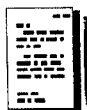


FAX
TRANSMISSION
PhoneTools

603 Airport Rd., #1-K Chapel Hill, NC 27514

FROM	Jan Cosby
TO	Town of Chapel Hill Cal Horton, Town Manager
Page(s)	2
12 / 1	9/9/2004 8:56 AM

**Message**

RECEIVED
SEP 09 2004
BY: <i>gjr</i>

Mr. Horton,

Following Tuesday's Town Council meeting, I would like to comment on a few of the changes suddenly being proposed which differ from the original intent as detailed in the advertisement for applicants (copy attached).

The original advertisement specified that the applicant must be a resident of Chapel Hill. Although I believe I understand the reason for opening it up to non-residents, I feel strongly that the proviso should be made that non-resident applicants must be either an owner/manager of a business in Chapel Hill or an owner of property in Chapel Hill. Non-residents without one of these vested interests in this issue should not be a part of this committee.

Additionally, I am concerned about the focus of the committee. As stated in the original advertisement the focus was to be the petition to rename Airport Road. I agree with Councilman Kleinschmidt that the council seemed to be losing this focus and unless this committee remains focused on that issue, nothing will be accomplished. Please remind the council members of that.

Also, please inform the council members that I and others I have spoken with hope that the committee design will remain true to that proposed in the advertisement. Committees are never extremely efficient methods of accomplishing anything, but a committee larger than 20 members will be so unwieldy as to be totally unmanageable. Surely the council has an excess of applicants for many of its committee openings and successfully appoints some and not others without anyone feeling 'disenfranchised'. If the council is careful to appoint a true cross-section of the community and opinions I believe they can limit the participants to 20 without a great deal of upset.

Thank you for hearing and passing on these concerns,

Jan Cosby
603 Airport Rd.

To: *MHC* scan 9/9/04
gjr

Fax :

Phone : 919 933-3972

From: Joyce Smith
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 3:08 PM
To: Sandy Cook
Subject: FW: Citizen call

Joyce A. Smith
Town Clerk
Town of Chapel Hill
919-968-2757
919-967-8406 Fax

From: Carol Abernethy
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2004 12:36 PM
To: Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; 'Edith Wiggins'; 'Jim Ward'; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; Sally Greene (w)
Cc: Roger Waldon; George Small; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph
Subject: Citizen call

Mr. George Hogan has comments on 2 issues he asked me to email to the Council:

1. He does not want a paved bicycle path on the Battle Branch Greenway trail.
2. He suggests that if the name of Airport Road is changed to Martin Luther King, Jr., all bills relating to the cost for residents and businesses to change their addresses be sent to the NAACP for reimbursement.

*Carol Abernethy
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office
Town of Chapel Hill
(919)968-2844
(919)969-2063 (FAX)*

From: Robert Giles [mailto:robertgiles@netzero.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2004 8:23 AM
To: Kevin Foy
Subject: Advisory committee on Airport road name

Would you please publish on your website the members of the committee appointed to study Airport road name retention and their email addresses.

You should ask the Chapel Hill Historic Society for their input.
Who has had more impact on our village Frank Porter Graham or Martin Luther King, Jr.?

There is already a MLK road. What qualifies MLK for all this preferential treatment that Frank Porter Graham didn't qualify for first?

Amy Harvey

From: Arthur Marks [skrams@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2004 10:36 AM
To: Town Clerk
Subject: FW: Martin Luther King Committee -- Please pass on
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

skrams@earthlink.net

----- Original Message -----

From: Arthur Marks
To: townclerk@townochapelhill.org
Sent: 9/22/2004 10:34:45 AM
Subject: Martin Luther King Committee -- Please pass on

Dear Committee members:

I am sorry not to have spoken or written sooner on this matter.

To judge from the Committee's name, I deeply regret that the council continues to think that the appropriate way to honor Rev. King is by renaming a road. And I assume that discussion will continue to focus on renaming Airport Road. How sad that he is to be remembered by a means of entering and leaving town. Little chance here to have any sense of his real historical meaning.

Instead the town should seek a more meaningful monument, a place where whether through art, whether sculpture, or inscriptions of some of his best words, one is made to think about the man's message. Also it should be a place where people can go for a pensive moment or sometimes congregate, not only to celebrate MLK day, for example, but also other appropriate occasions.

Is it a park or part of a park specially landscaped; a library; a school with a civic auditorium or some other civic center? That is for you to decide. Carrboro certainly got the jump on us here.

All I hope is that it is more than a series of green and white street signs or a street address on a stick-on return address label.

And when some suitable memorial is decided upon, I sincerely hope that the town rename the present Martin Luther King street, which is a disgrace tucked away as it is.

Best wishes in your deliberations.

Arthur S. Marks

skrams@earthlink.net

Amy Harvey

From: Fitz Brundage [brundage@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2004 2:37 PM
To: Amy Harvey
Cc: sally@metalab.unc.edu
Subject: Re: Schedule of Committee Meetings-Airport Renaming Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Amy;

Alas, I will not be able to attend either meeting on Nov. 5th or 6th. I will be away on a professional trip that I cannot reschedule.

I would like to offer the following observation, however. If I understand the text of the letter, the meetings on Nov. 5th and 6th will be all day affairs. Whose idea is that? Is the intent to insure that people who have full time jobs cannot participate? And why is it so urgent that the meetings have to be held in this fashion? The city government has managed to drag this process out already, so why is the special committee now compelled to conduct its business in such a hurried manner?

Whatever the reason or the intent behind the scheduling of the meeting, I cannot participate in the first two sessions. Consequently, a "replacement" should be selected to serve in my stead.

Sincerely,
Fitz Brundage

Amy Harvey wrote:

> *Memorandum*
>
>
>
> To: Members of the Special Committee to Consider Renaming of Airport
> Road
>
> From: Mayor Kevin Foy, Mayor Pro Tem Edith Wiggins, Council Member
> Sally Greene
>
> Subject: Schedule of Committee Meetings
>
> Date: October 13, 2004
>
> We have made progress in selecting and negotiating with a potential
> facilitator for the work of the Special Committee to consider Renaming
> of Airport Road. We will announce the selection as soon as a contract
> has been executed.
>
> We also have made progress in determining the schedule of meetings for

> the Committee, working in consultation with our prospective
> facilitators. We believe that the work of the Committee will benefit
> from concentrated effort. The initial meetings of the Committee will
> be held in two full-day sessions on Friday, November 5 and Saturday,
> November 6. The Committee will meet again for a half-day session on
> Saturday, November 20. The Committee's report to the Council will be
> presented at the December 6 regular meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall.
>
> It is important that Committee Members be able to attend all three
> sessions (November 5-6, November 20, and December 6). The nature of
> the work that must be done requires full participation and continuity
> of effort. It is not feasible to allow participation in only part of
> the Committee's work process. We ask you to commit now to attending
> all three sessions and to confirm your commitment by response to this
> e-mail message. If you are not able to make such a commitment, please
> let us know immediately so that the Council will be able to appoint
> your replacement.
>
> We recognize that any schedule that we put forward likely will pose a
> problem for someone. The schedule selected provides advance notice for
> all participants, adequate time for preparatory work by the
> facilitators, a reasonable period for the work of the Committee and a
> report to the Council by December as originally planned. We hope that
> all of you will be able to commit to the schedule and participate in
> the work of the Committee.
>
> Please respond to this notice no later than Thursday, October 14.
>
> Thank you for your willingness to serve your community in this
> important and challenging work.
>
> <<Notice to Cmte Members re Airport Rd Renaming Cmte.doc>>
>
>
>
> Sent to: Committee members
>
> Copied to: Focus Group, Interested citizens list, Town Council
>
> Amy Harvey
>
> Assistant Clerk
>
> Town of Chapel Hill
>
> 306 N. Columbia Street
>
> Chapel Hill, NC 27516
>
> (919) 968-2743
>

Amy Harvey

From: REironside@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2004 2:49 PM
To: Amy Harvey
Subject: Re: Schedule of Committee Meetings-Airport Renaming Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Thank you for the notice and news. However, I am not a member of the committee. I imagine that I am on "a" list because I wrote to mayor and council some months ago with my suggestions, concerns, and advice at that time. Others have written letters to the editor and have expressed concerns that the brouhaha is somewhat racially motivated (I agree), or that it represents a power play (I agree), or both. They are connected. How sad that such a good idea was promoted initially as a surprise move, by a small group, with only one alternative (Airport Road), which of course means there was no alternative at all. It is King who should be honored in some way, not the people who began this idea locally. Edith Wiggins is to be commended for recognizing what w\as going on and refusing to play the game any longer. Wise lady.

I trust that you will copy this email message for mayor and council and for the committee, now. Any good idea needs an exploration that considers alternatives in place and in time. There is no rush. That is, no rush is justified, in my view. There are various ways to honor King. Airport Road is a possibility but perhaps not such a good one. There is also renaming Fordham Boulevard or waiting for a new street or thoroughfare to open in future or naming a park. And others. When will we be building and naming a new school?

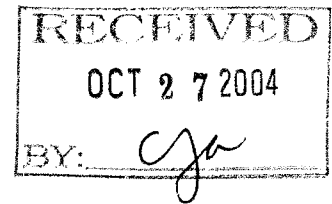
Ellen and I are not tooting our horns, but we shook hands with M L King in the early 1960s in Virginia after his inspired presentation at an assembly. We think he should be honored, but not in any specific way or one that is railroaded into being. On the other hand, he doesn't have to be honored in every town and city. He didn't ask for that. And there is in place a national holiday. It occurs that not every town or city has a Washington Street, or a Lincoln Avenue, or a Roosevelt Parkway. Some have none of these. I would almost rather have some honor given here to Marian Anderson rather than King, partly because he is recognized in so many ways and in so many places already.

I hope that the committee's deliberations will be thorough and thoughtful.

Sincerely,

Roderick A. Ironside
Chapel Hill

Janice M. Cosby
603 Airport Road, # 1 K.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



October 23, 2004

Mayor Kevin Foy
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mayor Foy;

It's been a long time since anyone accused me of being naïve. Fortunately, I believe I'm not nearly as naïve as you think I am. Just to set the record straight, what I said was that this is not a racial issue for me or for the other people with whom I have discussed this issue – nor should it be.

If this was strictly a racial issue and there were no other considerations, the answer would be obvious and the council would have voted to change the name of Airport Road long ago. In fact I think that is exactly why, when other issues were raised, a move was made to turn it into a racial issue. I also think that is why this committee is now being told that their primary goal is to discuss racial concerns in Chapel Hill and possibly, as a small part of that, consider whether or not Airport Road should be renamed. Please allow me to refresh your memory as to what you said you were proposing in the council meeting (this is what the council voted to do): *"To create a special committee to consider the petition submitted by the CH/Carrboro branch of the NAACP and to develop recommendations for appropriate memorials to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by appointing a committee composed of members of the Council, members of the NAACP, residents of Airport Road, and a diverse group of citizens-at-large, who would meet to arrange and conduct public forums, workshops and such other meetings as would be useful in developing options and recommendations for the Council to consider, and that the opportunities for participation by citizens interested in participating in the proposed renaming and any related matters be widely publicized through multiple media, and that the committee conduct its business at the deliberate pace necessary for an effective civic process"*

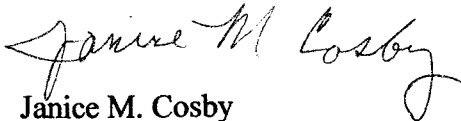
Perhaps you can just answer a few questions for me before this issue is rapidly dismissed.

- How exactly is a 2-day facilitator led discussion of racial issues going to address the issue of whether or not there are better ways to honor Dr. King than by renaming Airport Road?
- What happened to your original proposal of a series of 2-hour meetings held early morning so as to disrupt the daily schedules of the committee members as little as possible?

- What happened to the desire to include all those who applied to be a part of this committee by allowing any of those who wanted to attend the meetings and leaving 15 minutes at the end of each meeting for any of those attending to address comments to the committee members?
- Why is it suddenly necessary to rush this along so much that committee members had no chance to consider or comment on a new, very different schedule before they were required to say yes or no and commit to attending all sessions? Indeed, some committee members had not even received the letter by the time their answer was required.
- What happened to the proposal that the committee meetings would be broadcast, or taped for broadcast later, in order that anyone who was interested might observe the process?

I sincerely do hope that the end of this disturbing issue looks better than it did in the beginning and continues to until now. So far you and the council seem to have made tentative steps toward a balanced look at all sides of the issue only to retreat back to the original position of "let's just vote for this and get it over with." And I look forward to receiving your answers to the questions I have posed.

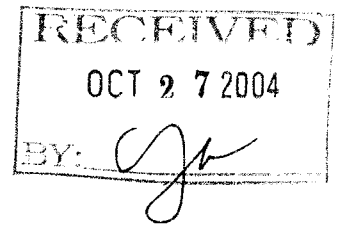
Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice M. Cosby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janice M. Cosby
J. Darren Thompson

Cc: CH Town Council Members

Audrie M. Kirksey
603 Airport Rd., #2-M
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



October 23, 2004

Chapel Hill Town Council
c/o Cal Horton, Town Manager
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Town Council Members;

I am a Black resident of Airport Road and was appalled to read recent editorials and articles stating that a racial problem exists in connection with the disagreement over renaming Airport Road to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Martin Luther King would not approve of our taking racial sides to honor him. He wanted all Americans to work together and people from many racial groups supported his endeavors and, as a result, we are much better off today. To borrow a phrase from one writer, "Martin Luther King deserves better!" A mere street name is not good enough and there are other factors besides 'race' to consider.

Airport Road has a priceless sentimental and historical value for life-long residents and many more of Chapel Hill's citizens. At least a hundred businesses and professional offices located along Airport Road would have an unfair financial burden changing licenses, for example, etc.

Airport Road is densely populated. If all the people living in the numerous condos and apartment buildings have to change their ID's, banking accounts, etc. – just imagine the problems for the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, State Licensing Bureau, Post Office, schools, colleges, and banks!

I hope the Town Council of Chapel Hill will reconsider some of the excellent, more substantial alternatives people have suggested to dedicate or name for Martin Luther King, instead of renaming Airport Road. Some ideas were a public building, plaza, monument or statue.

Renaming Chapel Hill Library on Library Road to Martin Luther King Library on Martin Luther King Library Road is absolutely the best idea I have heard. The library and its services are available to all the people in the town and Martin Luther King sought equality and opportunity for all while he certainly valued education.

Yes, "Martin Luther King deserves better!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrie M. Kirksey".

Audrie M. Kirksey

Cc: Mayor Kevin Foy
Chapel Hill Herald
Chapel Hill News
Durham Herald Sun

From: Joyce Smith
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2004 3:14 PM
To: Sandy Cook
Subject: FW: Renaming of airport Road

Joyce A. Smith
Town Clerk
Town of Chapel Hill
919-968-2757
919-967-8406 Fax

-----Original Message-----

From: Cal Horton
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2004 8:19 AM
To: Council Member Bill Strom ; Council Member Cam Hill; Council Member Dorothy Verkerk ; Council Member Ed Harrison ; Council Member Jim Ward ; Council Member Jim Ward (W) ; Council Member Mark Kleinschmidt ; Council Member Sally Greene ; Mayor Kevin C. Foy (TCH) ; Mayor pro tem Edith Wiggins
Cc: Bruce Heflin; Carol Abernethy; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Owen Franklin; Ralph Karpinos; Sonna Loewenthal ; Toni Pendergraph
Subject: FW: Renaming of airport Road

W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516
919-968-2744
919-969-2063 FAX
919-967-2626 Home
calhorton@townofchapelhill.org

Note: Mail sent to or received from the Town Manager is subject to publication under the provisions of the North Carolina open records law.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ralph Walton [mailto:ralph_colleen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2004 5:32 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Renaming of airport Road

The town needs to come up with a better way of honoring Dr. King. We own property on Airport Road and oppose this from a practical standpoint. Our home address had to be changed years ago because of the 911 system and we still have mail that does not get delivered to us. The Post Office is just not efficient in delivering mail to the new address even though we tried to notify everyone about the change. Surely you can find a better way.

Do you Yahoo!?
Express yourself with Y! Messenger! Free. Download now.
<http://messenger.yahoo.com>

Emily Dickens

From: Carol Abernethy on behalf of Cal Horton
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2004 12:10 PM
To: 'Peterfly@aol.com'
Cc: George Small; Bruce Heflin; Cal Horton; Catherine Lazorko; Emily Dickens; Flo Miller; Joyce Smith; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph; Bill Strom; Cam Hill; Dorothy Verkerk ; Ed Harrison; 'Edith Wiggins'; 'Jim Ward'; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Mark Kleinschmidt ; Sally Greene (w)
Subject: Citizen Comment RE: Airport Road name change

A copy of your email message has been forwarded to each Council Member.

*Carol Abernethy
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office
Town of Chapel Hill*

From: Peterfly@aol.com [mailto:Peterfly@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2004 5:17 PM
To: Town Council
Cc: ccarver@charlescarvercpa.com; Kevin Foy; edithwiggins@nc.rr.com; sally@ibiblio.org
Subject: Airport Road name change

Dear Friends,

As the owner of 2 properties on Airport Road, I encourage you to please not change the name. The confusion and expense to property owners, tenants, delivery people, mail service, etc., will greatly override the good intentions.

I ask that you do as Wilmington and other cities have done and that is to name a new and major street or road for Dr. King. Or name a highway that is currently just a number.

Not many years ago, our city council wanted to rename Shipyard Blvd. in honor of one of our finest citizens, Dan Cameron. The intentions were good and the honor deserved, but the price to be paid by the citizens was too much and Mr. Cameron, personally, asked that the change not take place.

I ask that you find a more suitable honor for Dr. King or anyone else that should be honored; and that the city honor the historic names of Chapel Hill.

If such an honor were to be suggested for anyone else, I really think that it would be discounted out of hand because of the unfairness to the residents and businesses along the road and the controversy it causes.

Please do this honor correctly and fairly.

Sincerely,
Peter R. Davis

Emily Dickens

From: SUSAN JONES [tdjones@nc.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2004 9:15 AM
To: Kevin Foy
Subject: Fw: Airport Road

----- Original Message -----

From: SUSAN JONES
To: mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2004 9:09 AM
Subject: Airport Road

Surely the Town of Chapel Hill can find a more appropriate and imaginative way to honor Dr. King than simply slapping up some new street signs along a stretch of roadway. This tactic has been used so often by so many other municipalities that it has become trite and meaningless. It is beyond argument that Dr. King and his many accomplishments are worthy of recognition and remembrance, but the town should sponsor some memorial that inspires people to actually think about what the man stood for. I can think of many possible combinations involving a statue/bust/plaque/informative display in a public place such as a courthouse, post office, school, town hall, park, greenway or walking trail. Given Dr King's emphasis on education, the town might consider approaching the University about some sort of exhibit in the new Stone Black Cultural Center or it might be possible to underwrite the expense of a reading room or book list at the public library which could be dedicated in his honor. Airport Road was so named for a logical reason and it will continue to be thought of and referred to as such for decades into the future, no matter what name appears on the signs. The main problem with this proposal is that it doesn't really accomplish anything other than creating some confusion about directions and addresses and erasing a small portion of local history. If the town is serious about wanting to honor Dr. King, it can certainly do better than this sort of embarrassingly condescending toss-off. Doug Jones III, property owner and taxpayer.