions on Postsecondary issues


- ▶ one for students only (with Dr. Hallowell)
- ▶ one for all participants ("Coaching at the College Level: Implications for Students with ADHD & LD")

5:30 Ends

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
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of the
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for
"Activism and Leadership Development"

A conversation between Carolina students, Chancellor Emeritus of North Carolina Central University, LeRoy Walker and North Carolina Supreme Court Justice, Henry Frye.

Moderated by:
William C. Friday, University of North Carolina President Emeritus



All students and all questions are welcome.

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