

Michelle Johnson
109 Center Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
August 10, 2009

Town Council of Chapel Hill
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Town Council:

I am writing to request your approval of placing a plaque, next to a tree that is being planted with support from the Friends of Bolin Creek at Bolin Creek on September 26, 2009. My good friend and former resident of Chapel Hill and Carrboro Eric Diener passed away on December 29, 2008 unexpectedly. He lived in Chapel Hill part of his life, attending Chapel Hill High School, transitioning to Appalachian State for College and returning back to Carrboro where he resided for many years.

He was very involved in our community. He worked at the Emerson Waldorf School as the business manager for many years where he helped transform the school and set up a sliding scale tuition system so that the school could be more accessible to all children. He worked as the Construction Manager from 2001-2004 at Orange Community Housing Land and Trust. At his time at Orange Community Land and Trust he was instrumental in overseeing that affordable housing be developed in Meadowmont. Eric was very involved in the community and could often be found biking out to work while employed at the Emerson Waldorf School to save energy and the environment. Eric helped to start the Thursday evening music events at Weaver Street and was inspired to help support Weaver Street in becoming the center of Carrboro. He was a Guardian et Litem and mentored many children through that program. He was committed to making his life and this world a better place to live in.

His partner, Laura Dominkovic who lived in Carrboro with Eric before settling in Asheville, NC wanted to have something in town to honor him that his friends and community can come and visit. The Bolin Creek trail in Chapel Hill is paved so it is accessible to many people, and we contacted them to inquire about planting a tree and placing a plaque in memory of Eric. I met with Bill Webster at Parks and Recreation and he and I picked an appropriate spot for the tree to be planted and he informed me to have a plaque the town needs to vote and make a decision at a Town Council meeting. We will be providing and paying for the plaque. We would like to gather the weekend of September 26th, 2009 when Eric's partner, his sister, parents, and friends want to plant the tree and reflect on how our lives have been touched by Eric. We would like the plaque to say:

Dear Life Traveler,

And allow the sounds of Nature

Chapel Hill Town Council

August 10, 2009

Page 2

To awaken your inner silence,
And take you into your subconsciousness,
Where your deepest truths lie.
Love your life and its gifts in honor and memory of our dear friend.

Bill informed me that the maintenance crew of Parks and Recreation can find a rock to affix the plaque on if you approve it.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please contact me with questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Johnson
Friend of Eric Diener
(919) 260-2145
Michelle.socialworker@gmail.com