

AGENDA #3a(4)

Dear Mayor and Council:

Please see the attached resolution for your consideration.

I come before you tonight to tell you briefly about the newly formed Morgan Creek Valley Alliance. The mission of the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance is to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and to protect the water quality of the Morgan Creek watershed through public and private cooperation and broad participation. Please find at your place is a draft of our brochure.

To date, we have moved toward our mission by: 1) having Resolutions in support of the Alliance (unanimously) adopted by the Town of Carrboro, Orange County, and Orange Water and Sewer Authority; 2) drafting a brochure on the Morgan Creek Valley for the general public that includes various land conservation options; 3) creating a core group of cooperators representing the Botanical Garden Foundation, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, OWASA, the Triangle Land Conservancy, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Chapel Hill Museum; and 4) hiring an intern through the North Carolina Botanical Garden to help coordinate the Alliance.

I would appreciate the symbolic gesture of your support by your board taking action and passing this resolution of support tonight or in the near future.

Best Regards and Thanks, Johnny Randall

CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MORGAN CREEK VALLEY ALLIANCE
AND ITS EFFORTS TO PROTECT MORGAN CREEK

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill has established protecting our environment, especially our major watercourses and watersheds, as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, the Morgan Creek Valley is important to Chapel Hill from its upper reaches in the watershed of University Lake, its course through town, its links to neighboring Carrboro, and its flowing into Jordan Lake; and,

WHEREAS, the Morgan Creek Valley includes scenic, cultural, recreational, water supply and wildlife resources including rare and valuable micro ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill owns land along Morgan Creek and has planning and zoning authority over a significant portion of its Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill has already taken significant steps over the years to protect the important and sensitive ecology of Morgan Creek through planning, watershed protection and management of its own property; and,

WHEREAS, the newly formed Morgan Creek Valley Alliance seeks to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and ecological integrity of the region and to protect the water quality of the Morgan Creek Valley through increasing public awareness, cooperation and broad participation; and,

WHEREAS, the Alliance is a voluntary cooperative effort which even in its initial stages has included broad participation from property owners along the creek, NC Botanical Garden through which it flows, Chapel Hill Museum, Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill, Orange County, OWASA, UNC-Chapel Hill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Triangle Land Conservancy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chapel Hill Town Council hereby welcomes the establishment and supports the mission of the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance to conserve Morgan Creek through public education, cooperation and coordination of public and private parties, and voluntary conservation efforts to protect the natural and cultural heritage and to protect the water quality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chapel Hill Town Council encourages the Morgan Creek Valley Alliance to pursue its broad based strategy with maximum involvement of the public in the interest of protecting one of our most valuable resources.

This, the ___th day of March, 2002.