

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council  
 FROM: Janet Kagan, Percent for Art Committee Chair  
 Jeff Cohen, Chair *KBC for JLC*  
 Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission  
 RE: Response to the Report of the Second Pritchard Park Art Garden Committee  
 DATE: October 22, 2004

The Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission (CHPAC) has participated in the conceptual development of the proposed Art Garden at Pritchard Park since its inception. During this time, we have reviewed several alternative plans for the Art Garden, with the goal of creating a woodland site for the experience of public art. The current Report of the *Second Pritchard Park Art Garden Committee* offers a more detailed proposal by the Sienna Hotel of their plans. In our role as an advisor to the Town Council on art-related matters, as well as administrator to increase public access to the arts and promote understanding and awareness of public art, the CHPAC voted unanimously (9-0) on October 20, 2004 to support the Report of the *Second Pritchard Park Art Garden Committee* with the following comments. (Voting for: Jeff Cohen, Dick Robinson, Janet Kagan, Anita Wolfenden, Jimmie Haynes, Erica Rothman, Susan Leeb, Jen Horney, and Colleen Black-Semelka. Voting against: None)

First, we continue to endorse the idea of a woodland public art garden owned by the Town of Chapel Hill; Pritchard Park is a lovely environment in which to enjoy and contemplate works of art. Second, we support the proposed collaboration and cooperation between the Sienna Hotel and the Town of Chapel Hill with regard to the planning and design of both potential garden spaces. Third, we concur that a buffer between the Sienna Hotel and the Pritchard Park Art Garden would be advantageous because of the possibility of divergent design goals and aesthetics. To this end, it is vital that an artist be commissioned to design not only this important boundary but to serve as an integral member of a design team charged with developing proposals for both sites. Finally, the Report suggests that the Pritchard Park Art Garden is primarily intended for the reception of temporary works of art. The CHPAC acknowledges the advantages of having another public space for the display of temporary three-dimensional works of art but advocates for the inclusion of permanent artworks to compliment and serve both the site and the adjacent Public Library.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to help shape the goals and design direction of this wonderful community asset.