

Amy Harvey

From: Judith & Arthur Marks [skrams@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 2:04 PM
To: Amy Harvey; Amy Harvey; Aidan Smith; Ashley Osment; Bishop L. Gene Hatley; Brenda Brown; Creighton Irons; Curtis Harper; Jesse Gibson; Justin Coleman; Mae McLendon; Sheila Mikhail; Stephen Largent; Tom Jensen; Yonni Chapman
Cc: Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Bruce Heflin; Catherine Lazorko; Ralph Karpinos; Joyce Smith; Town Council; Sally Greene; Edith Wiggins; Kevin Foy; Calvin Allen; Chantelle Fisher-Borne; Graig Meyer; Gita Gulati-Partee
Subject: RE: Reminder of Meeting and Additional Citizen Comments
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

I have written to the MLK naming committee before and for my opinions kindly see my previous letter.

I write now because of my disappointment and sadness that the Town Council seems to have limited the discussion to the renaming of Airport Road. Similarly, I regret those council members who so lack vision that they cannot see beyond such a possibility. I am equally disappointed with the committee for its failure to look beyond that possibility. Surely, MLK deserves something more significant a monument than a road into or out of town. Besides, clearly it is a possibility that only separates rather than unites.

What not memorialize King with something new, and certainly something more significant than a stretch of paved road, some public gathering place, a park, a school, a library, somewhere where by inscription or otherwise, the man's message becomes evident.

SURELY, DR KING'S DREAM WAS NOT TO FIND THE QUICKEST WAY OUT OF TOWN!

Arthur S. Marks

skrams@earthlink.net

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

From: Amy Harvey
To: Amy Harvey; Aidan Smith; Ashley Osment; Bishop L. Gene Hatley; Brenda Brown; Creighton Irons; Curtis Harper; Jesse Gibson; Justin Coleman; Mae McLendon; Sheila Mikhail; Stephen Largent; Tom Jensen; Yonni Chapman
Cc: Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Bruce Heflin; Catherine Lazorko; Ralph Karpinos; Joyce Smith; Town Council; Sally Greene; Edith Wiggins; Kevin Foy; Calvin Allen; Chantelle Fisher-Borne; Graig Meyer; Gita Gulati-Partee
Sent: 11/17/2004 1:25:32 PM
Subject: Reminder of Meeting and Additional Citizen Comments

Good Afternoon

This email is being sent to the members of the Special Committee to Consider Renaming Airport Road. It is also being copied to the Town Council, Focus Group members, other interested citizens, and Administrative staff.

A reminder that the next meeting of the Special Committee to Consider Renaming Airport Road will be on Saturday, November 20, from 8:30 am to noon, at the Courtyard Marriot across from the Friday

11/18/2004

Center in Chapel Hill.

Also attached are citizen comments that I have received since 11/1/04.

<<11-17-04 citizen comments.PDF>>

Amy Harvey

Assistant Clerk

Town of Chapel Hill

306 N. Columbia Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

(919)968-2743

Amy Harvey

From: Jpar123@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 3:47 PM
To: Amy Harvey
Subject: Re: Reminder of Meeting and Additional Citizen Comments
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Amy Harvey,

I hope that this email is not too late to make it to committee and town council members by the Nov. 20th date of the next committee meeting to consider changing the name of Airport Road. Please forward this email to committee and council members. And, it is OK to make it available for public record.

I am a longtime, 25+ year, resident of Airport Road, who has written once before expressing opposition to the renaming of Airport Road, primarily for financial and administrative reasons on my part, secondarily for historical reasons, as I do not wish to see a part of the town's history erased.

Upon hearing of the mayor's and council's decision to develop a committee to discuss this situation, I was pleased and more than willing to accept the committee's decision. However, I am concerned at this point, and somewhat disturbed, to learn of the committee's make-up, as expressed in a Nov. 7th letter attached to your last informative email, which is written by a committee member, Mr. Stephen D. Largent. If the committee makes a recommendation to in fact rename Airport Road, I would hope that the committee was fairly representative of all parties involved. I am a public school teacher and have served on committees that were greatly outnumbered in favor of a particular stance. I recognize, accordingly, how ineffective such committees are in reaching real solutions that are satisfactory to all. I was especially disturbed to read in Mr. Largent's letter that some of the committee members are not even from Chapel Hill.

I would also like to take this opportunity to applaud the alternate proposal expressed by Thomas C. Keyserling, MD in his Nov. 8th letter to the committee and council. As an alternative to renaming Airport Road, Mr. Keyserling details the establishment of a monetary reward program to challenge students at various levels to live up to the principles set forth by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have taught American History at the high school level for the past ten years. And, during that time, I have been concerned, deeply, to find that the majority of my students, of all races, know so little about civil rights, its causes, its implications, and its primary participants. I have found each year, consistently, that one hundred percent of my high school students do not know the August 1955 story of fourteen year old Emmett Till of Mississippi. Ten years ago, I set a goal that each and ever student who passes through my classroom door will know the Emmett Till story before the school year ends. It is amazing to watch their faces change during the viewing of the Eye On the Prize Emmett Till video, and during discussion after its showing. My students, of all races, become transformed in a sense. They walk away with a deeper understanding of why African Americans fight for civil rights, as well as a greater understanding of the extent of racism in our country in the 1950s and to this very day. The Emmett Till story brings the civil rights movement down to the level of my students; it makes it real to them. I also make a point to teach my students about a post-Mecca Malcolm X. Most students, of all races, are aware only of a pre-Mecca Malcolm X.

My point is that a focus on education with regard to the principles elaborated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is greatly needed in our community and especially in our schools. The establishment of a fund for this purpose, as recommended by Dr. Keyserling, in my opinion, would far exceed any good which might come from a road sign with Martin Luther King Jr's name on it. The committee will make a mistake if it ignores the recommendation stated in Dr. Keyserling's letter.

It is my desire and hope that the name Airport Road will remain a part of our town's history. As mentioned in my previous letter, I and my family are still mourning the loss of Camp Hollowrock's store and bridge. Back in the 1940's, Camp Hollowrock was this area's public car wash. A gravel road went directly through the river just under the bridge. On weekends, everybody in town, including my father, was there, taking turns driving their cars down

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into the river to wash and rinse. Our town's history is important. I hope that you all will consider this email when making your final decision.

Sincerely,

Joseph Calvin Parrish
Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC
jpar123@aol.com

11/18/2004

Amy Harvey

From: Theresa Raphael-Grimm [raphaelg@email.unc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 3:50 PM
To: Amy Harvey; Aidan Smith; Ashley Osment; Bishop L. Gene Hatley; Brenda Brown; Creighton Irons; Curtis Harper; Jesse Gibson; Justin Coleman; Mae McLendon; Sheila Mikhail; Stephen Largent; Tom Jensen; Yonni Chapman
Cc: Cal Horton; Flo Miller; Bruce Heflin; Catherine Lazorko; Ralph Karpinos; Joyce Smith; Town Council; Sally Greene; Edith Wiggins; Kevin Foy; Calvin Allen; Chantelle Fisher-Borne; Graig Meyer; Gita Gulati-Partee
Subject: Focus Group Member Input
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Ms. Harvey,

As a member of the "Focus Group" (peripherally connected to the Special Committee to Rename Airport Road) I have followed the developments, dilemmas, and dissention associated with this issue. Before the deliberations come to a close, I would like the committee to consider the following:

- 1) There seems to be strong agreement that Chapel Hill needs to formally and publicly recognize the contributions of African Americans.
 - 2) Formally and publicly recognizing the contributions of African Americans is the primary and essential goal of this process
 - 3) Achieving #2 may or may not be accomplished via re-naming Airport Rd.
 - 4) #2 Needs to remain the primary goal even if that means voting against the Airport Rd. name change
 - 5) Meeting #2 should be accomplished through a variety of methods. My suggestions follow:
 - re-naming the library for MLK
 - erecting a statue of Frederick Douglas at the "Top of the Hill" thereby paying tribute to a quintessentially "educated" man in a town who's very existence is based on the value of education
 - re-naming Franklin St. for John Hope Franklin. No one would be faced with expenses associated with the change, (except the town for new road signs), and a true scholar, gentleman and local hero could be honored. All personal or business stationary could be changed over time as the essential street name would remain the same, only the association would be altered.
- Few benefit from a change when conflict and divisiveness are so much a part of the process. Why not have our visible, public tributes to our African American community represent changes that all can celebrate.
- Theresa Raphael-Grimm

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Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 1:25 PM

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Road will be on Saturday, November 20, from 8:30 am to noon, at the Courtyard Marriot across from the Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

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Assistant Clerk

Town of Chapel Hill

306 N. Columbia Street

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

(919)968-2743

Amy Harvey

From: scarborough.ron@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 4:48 PM
To: Amy Harvey
Subject: Re: Reminder of Meeting and Additional Citizen Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Rename it or not rename it, it's a moot point because everyone who has lived in this town for more than a few years is going to continue calling it Airport Road.

That's how historical reference works. No amount of renaming will remove the historical usage of the name "Airport Road." That's why you pick a NEW street for the name. It has no history and people have no choice but to use the name you give it. Dr. King's name will be on the signs and on the maps, but it won't be part of the everyday vocabulary until it has also become historical.

It might make a few people feel good to rename it, but it will take many years for the name to become part of the town's history and part of its daily discourse. .

Ron Scarborough
EPA ITS Contract
919-767-7160

