

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Response to Petition from the Active Living by Design Advisory Committee

DATE: June 22, 2009

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to respond to a petition from the Active Living by Design Committee which requested that the Committee be made permanent and receive staff support from the Town.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2003, the Town received a \$200,000 five year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to promote active living through programming and physical design. As part of the grant obligation, the Active Living by Design Partnership Committee was formed to provide guidance to the Town on grant implementation.

On October 15, 2008, near the end of the five year grant, the Chairperson of the Active Living by Design Advisory Committee presented a petition to the Council requesting that the Active Living by Design Advisory Committee be made into a permanent group with continuation of staffing and requested a name change. A copy of the petition is attached.

Currently the Active Living Committee tasks include the following:

- Provides the Town Council with guidance in the implementation of the Town's Active Living by Design grant.
- Makes recommendations to the Town Council regarding actions needed to help citizens safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines.
- Establishes Chapel Hill active living design criteria for advisory board project review.
- Provides assistance to the Town in the development of educational/promotional programs to promote active living including Active Schools, Active Neighborhoods, and Active Businesses.
- Assists in identifying alternative funding sources for active living programs and infrastructure projects.
- Identifies physical barriers to active living in the community and informs the Town of areas in need of improvements to the physical infrastructure.

## **DISCUSSION**

Based on our discussions with the Active Living by Design Committee, we believe that the mission of the committee, with its emphasis on active, healthy lifestyles is closely aligned with the mission of the Parks and Recreation Commission. We believe the Parks and Recreation Commission can expand its mission to encompass the responsibilities of the current Active Living by Design Committee, especially within the context of providing a wide variety of active recreational and cultural opportunities. A letter of support from the Active Living by Design Committee for this recommendation is attached.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend merging the Active Living by Design Committee with the Parks and Recreation Commission. We believe a plan for merger of Active Living with the Parks and Recreation Commission can be accomplished by January, 2010 with a goal of merging by January 2011.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Petition to Council
2. Letter of support for recommendation from the ALbD Committee