

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC FORUM  
FOR CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS  
PROGRAM FOR 1985-90, HELD BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF  
THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, MUNICIPAL BUILDING,  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1985, 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Joseph L. Nassif called the meeting to order. Council Members present were:

Winston Broadfoot  
Jonathan Howes  
Beverly Kawalec  
David Pasquini  
Nancy Preston  
R. D. Smith  
Bill Thorpe

Council Member Marilyn Myers Boulton was absent, excused. Also present were Town Manager David R. Taylor, Assistant Town Managers Sonna Loewenthal and Ron Secrist, and Town Attorney Grainger Barrett.

Assistant Town Manager Sonna Loewenthal made a brief presentation on the Preliminary Capital Improvements Program and the CIP process.

Mayor Nassif questioned the amount proposed for the paving of streets in the Emily Rd. area. Manager Taylor responded that the amount in the Preliminary CIP designated for this paving project was sufficient to pay for the engineering design work. He further stated that Council had decided on Dec. 10 to allocate an additional sum for the actual paving of the streets.

Mayor Nassif invited citizens to comment on the Preliminary CIP.

Mr. Lee House, speaking as a citizen, requested clarification from Manager Taylor regarding the funds for paving the streets on the lower end of Piney Mountain Rd. Manager Taylor reiterated that the amount in the Preliminary CIP was for design work only and that the Council had pledged an additional amount for the actual paving of those streets.

Jacques Menache, representing the Carrboro ArtSchool, suggested Council investigate renovating the old Police department building on the corner of Rosemary and Columbia Streets with the possibility of the ArtSchool using it as a branch facility.

Gary Giles, speaking as a citizen, expressed concern about the damage to the trees in downtown Chapel Hill by people chaining their bicycles to them. He also was concerned over the lack of ventilation in the Community Center on Estes Dr. which effectively prohibits the use of the gymnasium during the summer.

Henry Whitfield, speaking as a citizen, requested Council to consider annual appropriations for open spaces and park land.

Al Wurth, speaking as a citizen, spoke in support of a comprehensive plan for future bike-way networks and annual improvements for existing bike-ways.

Lisa Price, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, expressed gratitude that it appeared the Library would be of major concern in this capital improvements program package. Ms. Price went on to discuss several reasons for needed Library expansion. She asked Council to direct Town management to devise specific plans and alternatives in regular consultation with representatives of the Library Board of Trustees and the Library Director to present to Council in the Managers Recommended CIP in March, 1985. (Ms. Price's prepared text is in Clerk's files)

Pat Sullivan, Chair of the Human Services Advisory Board, expressed concern over the apparent lack of housing for moderate income people in Chapel Hill. Ms. Sullivan stated that the trend is toward bi-polarization in Chapel Hill, with it being inhabited by only the low income and the affluent. (Ms. Sullivan's prepared text is in Clerk's files)

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Lynn Cox, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission expressed Commission support for the Parks & Recreation projects listed in the Preliminary CIP. In addition, she requested, for the citizens of the Oakwood Park area, the addition of a basketball court in this year's CIP. Ms. Cox also expressed concern about the rate of the Town's growth and therefore the need for continuous funding for open space and greenways.

Lightning Brown, representing the Planning Board, stated that the Board supports the Preliminary CIP but felt that added emphasis should be placed on sidewalk construction and the need to schedule development of pedestrian paths along the Bolin Creek Greenway to coincide with construction of a new sewer line by OWASA in that area. A member of the Planning Board also suggested pedestrian overpasses at Franklin St. intersections with Elliott Rd. & Estes Drive.

Josh Gurlitz, representing the Community Appearance Commission, spoke in support of land acquisition along entranceways, visual buffers, and landscaping.

John Thomas, representing the Transportation Board endorsed the recommendations in the Preliminary CIP.

Gina Cunningham, representing the Task Force on Entranceways, confirmed that Council had received her memo detailing the final recommendations of the Task Force and requested they be considered in planning for capital needs.

Council Member Broadfoot questioned the Attorney regarding the inability of the Town to exclude non-Chapel Hill residents from use of the Library. Mr. Barrett responded that as long as the Town accepted funds from County Government, then County residents could not be excluded.

Council Member Preston asked the Manager to work closely with the Library Board in developing additional CIP requirements.

Council Member Smith suggested the Town purchase right-of-way on Sage Road. He also suggested Council consider pedestrian cycles in the traffic light system at the Franklin/Estes and Franklin/Elliott Rd. intersections rather than pedestrian overhead walkways.

COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH MOVED FOR REFERRAL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PRESTON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0).

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Mayor Joseph L. Nassif

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Nancy Wells, Information Services