

Road renaming moves forward

Council slates May 8 for name change

BY BRIANNA BISHOP
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

After months of debate, plans to rename Airport Road took another step forward Monday when the Chapel Hill Town Council passed several resolutions dealing with specifics of the name change.

Council members passed four resolutions, which among other things established a process for renaming the thoroughfare.

On Dec. 6, the council unanimously decided to rename the road Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard after hearing recommendations from its Special Committee to Consider Renaming Airport Road.

Along with authorizing the work to change Airport Road, the first resolution passed Monday also charges the town manager to help residents and businesses affected by the change.

State law prohibits public funds from being used for private purposes, Town Manager Cal Horton said. But the town can help those affected by the change as long as that aid benefits the public.

The council also decided Monday to set May 8 as the date of the ceremony to celebrate the renaming.

Council member Sally Greene suggested the date to commemorate the 45th anniversary of King's visit to Chapel Hill.

King visited the University's Hill Hall and the black community center, which is now the Hargraves Community Center, in 1960 as part of his tour of Southern college campuses.

But some tasks still need to be completed before the name change takes place.

Horton said that the new road

signs must be designed and that the number of signs needed still has to be estimated.

Also, residents living along Airport Road will need to be made aware of the new name.

"We're going to have to contact all of the residents on that street and notify them that the change is going to be made," said Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins.

She said the council will ask for residents' input throughout the renaming process.

Two other resolutions passed Monday night will result in the formation of two new entities.

One group will have the task of organizing the renaming celebration.

The Continuing Concerns Committee will consider the additional recommendations made by the special committee, which include creating a museum about Airport Road and a library room with information about King.

The group also recommended that the town hold a series of seminars that would address local racial issues.

Wiggins said she thought the committees would be formed using the same process the council typically uses.

"We'll advertise for membership so citizens all across town will have an opportunity to apply," she said.

The council is looking for people who want to be involved, she said.

According to the memorandum, the name change should occur six months after its approval, or by July 4 at the latest.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Mooser aims to reach students

BY JULIA FURLONG
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Andrew Zoeller said he doesn't know that much about Chancellor James Mooser.

After being corrected on the pronunciation — "Meezer" — the economics and international studies double major from Kingsport, Tenn., countered, "I know he has a hard name to pronounce."

Freshman Ed McLaurin also was vague when questioned about Mooser's job description.

"He chancellors the school, that's what he does," McLaurin offered.

With about 26,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students roaming the campus, the University chancellor might find a campaign to get to know the student body on a personal level daunting.

But Mooser does not seem deterred.

"We've been looking for more ways to increase my visibility on campus," he said.

He said efforts in the past have ranged from dinners with randomly selected students in Lenoir Dining Hall to "Leave it to Mooser" days in the Pit, in which the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor supplies sticky notes for students to place on a picture of the chancellor.

The most successful project so

far has been the informal open house held in November by SACC, Mooser said.

The crowd of about 50 students who came to the question-and-answer session was eager to be there, and Mooser said he was pleased with the quality of questions and discussion.

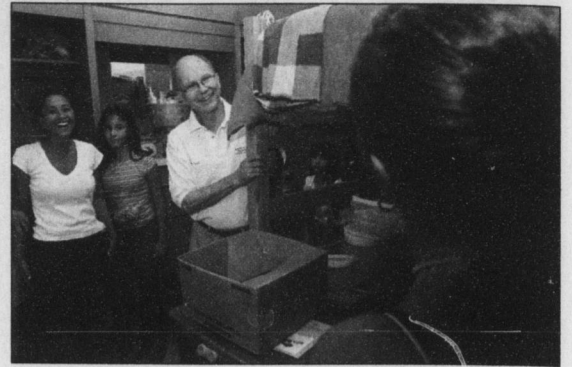
The best ways to reach him are by contacting him through e-mail and by attending events such as the two spring open houses, Mooser said. Students get in touch with him about concerns ranging from athletic ticket distributions to tuition.

Alexa Kleysteuber, SACC chairwoman and student body vice president, said open houses will be held Feb. 2 in Graham Memorial Hall and April 26 at a South Campus location such as a basketball court or in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

SACC is a committee made up of 12 undergraduate and graduate students that meets weekly as a group and monthly with Mooser with the purpose of keeping him informed on student opinions on various issues.

"The SACC helps me get a handle of what's brewing on campus," Mooser said.

Kleysteuber said student knowledge of Mooser varies, but there



DTH FILE PHOTO/JUSTIN SMITH
Chancellor James Mooser helps students move into a residence hall at the start of the fall semester. Mooser makes a variety of outreach efforts.

are a lot of students who don't know his name or think "he just walks around visiting classes and responding to leaks in the dorms."

"Mooser loves to meet with groups of students," she said. She has heard of him taking students up on lunch offers.

Student Body President Matt Calabria agreed that there are many misconceptions about Mooser's role on campus.

"I think it is difficult for anyone, specifically students, to conceptualize all the chancellor has to do," Calabria said, with external affairs,

fund raising and political leadership in dealing with the UNC Board of Trustees, state General Assembly and town taking up a majority of his time.

"Students want more access, want to speak with him more directly, but I hope students realize that he's been doing an incredible job of reaching out. ... He's continuing a UNC tradition of students working side by side with administrators."

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

Cameron gets bike lanes, loses parking

BY JENNIFER FAIR
STAFF WRITER

Bikers and drivers now can ride along western Cameron Avenue in their own separate lanes.

The town of Chapel Hill finished Tuesday adding two permanent bike lanes to Cameron Avenue between Merritt Mill Road and Pittsboro Street — changes authorized by the Town Council in November.

A person standing on the south side of the road now will see a bicycle lane, two travel lanes, another bicycle lane and a parking lane, said town Traffic Engineer Kumar Neppalli.

About 40 parking spaces along the south side of the road were lost to the new bike lanes.

Neppalli said he does not believe that the loss of the spaces will cause a significant impact on the town

because there are other places to park downtown.

"Most parking is used for students in the daytime," he said. "We're not removing parking from residents."

People still are able to park along the north side of the road as long as they are within the markings, he said.

The majority of the signs prohibiting parking along the south side of the road are already in place.

The town will try to be lenient until all signs have been cleared, Neppalli said.

"A few warning tickets will be issued to help people adjust," he said, adding that the town is not trying to go behind students' backs.

Bicycle lanes were previously available during designated parts of the day, but they were not identified

for bikes or marked by solid lines.

"(The Town Council) wants to make the town more bicycle-friendly," Neppalli said.

UNC sophomore Tim Hammond said the permanent bike lanes are a good idea because most people ride on the street and not the sidewalk.

"It's definitely a lot safer," he said. "You'd be riding, and people would be opening and closing their doors (into bicyclists)."

Senior Robert Callaway said the new lanes would improve safety.

Both Callaway and Hammond said they would not be affected by the loss of parking.

Chapel Hill resident Rock Pereira said he uses Cameron Avenue four or five times per week, usually on a bicycle.

He specifically referred to the

intersection of Ransom Street and Cameron Avenue as a place where the new bike lanes will be useful.

"If a bike is in the bike lane, the bike has a right to be in the bike lane," he said.

Along with the addition of bicycle lanes, parking meters will be installed on the north side of the road.

The meters will be put in place next month and are expected to generate a net revenue of \$50,000 per year, Neppalli said.

The meters will cost the town \$10,000 to install. Restriping the road cost \$12,000.

Although the meter and sign work has not yet been completed, the road will remain open to traffic.

"We're not going to close anything," Neppalli said.

The section of Cameron Avenue between Raleigh and South Columbia streets will be closed by the University starting Monday. It is expected to be closed until May.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTION

■ Due to a production error, the headline over the graphic accompanying the Jan. 12 article "Jackets strive to slow UNC" states that the men's basketball game against Georgia Tech is Saturday. UNC actually plays Wake Forest on Saturday.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at cocoletta@email.unc.edu.

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