

Council favors open space bond

By DANIEL CONOVER
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted 8 to 1 in favor of a \$9-million open space bond Monday night, with a public hearing set for Feb. 27.

The bond was approved in principle at the town council's annual retreat two weeks ago, and it replaces a \$5-million bond proposal. The bond would provide funds for purchasing open space and parkland.

A referendum will be held on May 2 if the town council approves the bond after the public hearing.

Council member David Godschalk cast the only dissenting vote. Godschalk said open space and parkland has received too much attention.

"I think open space has a place, and recreation has a place, but I believe we have other priorities," he said.

Council member Jim Wallace, author of the previous \$5-million version of the bond, supported the

resolution. "The timeliness of it is the most highly recommendable aspect," he said.

The \$9-million bond was recommended by town manager David Taylor.

In other action, the town council referred to the manager a request by the American Board of Pediatrics of 111 Silver Cedar Court to drain a pond and redraw subdivision lines.

About 20 residents of the Timberlyne area, most of them wearing "Save the Pond" buttons, attended the meeting.

Dr. Robert Brownlee of the board of pediatrics said the change was necessary to allow the board to build an addition and new parking spaces.

But council member Art Werner said the request was not defined clearly.

"I haven't heard any compelling reason to do this," Werner said. "It

almost sounds like a subterfuge to get out of the responsibility of maintaining some open space."

The pond and open space were dedicated to the property owners by the town council in 1982, but a series of oversights in legal agreements has tangled that agreement.

The board of pediatrics presented two primary proposals: one resolution to drain the pond and another resolution to reduce the pond's size by 60 percent.

Marcus Hudson, speaking for the board of pediatrics, called the pond an attractive nuisance which attracts children and presents a possible legal liability. Hudson referred to the child who drowned in Greensboro this week as an example of the problem.

"That's the kind of situation that we would find ourselves in if we didn't provide some security," Hudson said. If the town council denies the request to drain the lake, both Hudson and Brownlee said the board

of pediatrics would build a fence around the pond to prevent children from using it.

Dick Johnson, an area resident and member of the "Save the Pond" group, said the pond had silted up because of the lack of environmental controls during the construction of Timberlyne Shopping Center.

"It really concerns me that this can go on," he said. "Ten years ago people used to fish in those ponds."

The council also approved a new skateboard ramp ordinance at the meeting but stopped short of endorsing the construction of a public skateboarding facility.

Assistant town manager Ron Secrist told the council the town's insurance carrier did not provide coverage for skateboarding. Secrist said a carrier had been found who would insure a skateboarding facility but only at a cost of \$50,000 per year with a \$25,000 deductible.

Downtown trolley plans on schedule

By JESSICA LANNING
Staff Writer

Plans to bring trolleys to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro downtown area are on schedule, and the trolleys should arrive by September, the co-director of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission said Monday.

Debbie Dibbert said the commission ordered two trolleys from Chance Coach in Wichita, Kansas last December. The company will take eight to nine months to build the trolleys.

The trolleys are scheduled to run on a route from the Morehead Planetarium to Carrboro Town Hall every 10 to 12 minutes.

Bus stops that exist now along Franklin and Rosemary streets in Chapel Hill and Weaver and Main streets in Carrboro will be used by the trolleys. Additional stops will be added along Rosemary Street.

For the first year, the trolley will run during lunchtime hours from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Dibbert said.

The trolley will be free to the public and supported by the commission's operating funds, Dibbert said. The commission is funded by the University and by private contributions.

"The trolleys look exactly like a trolley without the wires," Dibbert said, with only the engine resembling a bus. The trolleys will be beautiful, she said, and will be made of wood and brass with colored trim. Open and closed portions of the trolley will accommodate people in all kinds of weather, she said.

"The trolleys are sophisticated, not trendy," she said. "They are a really beautiful addition to the downtown landscape."

Chapel Hill Transit employees will drive the trolleys.

Bob Godding, head of transportation, said the town has made a

commitment to work closely with the commission on the trolley project.

"The project is designed to do some good things for the town," he said. "It will be no more difficult to implement than any other project."

Proposals for specific new bus stop locations have not been selected, but the new stops will not be a problem to install, Godding said.

To further alleviate the downtown parking problem, a parking lot on University property behind the Continuing Education Site on N.C. 54 is in the design phase and will be in service at the end of the year after the trolleys have been delivered, Godding said.

Proposals for future parking lots will be considered later, he said.

Spring Garden Bar and Grill manager Al Bowers said he supports the idea of the trolleys wholeheartedly.

"We're looking forward to it. Any way we can get people into downtown Carrboro, it can help," he said. "The lunch business could only grow from it."

Bowers said two or three bus stops are around the restaurant, and he hopes a nearby parking lot can be turned into a public parking lot to bring in more people.

Jean Stancell, owner of The Little Shop on Franklin Street, said she has mixed emotions about the project.

The idea may be good for the town but not necessarily for her business, she said. "A lot of our clientele are more mature people who may not use the trolley," she said.

"It's an awful lot of money to spend to pleasure ride," Stancell said. "It will take a while for people to get used to it, but anything is worth a try."

Chapel Hill Police Roundup

■ The Chapel Hill Public Library reported that someone entered a file cabinet and took money from a box sometime between Wednesday and Thursday. Police found no signs of forced entry and have no suspects in the incident.

■ A cashier at Hardee's on Franklin Street reported to police Saturday that an intoxicated suspect grabbed a cashier's hat and ran out the door. The suspect was caught by a security guard near Pizza Hut, but he then broke away from the guard and got into a silver Mazda. As he got into the car, he hit the guard with the car door. The hat was recovered on the sidewalk, undamaged.

■ A Chapel Hill woman reported this weekend that an unknown male was knocking on her front door. When police arrived at the residence, they identified the man as a friend of the woman.

■ A drain cover was reported missing from Kingston Drive and La Petite Child Care Saturday. Public works officials responded to the scene.

■ A Carrboro man was arrested Saturday after officers determined his license plate was stolen. The man was charged with DWI, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of stolen property and driving without a license.

■ Police investigated loud noises in the Shadowwood Apartments pool area over the weekend. When police arrived, the suspects had already left the area.

■ A Durham man was taken into custody Saturday after an incident at Roses in University

Mall. Frederick Douglas Smith was charged with shoplifting and assault with a deadly weapon after eight cartons of Salem cigarettes, valued at \$76.77, were stolen, and a man threatened the store manager with a knife following a foot chase.

■ Trouble arose Sunday when a Hampton Court resident reported that a Doberman approached his son while he was delivering newspapers. Police arrived on the scene, but could not find any dogs. The investigating officer watched with the boy's father as he finished his route on Apple Street. No other trouble was reported.

■ A woman reported being assaulted on Craig Street Saturday night. The victim was bleeding from a two-inch cut above her left eye and complained of a large bump on her left forearm. She was transported to North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

■ A car was damaged this weekend while it was parked in the Timberlyne Shopping Center. Police estimate \$1,000 in damage to the left front quarter panel of the car.

■ A Clover Road resident heard noises outside her window. After listening with her mother for more sounds and hearing nothing, she called the police.

The investigating officer found that someone had taken a metal chair from the deck and placed it outside a back bedroom window. Someone stood on the chair and tried to open the window, but the suspect did not get into the house, and no damage was reported.

— compiled by Larry Stone

Bill to allow higher environmental standards

By SANDY WALL
Staff Writer

A bill introduced in the N.C. Senate last Wednesday would give the state freedom to set stronger environmental protection standards.

The bill, co-sponsored by Sens. Dennis Winner, D-Buncombe, and George Daniel, D-Caswell, would repeal the restrictive and controversial "Hardison amendments."

The amendments, sponsored by former Sen. Harold Hardison, D-Lenoir, in the 1970s, prohibit North Carolina from establishing standards on water quality, air quality and hazardous waste treatment differing from those set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"Each state can set their own

standards," said Connie Altman, Winner's secretary. But the Hardison amendments prohibit setting standards stricter than EPA regulations, she said.

"I just think that we need to be able to make the decisions," Winner said in a telephone interview. "I've always thought that."

If the bill passes, state agencies would be allowed to set standards for water, air and soil, Winner said. The standards for environmental protection should not be set by the General Assembly but by agencies like the N.C. Department of Natural Resources, he said.

"There are a number of environmental institutions scattered throughout the state government," said Jim

Shepherd, public information director for the N.C. Division of Environmental Management in Raleigh. If the Hardison amendments are repealed, these agencies would have the power to set standards that are tougher than EPA standards.

Support has come from 26 fellow senators who co-signed the bill, Winner said, "but that's not indicative. I think there are more supporters than co-sponsored the bill."

Winner would not predict his bill's chances for passage, but similar attempts to repeal the Hardison amendments have failed, he said.

Gov. Jim Martin is also in favor of the bill, said Tim Pittman, communications director for the governor. "He strongly supports the repeal

of the Hardison amendments" and has supported a repeal since he first campaigned for governor in 1984, Pittman said.

Martin should be able to rally Republicans behind the bill, Pittman said. "He'll be involved in legislative negotiations."

Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner, presiding officer of the Senate, could not be reached for comment by Phil Bridges, Gardner's press officer. Gardner supported repealing the amendments during his 1988 campaign.

"I don't have a good sense whether it will pass or not," said Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, whose 1987 attempt to repeal the amendments never came to a vote in the House. "Talk is cheap," he said.

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

UNC STUDY ABROAD FALL 1989

England, Scotland	Jan. 24, Tues., 3:30	St. Union, Rm. 208
Latin America	Jan. 24, Tues., 3:30	316 Hamilton Hall
Italy	Jan. 24, Tues., 4:00	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall
Israel	Jan. 25, Wed., 2:00	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall
Australia	Jan. 25, Wed., 3:00	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall
Lyon, France	Jan. 25, Wed., 4:00	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall
Japan	Jan. 26, Thurs., 5:00	407 Dey Hall
London School of Economics	Jan. 30, Mon., 3:00	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall
Copenhagen, Denmark	Jan. 30, Mon., 4:30	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall
Montpellier, France (Summer)	Jan. 31, Tues., 3:30	301 Dey Hall
Germany	Jan. 31, Tues., 5:00	Rm. 12, Caldwell Hall

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