

# Town Seeks UNC Input on New Plan

Aspects of the town's new Comprehensive Plans focus on student issues such as affordable housing.

By ANJALI KALANI  
Staff Writer

Town Council members are urging residents and students to speak out on issues that could be included in the town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Chapel Hill Town Council will hold three public meetings beginning today to discuss the revised draft of the new Comprehensive Plan.

The plan outlines a vision for the future of Chapel Hill and the strategies that should be implemented to make that vision a reality.

Mayor Rosemary Waldorf encouraged residents to attend the meetings and make suggestions for the plan.

"When the town adopts a basic blueprint for ways in which the community should be expected to change, it is important for people to be comfortable with the blueprint," she said.

"This is a democracy. The policies

adopted need to be adopted by the community."

Chris Berndt, long range planning coordinator for the town planning board, said in terms of content, the new plan gave emphasis to providing more facilities for citizens, like protecting existing neighborhoods and developing strategies for affordable housing.

Although the plan focuses on features that will benefit the community as a whole, it also incorporates several issues that will be particularly beneficial to students.

Council member Pat Evans said the planning commission tried to keep the student perspective in mind while framing the plan.

Evans said affordable housing, focus on pedestrian and mass transit, housing in close proximity to downtown areas, bikeways and recreation facilities were some of the aspects of the plan that would benefit students.

Phil Mason, long range planner for the planning board, said the transportation elements in the plan would conceivably improve alternative modes of transportation for students.

Mason said it was integral for residents of the community to participate to

have their voices heard on such issues as transportation.

"If a bunch of planning professionals got together there might be elements about it that people won't be happy with," he said.

The new Comprehensive Plan will replace the existing plan, which was adopted in 1989.

Waldorf said the impetus for the new plan was provided by the fact that the town's old plan had become outdated.

Evans said the old plan was used for 10 years and did not have a statute of limitations.

However, she said the new plan would probably have a five-year limit.

"Plans become outdated quickly and many communities have requirements for plans to be updated," Evans said. "We (did) not have that but it has been incorporated into the new plan."

Mason said the plan was the contribution of a work group consisting of

idents of the community, members of the planning board chosen by the council and a consultant who had been hired for the formulation of the plan.

He said they had begun to work on the Comprehensive Plan in fall 1998.

The new plan reflects the aims and objectives of the old plan, while simultaneously incorporating issues that have emerged over the last decade.

Berndt said the revised plan differed from the earlier plan in its emphasis on specific actions that should be taken to make the vision of the future a reality for the town.

"The new plan stresses implementation measures and measures of progress to evaluate how the plan is achieving goals," she said.

Mason said several elements of the old plan were carried forward in the revised plan.

He said the concern for affordable housing opportunities and alternative modes of transportation were some of

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PHIL MASON  
Long Range Planner

## A Community Plan for the Future

The Chapel Hill Town Council is holding three public hearings to solicit input about the town's future. The new Comprehensive Plan has ramifications for students as well as for residents.

The draft from September 1999 cites nine key issues the plan will focus on:

1. Maintain the Urban Services Area/Rural Buffer Boundary.
2. Conserve and protect existing neighborhoods.
3. Identify areas where there are creative development opportunities.
4. Encourage desirable forms of nonresidential development.
5. Create and preserve affordable housing opportunities.
6. Cooperatively plan with UNC.
7. Work toward a balanced transportation system.
8. Complete the bikeway/greenway/sidewalk systems.
9. Develop strategies to develop fiscal issues.

Schedule for public meetings:

- Tuesday, April 11, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St.
- Thursday, April 13, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Fire Station #4, 1695 Airport Road at Weaver Dairy Road
- Tuesday, April 18, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Chapel Hill Public Library, 100 Library Drive off Estes Drive

SOURCE: CHAPEL HILL TOWN STAFF

the issues that were added from the earlier plan.

The council aims to adopt the plan before it breaks for summer, so students can contribute to the discussion, council member Jim Ward said.

"Sometimes town decisions take place when students are out of town, so students are unable to participate," he said.

Residents can comment on the revised draft of the Comprehensive Plan by speaking at the information meetings, by attending the May 8th Town Council meeting or by sending an e-mail message to the council at [planning@town.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us](mailto:planning@town.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us).

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# NCSU Revamps Ticket Distribution

By ALEX KAPLUN  
Staff Writer

An N.C. State University task force has identified several proposals that would alter the way in which basketball tickets are distributed to students.

On Monday, the Ticket Distribution Task Force, made up of six administrators and 10 students, met for the third time to discuss possible proposals.

While members of the committee said all plans up to this point were mere speculations, an Internet registration plan had been frequently discussed and had recently emerged as a strong contender, said Thomas Stafford, N.C. State's vice chancellor for student affairs.

Stafford said students would register online for tickets similar to the way they currently registered for classes. Students would then be selected using some method — perhaps at random or according to class. A pep rally would then be

held in Reynolds Coliseum, N.C. State's former basketball arena, where tickets would be distributed.

Joe Campbell, assistant director of university housing, said the Internet idea was one of many the committee was considering. "We're just trying to find a way to accommodate everyone's needs," he said.

The committee was formed after the Feb. 9 distribution for the game against UNC-Chapel Hill that caused extensive damage to areas of campus and effectively ended N.C. State's longstanding camp-out distribution method. UNC-CH also abandoned its camp-out policy in Fall 1998.

A May deadline has been set for the committee to propose a plan to Chancellor Marye Anne Fox.

Stafford said a new distribution method might only apply to home games against UNC-CH and Duke University, the two games with the highest student demand for tickets.

But the Internet distribution idea has received mixed reviews from students.

"(Internet registration) is probably the most heartless, coldest way we could do it, but it's also the safest," said Jason Cotter, a student task force member.

Cotter said he favored a camp-in distribution plan he had proposed at the last meeting that would have been almost identical to the camp-out system, except it would occur indoors.

But Cotter said his idea was shot down because it might entail many of the same problems as the old system.

The student body will be given a chance to voice opinions on the issue at an Apr. 18 forum. Cotter said most students still wanted the old camp-out system reinstated. "The vast majority of students still appreciate the tradition of the camp-out system."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Tobacco Industry Bolsters Defense Arsenal in Lawsuit

Associated Press

MIAMI — The tobacco industry wants to use every weapon in its arsenal — from CEOs to convenience store owners — in its fight against punitive damages for sick Florida smokers.

"They have the right to prove we're reprehensible. We have the right, your honor, to prove we're not reprehensible," lead tobacco attorney Dan Webb said in court Monday. "There is an enormous risk that an industry is going to be destroyed."

Circuit Judge Robert Kaye, who accepted a jury verdict awarding \$12.7 million in compensatory damages to three smokers Friday, tentatively set a one-month punitive trial May 15.

In the meantime, Webb said the industry will file an appeal based on the case without delaying the next phase.

If permitted by Kaye, the industry would call Philip Morris president and CEO Mike Szymanczyk and other corporate officers to tell the jury how the companies have changed with the times on health issues and youth smoking.

A tobacco farmer, convenience store owner and an African-American newspaper publisher also will attest to the industry's financial significance to their livelihoods. The effect on employees and shareholders also would be factored in. "We are absolutely given the mandatory right to offer evidence of any, and I say any, mitigating factor or circumstance that could tend to reduce" a punitive award, Webb said.

Indications that industry testimony also would cover product development, cigarette smuggling, excise tax payments and Web sites is "just way off what punitive damages should be about," said smokers' attorney Susan Rosenblatt.

If those subjects are allowed, she wants to raise cigarette marketing to Third World children and the industry's successful fight against Food and Drug Administration regulation.

Rosenblatt wants testimony pared down to information about the industry's financial value and ability to pay, stressing that under state law the companies cannot be pushed into bankruptcy by a punitive award.

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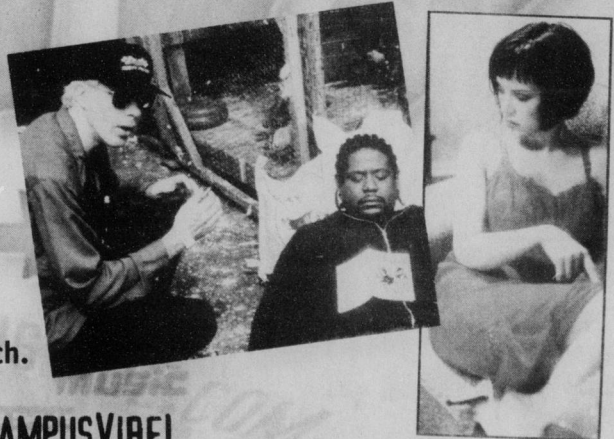
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