

October 24, 2008

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council:

I would like to apply for the open position on the Town Council. I am very sorry about Bill Thorpe's death. I was a supporter in his election, and have admired his work on the Council over the years. He also lived in my neighborhood.

I have lived in Chapel Hill for many years, earning an undergraduate degree in journalism in 1959 and master's degree in the same field in 1960. I returned to Chapel Hill after completing my doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin in 1966 and have taught since then in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, except for brief assignments at other universities.

Currently I am a member of the Public Housing Advisory Board for the city, and in the past have served full terms on the (then) Appearance Commission, the Human Services Advisory Board, and Technology Advisory Committee. I also served a year on the Planning Board, but was not able to finish the full term because I had an opportunity to fill an academic year research fellowship at Columbia University in New York City.

I am interested in public service in other ways, at the University or elsewhere. I am North Carolina director of Selective Service, which means that we train to be ready in case the President and Congress were to reinstitute some form of the draft.

If selected for the Council, I tend to favor careful growth. I am not one to bemoan the way Chapel Hill was—although I sometimes miss it—because I know that growth is a challenge for many communities. Providing a wider range of housing has long been one of my interests, along with pay and benefits for public employees. Two of the commissions on which I worked both informed and reinforced some of my views about city needs. Members of the citizen committees on which I have served are very public minded and sometime inspirational. There have been times on various commissions on which I have voted in the minority, sometimes the only such vote, so I do develop independent views on community issues as they develop.

I do not have an interest in running for the Town Council, although in the past I have considered it. But I am interested in serving in this important role if you seek a candidate with some background in Chapel Hill public service for a limited period. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Donald Shaw
710 Emory Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

*received - 10.28-08 by US. Mail
Sandy Klein*