



Copy to Council
10/17/00
JAM

October 4, 2000

Mr. Cal Horton
Town Manager
Chapel Hill Town Hall
306 N. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Cal:

My understanding is that the Town Council has received a letter supporting a petition requesting that the Homestead Park Aquatic Center include a therapeutic pool. We applaud the efforts of the individuals interested in this initiative, and the sincerity with which they seek to meet the needs of members of our community who have disabilities.

During the course of the review for the Special Use Permit for the Meadowmont Wellness Center which will be established by UNC Hospitals, the Hospitals informed the Town Council that we are building a therapeutic pool. This therapeutic pool is primarily designed for patient-care activities at UNC Hospitals, and is a significant need by the departments that provide therapy. However, UNC Hospitals also agreed to evaluate the feasibility of the potential use of the therapeutic pool for other than UNC Hospitals' patients. As agreed with the Town, after about 90 days of experience with the therapeutic pool, we will be happy to explore potential opportunities that may be identified if patient needs can first be met with use of the therapeutic pool.

We had discussed setting up some kind of fee system with tickets purchased through existing Chapel Hill operated systems, such as Parks and Recreation services. In the letter to the Town Council, the implication of those writing the letter is that they may want to have special aquatic programs for individuals who access the therapeutic pool. At this time, we have not considered developing special aquatic programs for the general community utilizing the therapeutic pool. Rather, we were considering allowing access at certain hours for general use of the pool.