

Town Approves Citizen Work Group

By ENVONAM KPEGLLO
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously approved a citizen work group to address a rental licensing proposal and the responsibilities held by both landlords and tenants.

The work group, which the council approved Monday night, would examine ways that student and permanent residents could cohabit Chapel Hill neighborhoods without excessive noise, litter or vehicles from often overcrowded rental houses.

The council will appoint local homeowners, students, landlords, apartment managers, historic district commission representatives and two council members to the work group by late April. Applicants will be solicited through newspaper ads and mailings.

Lee Conner, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, said he wanted a program to ensure the accountability of area landlords. "It's important to decrease the number of absentee landlords and make them accessible to their tenants by e-mail and phone," he said. "We also want student renters to be informed of their rights and responsibilities so they can be actively exercised."

Jim Maney, chairman of the Independent Rental Owners Council, said his organization offered training programs to independent landlords in the area. "The programs include courses in tenant relations, problem-solving, landscaping and many other landlord responsibilities," he said.

Town Council member Edith Wiggins said the council also wanted the work group to address the grievances of

nonstudent town residents.

"These residents are concerned about neighboring single family homes that have become rental units for students," she said. "They want regulations ensuring the management of the units in order to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood."

Conner said the council's proposal for a work group was not as preferable as taking immediate action.

"A work group is a more formal way of doing what we have already done," he said. "I think we've already had a lot of input (from the March 7 meeting) and a decision could have actually been made tonight."

The council's action stemmed from a March 7 presentation by several UNC student government leaders. These representatives met with local landlords and permanent community residents

prior to the presentation to discuss disagreements between the three groups.

Wiggins said the council wanted the citizen work group to effectively resolve the issue and satisfy all involved.

"While the proposals look promising, the council thinks the best way to proceed is to involve all stakeholders in the decision by allowing their input in work groups," she said.

Maney and Conner said they would both be interested in serving on the work group that the council approved to convene in September.

"I wish the council would go ahead and vote in our favor, but if they want to wait for work group findings I would like to remain involved with the issue," Maney said.

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

Council Gives Nod To Shoppers' Shuttle

By ANJALI KALANI
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill residents will soon be able to commute to retail centers during the holiday shopping season without using their cars.

The Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday approved a petition submitted by council member Kevin Foy that would provide for a shuttle bus service to downtown retail areas.

The new shuttle service would exclusively connect retail areas, such as University Mall, Eastgate Shopping Center, Ram's Plaza and downtown. The free service is expected to run from November 2000 through January 2001 on a trial basis.

Foy said an increased awareness among residents to have diverse ways of commuting to retail areas prompted the proposal.

"There is a growing realization that we need to have an alternative means of transportation other than single-occupancy vehicles," he said.

He said the proposal was an effort to prevent an increase in traffic, especially during the holiday season.

Foy also said the proposed bus service would result in fewer cars on the road and a decreased need for parking spaces.

Town Council member Flicka Bateman said she was in favor of the proposal.

"I think we want to do anything to reduce traffic," she said. "We are trying to see if we can give an alternative. I am supportive of that."

Ken Robinson, chairman of the transportation board, said the proposal had been discussed before the board, but nothing formal had been presented.

"I have not seen the petition," he said.

Robinson said an agreement between Chapel Hill, Carrboro and UNC allowed the towns to add a bus service if they so desired.

"Any of the three groups may request a service to be added," he said. "But it is the responsibility of the requesting entity to pay for it."

He said the cost of the shuttle would have to be borne by the town during the trial period, but if ridership requirements were met, the cost would be split between the three groups.

Foy said the proposed service would primarily be paid for by the town of Chapel Hill and retailers, but the details of the approved shuttle service have not been determined.

A final decision whether to continue the bus service would be made after the three-month evaluation period, Foy said.

Robinson said the 'F' route previously served Eastgate. However, retailers requested that the service be discontinued last year because they were concerned about the impact of the buses on the paving and the drainage pipe in the area, he said. Robinson said the retailers later asked for the service to be restarted, but at that point it was not easy to change the route.

According to the existing weekday service, 10 of the 15 weekday buses operate through the downtown area from various residential localities.

The University Mall is served by two routes on the weekdays. Buses do not operate through Ram's Plaza but two buses make stops nearby.

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Council Keeps Greene Tract on Tap

By AMY DOBSON
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council rejected a proposal Monday night that would exempt a proposed landfill site from county control.

Council member Joyce Brown proposed that the 169-acre Greene Tract land be removed from the town's Interlocal agreement with the Orange County Board of Commissioners. Her proposal called for control of the land to fall to town governments, rather than the county.

The Interlocal agreement, passed by the council in September 1999, gave Orange County full control of solid waste management for the county. However, Brown said she wanted

Greene Tract to be exempted from this agreement to preserve the land against urbanization.

"The governing bodies that worked together to pass the agreement earlier agreed that we would leave (the Greene Tract) out of the solid waste facilities being handed over county government," Brown said. "But it got thrown in somewhere along the line."

The agreement stated that 60 acres of the tract would be used for "systems purposes" by the county.

Two council members, Jim Ward and Pat Evans, joined Brown and voted against using 60 acres of Greene Tract for "systems purposes." They said the felt the term was too ambiguous, giving the county commissioners the potential

to exploit the land for monetary gain.

Jim Ward said he thought the term "systems purposes" could be misconstrued too easily.

"Systems purposes' can mean anything," he said. "It doesn't give me the type of comfort I can afford."

However, the six council members that voted against the proposal also said they wanted to protect the area from being used for harmful purposes, but did not believe that the county would allow this to occur. "The commissioners would make as much of a commitment as any public body would make," said council member Kevin Foy, who voted against the proposal.

Council member Flicka Bateman also said she supported transferring the land


to the county. "Under county control, the land cannot be used for heinous purposes," she said. "Rather, it would go towards open space or wooded areas."


Although council members differed throughout the night about who should control the land, Foy presented a counterproposal that was approved unanimously.

Foy's proposal invited local government bodies to further discuss the actual designation of the tract and firm up a definition of what "systems purposes" means.

"We're as united as we're ever going to be," Foy said. "It's time to finalize this."

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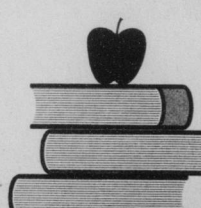


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Thursday, March 30

THE RIGHT TO READ: THE FIRST AMENDMENT & BOOK CENSORSHIP 11AM-12:15PM

Participants: Karen Jo Gounaud, president and founder, Family Friendly Libraries
C. Eric Lincoln, author and professor emeritus, Duke University
Brian Sturm, assistant professor, School of Information and Library Science, UNC-Chapel Hill
Michael Willhoite, author of *Daddy's Roommate*

Moderator: Gene Policinski, director of media relations, First Amendment Center

Location: Wilson Library, Pleasants Room

BANNED BOOKS: CENSORSHIP IN LITERATURE All Day Thursday, Friday

An exhibit featuring an array of banned publications

Location: Davis Library

THE INTERNET & FREE SPEECH 12:30-1:45PM

Participants: Debashis Aikat, assistant professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, UNC-Chapel Hill
Joe Kadhi, professor, School of Journalism, University of Nairobi

Moderator: Adam Clayton Powell III, vice president of technology and programs, The Freedom Forum

Location: Carroll 33

UNHEARD VOICES: THE MINORITY PRESS & THE FIRST AMENDMENT 2-3:15PM

Participants: Félix Gutiérrez, senior vice president of The Freedom Forum
Chuck Stone, Walter Spearman professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, UNC-Chapel Hill, author, columnist and former senior editor, *Philadelphia Daily News*

Location: Hanes Art Center 121

FREEDOM SINGS 3:30-5PM

Locally and nationally known bands showcase censored songs, protest anthems and music that matters

Performers: Dan Baird: American Records recording artist and founder of The Georgia Satellites
Fenner Castner: Respected Nashville drummer, featured on Bill Lloyd's 1999 release, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"
Chicken Wire Gang: Triangle favorite for more than 10 years, featuring Stu Cole of The Squirrel Nut Zippers
Don Henry: Performer and Grammy Award-winning songwriter of "Where've You Been?"
Will Kimbrough: Songwriter, guitarist, formerly with Will and the Bushmen and The Bis-uits
Bill Lloyd: Koch recording artist, songwriter and musical director for "Freedom Sings" Formerly with country duo Foster & Lloyd
Jonell Mosser: Soulful Siren Song recording artist
Tommy Womack: Sideburn recording artist, former member of Government Cheese and The Bis-uits

Location: Polk Place: back steps of South Building

Rain backup: Gerrard Hall

ART & FREE EXPRESSION: THE IMPACT OF "SENSATION" 7-8:30PM

Participants: Gerald Bolas, director, Ackland Museum of Art
Herman Brannen, metal artist, contributor to the State Office of Community Colleges annual exhibit, Raleigh, N.C.
Hoyle Martin, dean, Urban Christian Ministry of the New Life Theological Seminary, Charlotte, N.C.
Norman Siegel, executive director, New York Civil Liberties Union
Susan Talbot, director, Des Moines Art Center

Moderator: Ken Paulson, executive director, First Amendment Center

Location: Hanes Art Center 121

Friday, March 31

INSIDE THE FIRST AMENDMENT 9-9:50AM

Participants: Ken Paulson, executive director, First Amendment Center
John Seigenthaler, founder, First Amendment Center

Location: Carroll 111

"THE FIRST FREEDOM" 10AM

Charles Guggenheim's new documentary examining the power of the First Amendment

Location: Carroll 111

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT & THE FIRST AMENDMENT 2-2:50PM

Participants: Horace Carter, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, editor and author
Eugenia Seaman Marks, student at Women's College during Greensboro sit-ins
Reavis Mitchell, history department chair, Fisk University
John E. (Jack) Semonche, professor of history, UNC-Chapel Hill

Moderator: John Seigenthaler, founder, First Amendment Center, U.S. Justice Department official during the civil rights movement

Location: Carroll 111

"THE FIRST FREEDOM" 3PM

A repeat showing of Charles Guggenheim's documentary about the First Amendment

Location: Carroll 111

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