

Divisions over zoning run deep

Town officials put off by UNC

BY TANNER SLAYDEN
STAFF WRITER

The University has been seen as the "big bully" in Chapel Hill by some residents and Chapel Hill Town Council members ever since its special zoning district was created in July 2001.

"You have to see how (Office/Institutional-4) is disrupting neighborhoods with your own eyes," said Joyce Brown, a member of the Coalition of Neighbors Near Campus and a former council member. "Quiet neighborhoods have bulldozers in the middle of them."

The OI-4 zoning district was created by the council after a series of meetings with the University. It applies to large tracts of land on the main campus and on other college, hospital and public cultural sites.

The council will decide at its Nov. 8 business meeting whether to reform this zoning district.

Since OI-4's creation, the town has criticized the University's development plans, but the University has said that it has met all standards.

One of the first milestones associated with the contention over University zoning occurred in August 2003, when the council voted 6-2 to approve changes to the University Development Plan.

The approval will enable the University to construct an 800-space parking deck in Jackson Circle, a chiller plant and a 500-space parking deck near Cobb Residence Hall.

The proposed changes drew fire from local residents who expressed concern that the projects would cause increased traffic and noise.

"I'm somewhat outraged the council did not have the guts to stand up to the University," Gene Pease, president of the Gimghoul Homeowners Association, told The Daily Tar Heel. "(UNC's) like a schoolyard bully."

Another benchmark occurred earlier this year when the council issued a site development permit for University-owned property on the north side of Mason Farm Road.

Nine buildings, which will contain 397 apartment units, are being built there for student family housing.

Residents disapproved of this site when it was included as a part of the University's Master Plan in 2001 and have been showing their resentment for the construction since.

Diana Steele, who runs a preschool out of her Mason Farm Road home, thinks OI-4 zoning doesn't protect residents.

"The University's contractors removed a speed bump that kept cars from speeding down the road, and it made my driveway the low point so water collects at the bottom of my driveway," she said.

Despite the concerns locals have expressed about University projects, UNC has petitioned the town not to reform some aspects of OI-4.

The University's stance is that it has already made concessions to appease neighborhood residents, and Tony Waldrop, UNC's vice chancellor for research and economic development, said that "although something can always be improved, my perception is that (OI-4) has always worked."

Nancy Sutfenfield, the University's vice chancellor for finance and administration, said that the University agrees informally with many of the proposed reforms to OI-4, but that there are others that the University believes are unnecessary or not in its best interest.

Eight different proposed reforms will be individually decided upon at the upcoming business meeting.

The town manager and planning board have each made recommendations regarding the reforms, which include requirements for the University to submit a conceptual plan before a development plan application and meeting with the council to discuss future projects.

Requiring the University to submit a conceptual plan would give the council another opportunity to evaluate a University proposal.

Another reform would require University development plans/modifications to comply with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which regulates aspects of construction including height limitations and density.

But the main reform the University rejects is one concerning the council's deliberation time.

The town planning board recommended that the council be allowed more than its current 90 day allotment to review development plans.

"The University submitted to a rigorous zoning district, and the brief turn around timing was a trade off," Sutfenfield said. "The council can simply make efficient use of the 90 days."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

FACILITATOR

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During its meetings, the committee will be using a pair of conversational techniques in order to make sure discussion isn't stymied: Kiva conversations and caucuses.

A Kiva conversation, an American Indian tradition, is a structured way to have difficult talks.

Gulati-Partee explained that the committee will be divided into three different groups. Each will get a turn to voice its opinions on issues that arose during the day without being interrupted by the other groups.

"It creates a space for people to express themselves but also to listen to others in an equal amount of time," she said.

DEMOCRATS

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Orange County Republican Party, said there is a partisan base for everything in Chapel Hill that makes it hard for the population at large to be equally represented.

Biddy, a graduate of the University, said the long history of Democratic dominance in local government leaves few opportunities for Republicans to be elected.

"People in the political spectrum can be dissuaded simply because of the history," Biddy said. "You can't have one party to effectively represent the people in a true democracy. The longer there is a single party in charge, the more power precipitates to them."

Biddy said the strong Democratic majority is a local issue, noting the

At the beginning of the second meeting, the committee will be divided into separate caucuses of white people and "people of color," according to the agenda.

Irons said there are times when people try to be politically correct in interracial environments and discussion is stifled. He said the caucuses will help prevent this issue.

The special committee was established at the council's Sept. 13 meeting, more than half a year after the initial proposal to rename the road was made.

The committee is hoping to reach a consensus on what to recommend to the Town Council by its Dec. 6 meeting.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

success of party balance in nearby Wake and Alamance counties.

"Orange County is and has been landlocked with boards and commissions that have a Democratic perception of what is right," he said.

But Mike Gering, one of two Republicans on the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners, said he doesn't believe there is a partisan base to municipal politics. "Since all the issues are nonpartisan, party affiliation is irrelevant," he said.

Liz Brown, an unaffiliated member of the Orange County Board of Education, said she hasn't noticed a dominant party since moving to Chapel Hill a decade ago. "I wasn't aware of a Democratic majority," Brown said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Global program is all business

BY DAN GRINDER
STAFF WRITER

Kenan-Flagler Business School soon will become the first business school in the world to offer a comprehensive undergraduate international program in the fall of 2006.

When the school rolls out the Global Learning Opportunities in Business Education program, students will get the opportunity to study on three continents.

"The model we have of students working cooperatively from different countries isn't uncommon on the MBA level, but on the undergraduate level, we're completely unique," said Jeff Cannon, director of the bachelor's of science in business administration undergraduate program.

As part of the program, developed by UNC, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Copenhagen Business School, students will attend all three schools for a semester.

Participants will benefit from

trips to corporations in Brussels, Belgium; Berlin; Shanghai, China; Tokyo; Washington, D.C.; and the Research Triangle Park.

Business school officials said they hope participants will gain insight into international business.

During the first semester of the program, students will prepare at their home institutions by participating on virtual business teams.

The following semester students from all schools will attend Copenhagen Business School for classes in European business strategy and take trips to corporations and European Union institutions in Brussels and Berlin.

"Giving our students the chance to study at Chapel Hill and at Chinese University of Hong Kong, and interacting with students from both schools over a long period of time is a truly unique internationalizing opportunity," said Ole Strömgen, senior university instructor at Copenhagen Business

School. During the summer, students will travel to Hong Kong to take courses in Asian business and marketing and visit companies in Shanghai and Tokyo.

"This is a great opportunity for students to experience the local culture, business culture and learning culture in three continents," said Gordon Cheung, associate dean of faculty of business administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Cannon said he hopes students will take advantage of the program and gain valuable experience.

"We have an objective to have as many students as possible gain a rich perspective by earning credit outside of the United States," he said. "We'll continue to stay on the leading edge in providing that opportunity."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

VOTE OR DIE

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"One of the major things Citizen Change is about is voter registration, but also getting people out to the polls," she said.

"It's hard to get them to actually go out. We just wanted this to be a last-minute effort to get people interested and to reinforce that and drive it home."

T.J. Abrams, who was crowned Homecoming King on Saturday, was in the audience and applauded the students' efforts. "It's important to get people excited about that fact that it's not just something you go out and do, but it's your responsibility to do it," he said.

Barrera was pleased with the turnout, saying she hopes students turn out to the polls.

"Today students definitely made a commitment to come out and make a change by crossing this line, so I hope it just shows up in the early voting and on Election Day."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

MENINGITIS

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Bob Wirag, director of SHS, said fewer people now are seeking the antibiotic because those who felt most vulnerable have already received it.

Wirag said there is a 14-day window for administering the antibiotic, starting at the time of the initial infection.

Cipro will be available at SHS until Nov. 10.

Wirag said he hopes students who were wary of the vaccine, which protects against 80 percent of bacteria, will reconsider and decide to get it. "There's a lot of peace of mind by getting the vaccine."

There are 100 doses of the vaccine available at \$85 per dose at Student Health, but more will be

available if need be. Officials have been fielding calls from concerned citizens and parents of UNC students, said Donna King, health promotion and education services division director for the Orange County Health Department.

She said that officials sent out an early alert to local medical care providers and that they are continuing active surveillance outside the University campus.

King also said Student Health acted wisely by quickly informing the public about the outbreak.

"Student Health Services was very prompt and very thorough in their research and response to the event."

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Coca-Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

—study hard. play hard.—

Today is the **LAST** day to sign up for:

TABLE TENNIS :: singles/doubles
One-day Tournament: Nov. 7

DODGEBALL :: 6 Players
One-day Tournament: Nov. 19

9-BALL
singles/doubles :: Sign up: Nov. 1-9

TEAM BADMINTON
4 Players
Sign up: Nov. 1-9

Sign up in 203 Woollen Gym.
>More info: 843.PLAY

Sport Clubs

BLOOD PLATELET DRIVE
November 1-30

100 DONORS NEEDED

Members and friends of Sport Clubs are encouraged to give. Donors should indicate the club they are affiliated with to ensure proper credit is given for participation and/or encouraging participation.

To sign up for a November date, please call the UNC Hospitals Platelet & Plasma Donor Program, 966-2370 or email platelet@unch.unc.edu

compete. challenge. unite.

Student Recreation Center

So you missed the deadline but want to see what it's all about?

Attend a Women on Weights session. See how we're motivating women to engage in weight training activities. Wednesdays, 7:30 PM :: Sundays, 5 PM [SRC First Floor]

Yes. You heard right. There is a group exercise class held at the pool!

Aqua Motion is a great combination of cardiovascular and resistance training. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:15-6:15 PM [Bowman Gray Indoor Pool]

motivate. inspire. energize.

Carolina Adventures

Camping equipment, climbing gear, bike stuff, clothes, boots, skis. Bring your gear or take someone else's home.

Big Outdoor Gear SALE & SWAP
Buy. Trade. Sell.

Tuesday, November 9th
5-6 PM in Fetzer Gym C

For more information, please contact mlyons@email.unc.edu

