

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 10:41 AM
To: wiggly1@me.com
Cc: Judy Johnson; Becky McDonnell; Phillip Fleischmann; Linda Smith; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: FW: Chapel Hill Pickleball Input for Wednesday Feb 12th Council Work Session
Attachments: Legion Rd Pickleball Complex Advocacy 02_12_2020.pdf

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

If your email is related to a development application or a particular issue being addressed by the Council, your comments will be made part of the record. If applicable, we encourage you to attend any public meetings related to the items addressed in your email.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin
Office Assistant
Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Johnson [mailto:wiggly1@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:44 AM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Chapel Hill Pickleball Input for Wednesday Feb 12th Council Work Session

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Good morning Town of Chapel Hill and the Council,

The Chapel Hill Pickleball group will attend this Wednesday's council work session. We will make brief comments on the proposed Legion Park. Attached are our comments to the council, including associated pictures for reference. Thanks for listening to, and reading our comments.

Sincerely,
Chapel Hill Pickleball Players
Presenting on Wednesday: Jen Johnson

Chapel Hill Pickleball Input for Feb 12, 2020 Town Council Meeting

Thank you for purchasing the Legion Property and considering the development of this space into a Park for the benefit of the town. We believe protecting this last large parcel in Chapel Hill for today's and future generations recreational needs is critical. We are especially supportive of your efforts to help build facilities that promote **healthy lifestyles** for our citizens.

We (gesture to our group) are members of the Chapel Hill Pickleball organization. We work closely with Parks and Recreation to bring pickleball to the Chapel Hill community.

We want to advocate for pickleball being park of this envisioned Legion Park space. We believe including pickleball is important to Chapel Hill for many reasons:

- Pickleball has become an extremely popular sport. It has been the fastest growing sport in the US for the past 10 years.
- Pickleball is the perfect example of a lifetime fitness sport that supports healthy living. It can be played by all ages, and is fun for everyone.
- It is a uniquely inclusive sport, which brings together a diverse group of players. There is minimal cost to participate, and everyone is welcomed. First time players rave about what a positive environment we have in Chapel Hill. We have 8 year olds playing with 80 year olds. We provide free training, teaching, leagues, and tournaments.
- We have the largest number of participating players of **any** sport in Chapel Hill using Chapel Hill facilities.
- Because Pickleball is a relatively new sport, with explosive growth, we have very limited facilities. The only dedicated Pickleball courts are at Ephesus Park, where there are 6 pickleball courts (the same size as two tennis courts).
 - 2013 we had 12 active players
 - 2015 about 165 players
 - 2017 about 500 players
 - 2019 over 850 players
- The growth in pickleball in our community has been steady. As projected we have outgrown the Ephesus courts (opened in 2017). We often have 30-40 people waiting their turn to play.
- To have the capacity to meet the projected demand in Chapel Hill for pickleball courts we will need to add 24 outdoor courts and 9 indoor courts within 5 years. It is important to build a single complex that builds community around the sport, and supports activities like leagues and tournament play.

- If we are able to build a proper sized Pickleball Complex in Chapel Hill, we will be able to host large tournaments, which brings overnight visitors to Chapel Hill, and would bring in tens of thousands of dollars in revenue to the town. The Visitor's Bureau is supportive of this and their consultant recommended a larger (32 court) complex.

Legion Rd is the last large park space developable by the town of Chapel Hill. It is the perfect location for park space, and for constructing a Pickleball facility that will support a healthy lifestyle and meet the needs of our community, for the next 10-20 years.

As you plan for this facility, we encourage you to take time to listen to your community and its needs for this wonderful park space. We look forward to working with the town on this.

[END PRESENTATION]

Below are pictures of play from this past chilly Sunday afternoon in February. All the courts are in use, and over 30 people are waiting to play.







Above is a picture of pickleball courts in St George, Utah. Their city is the same size as Chapel Hill, and they built their courts as a joint project between the town and the pickleball group. They filled their 24 courts with players in 2 years.

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 2:18 PM
To: dan levine
Cc: Judy Johnson; Becky McDonnell; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: American Legion/Studio A DanceArts

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

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Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: dan levine [mailto:levine_dan@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 8:01 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; Manager <manager@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: Amy Spitler <amyspitler@hotmail.com>
Subject: American Legion/Studio A DanceArts

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor and Town Council (Cc to Town Manager Jones),

My wife Amy (Ccd) and I understand that the Council will re-start conversations around how to plan for future development of the American Legion #6 parcel at this week's work session. We are writing to make sure you are aware of Studio A DanceArts, an existing woman-owned small business on the site, in hopes your staff will work hard and be creative, in order to try and retain Studio A as plans develop.

For years Studio A DanceArts has been housed in a structure near the back of the Legion site (to the left and behind the Legion post as you drive into the site). It's a simple facility but has a loyal following because of the wonderful dance community the owner Melody Eggen and her teachers have created for children from the adjacent Colony Woods neighborhood and from across the county and beyond. My older daughter has been a student at Studio A for four years and absolutely loves it. Our family truly hopes Studio A will remain at Legion Road, or at minimum be given plenty of time to find a comparable location elsewhere in town.

As the Town's lease back to the American Legion expires in the months ahead, I hope the Town will enter into a lease directly with Studio A to keep the business open at minimum through the time redevelopment of the land begins, which presumably will be years in the future. I think this would be a win-win for the Town to maintain a small local business, while earning some modest revenue. I am sure Melody would welcome a visit to the Studio from any of you if you'd like to talk with her directly to learn more.

I truly appreciate your consideration, and please let me know if I can be of any help in furthering these discussions.

Thank you for your service to our community,

Dan Levine
410 Highview Drive
Colony Woods

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 2:17 PM
To: BILL & ANN BRASHEAR
Cc: Judy Johnson; Becky McDonnell; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Legion Hut Property meeting this Wednesday

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

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Jeanette Coffin



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[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: BILL & ANN BRASHEAR [mailto:a_brashear@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 8:06 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Legion Hut Property meeting this Wednesday

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor Hemminger and Council Members,

I just learned that there is a work session this Wednesday evening about the Legion Hut Property. I have a previous meeting at Lincoln Center so probably will miss this one.

I am dismayed that there is some talk about selling part of the property for development. Please, NO!!! Before adding more commercial building, lets fill up what is already built.

This is the only piece of open land left in the entire area. And is it coincidence that this area does not have high priced houses around it? Leave this land alone. It is cherished by folks who live nearby. Develop somewhere else. Our neighborhood is struggling with the Blue Hill fiasco as it is. Please let us at least have these few acres to walk on and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Anne Brashear

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 8:48 AM
To: sarhkamc@gmail.com
Cc: Judy Johnson; Becky McDonnell; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: FW: Proposal re Legion Rd Property
Attachments: Introduction to idea of a dance hall in chapel hill.rtf

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

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From: Sarah K McIntee [mailto:sarhkamc@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:13 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Proposal re Legion Rd Property

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See attached letter to Town Mayor and Council regarding the Legion Rd property. If you all decide to make a commitment to develop a dance hall, on this property or somewhere else in Chapel Hill, please know that I would be happy to help the Park & Recreation department with the planning and promotion.

So you have an idea of some of what we do, here is a link to a video of our 50th reunion, held at UNC Student Union Ballroom (no longer available to us).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADP2wXICvpY>

Here is Steve Salemsen teaching a dance at Beth El synagogue on Watts St in Durham. Our weekly group can have anywhere from 15 to 30 on a regular dance night.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z3Zw8ZcrLM>

Unfortunately, on the 12th I will be in Durham running a dance group and I will not be able to attend this meeting.

~Sarah McIntee~

Chapel Hill, NC

I am Sarah __, I have lived in Chapel Hill since 1985 on Caswell Rd and I am a long time International Folk Dancer here, belonging to two dance clubs, located in Durham and the IFD of Raleigh (which is an integral part of their parks and rec program, also meeting 50 weeks of the year). I have also served Chapel Hill on transportation and planning initiatives, like the Central West planning initiative, with an interest in developing more infrastructure for pedestrians, bus riders, and cyclists. I have also been vocal about Chapel Hill reducing distances between destinations, as a means to better achieve multimodal transportation, to reduce our carbon footprint, to reduce storm water flooding, and to facilitate higher density mixed use, to turn Chapel Hill from suburbia into an association of several neighborhood villages. In that context, I am interested in getting neighborhood multi-use social halls, with some of these being spaces appropriate for social dance.

Personally, I drive 3 hours a week to Durham, Chapel Hill, and sometimes Carrboro, to go to other communities to participate in social dance. I haven't been able to attend social dance here in Chapel Hill for over 20 years, and these dances clubs I belong to haven't been in Chapel Hill in 25 years now. I had to stop dancing on the Seymour Senior Center basement fitness floor because it was sticky, with no give, because it is sprayed sticky stuff on concrete. The monthly Scandinavian waltz group there continues to meet, but only a handful of people will dance on that floor. Several have ended up with twisted knees and ankle problems. I have artificial knees and hips and do not care to risk injury dancing on a bad surface that is toxic to all social dancing. Young bodies might be able to use that floor for Indian Temple dancing or basketball, but this floor is totally unsuitable for continuous bouncing and turning maneuvers. As having worn out my knees and hips from walking on hard surfaces all around Chapel Hill, I recommend we start designing better surfaces for human movement. The ideal surface for human dancing is a floating (sprung) smooth hard finished wooden floor. It can't be concrete. It can't be rubber, and it can't be wood laid directly on top of concrete (as the town's multipurpose buildings at Estes Hills and Glenwood elementary schools).

My current, new project is for Chapel Hill to build at least one public dance hall space, with the appropriate flooring and situation for long term dance club use. I intend to spend whatever time is necessary to achieve that goal.

This past November, the Chapel Hill International Folk Dance Club met in the Carrboro Century Center to celebrate 55 years of existence, meeting once a week for 50-52 weeks of the year. We had 160 people, some from out of town and state, meeting to dance from 11 AM to 11 PM. At this time, we also officially changed our name from Chapel Hill International Folk Dance Club to Durham Chapel Hill International Folk Dance. This former Chapel Hill recreation has been meeting in Durham for 25 years now. There were several of us who were wanting to remove Chapel Hill from the name entirely. Afterall, why give Chapel Hill any credit for providing social dance when there isn't a dancefloor anywhere in Chapel Hill?