
Profile

Whenever possible, submit your application prior to the scheduled meeting of the affected advisory board so that they can consider all applications prior to making a recommendation to Council.

Public Records Statement

I acknowledge that all information submitted in this application becomes a public record and will be searchable online. The Town is not able to remove information from the public record once it has been posted.

I Agree

wrytrsbloek@mac.com

Email Address

Michelle

First Name

V

Middle Initial

Cassell

Last Name

492 Beechmast

Street Address

492 Fearington Post

Suite or Apt

Pittsboro

City

NC

State

27312

Postal Code

Mobile: (410) 570-8987

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Residency within the Town limits is required for membership on most Council advisory bodies. Memberships of some committees and task forces may be composed of up to forty percent of non-Town residents.

What district do you live in? *

Chatham County

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure.](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

4-9 years

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board: Eligible

Question applies to Housing Advisory Board

Select a Seat Category for the Housing Advisory Board *

Affordable Housing Advocate

Question applies to Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board

Select a Seat Category for the Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board *

Non-Chapel Hill Resident from Orange, Durham, Alamance, or Chatham County

Which Board is your First Choice? *

Housing Advisory Board

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

I am in my 60's and spent a good 25 years covering events in North Carolina from crime to culture as a journalist and editor. I am always non-partisan and bring an objective view to any project. I happen to love Chapel Hill. We moved to Ferrington during the pandemic. I have worked for The Local Reporter as Assignment Editor, Journalist and Photojournalist for 4 years and I am currently working there.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I am concerned with school, culture and environment for myself and my extended family who call Chapel Hill home. I have musical training, and also a B.A. in Communications, Psychology and Sociology . I have a deep interest in helping and the time. \

You may upload a supporting document (e.g., CV or resume). **Please be advised that any information submitted becomes a public record and may be searchable online.**

Demographics

The Town Council seeks to attract persons from diverse backgrounds and believes that childcare and transportation is a potential barrier for qualified and interested applicants. See the [Childcare and Transportation Assistance pilot](#) for further details. In order to consider this application and provide some balance to the various boards, this personal information is required:

Ethnicity *

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

Female

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

over 55

Journalist/Assignment Editor

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

Yes No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

Yes No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

Yes No

Ethics Statement

ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Members of advisory boards and commissions shall not vote on any matter in which they have a conflict of interest or an interest which reasonably might appear to be in conflict with the concept of fairness in dealing with public business. A conflict of interest or a potential conflict occurs if the outcome of the matter being considered is reasonably likely to have a direct, substantial, and readily identifiable financial impact on the member. In addition, members of the Historic District Commission and Board of Adjustment, when these boards are hearing cases, serve as quasi-judicial bodies. Pursuant to General Statute 160D-109(d), members of these boards “shall not participate in or vote on any quasi-judicial matter in a manner that would violate affected persons’ constitutional rights to an impartial decision maker. Impermissible violations of due process include, but are not limited to, a member having a fixed opinion prior to hearing the matter that is not susceptible to change, undisclosed ex parte communications, a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with an affected person, or a financial interest in the outcome of the matter.”

Any member who violates these Ethics Guidelines may be subject to removal from the board or commission. If the advisory board or commission member believes he/she has a conflict of interest then that member shall recuse himself/herself from voting on the matter. In cases where the individual member or the advisory board or commission establishes a conflict of interest, then the advisory board or commission member shall remove themselves from the voting area. Any advisory board or commission member may seek the counsel of the Town Attorney on questions regarding the interpretation of these ethics guidelines or other conflict of interest matters. The interpretation may include a recommendation on whether or not the advisory board or commission member should excuse himself/herself from voting. The advisory board or commission member may request the Town Attorney respond in writing.

I Agree *

Applications will be kept on file from July 1st to June 30th of the same fiscal year. Please reapply each fiscal year if you are still interested in serving on an Advisory Board, Commission, Committee or Task Force and have not yet been appointed.

Profile

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I Agree

noahup14@gmail.com

Email Address

Noah

First Name

R

Middle Initial

Upchurch

Last Name

103 Olive Creek Court

Street Address

Suite or Apt

Hillsborough

City

NC

State

27278

Postal Code

Home: (919) 448-1635

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Residency within the Town limits is required for membership on most Council advisory bodies. Memberships of some committees and task forces may be composed of up to forty percent of non-Town residents.

What district do you live in? *

Orange County (Not Chapel Hill limits ETJ or JPA)

[Please consult the town maps HERE if you are unsure.](#)

If you are a Chapel Hill Resident, How long have you lived here?

None Selected

The Council encourages you to visit a meeting of the group that you are interested in serving on. Please choose no more than two groups from the list below to which you would like to apply.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board: Eligible

Question applies to Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board

Select a Seat Category for the Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board *

Non-Chapel Hill Resident from Orange, Durham, Alamance, or Chatham County

Which Board is your First Choice? *

Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board

How did you find out about this opportunity? (select all that apply)

Internet

If you chose "Other" from the advertising opportunity listed above, please specify:

Interests & Experiences

What perspective(s) do you bring to the board(s), commission(s), committee(s) or task force(s) to which you are applying?

Some of my perspective is informed from my history as a representative figure. From my undergraduate experience, I represented the needs and will of undergraduate and graduate students to the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board. On developmental issues, that meant balancing the equities between concerns for effective land use against the understanding that restricted development strains renters, an issue especially felt by graduate students seeking to live in and around the town. So, my perspective on the ESAB Board was informed by a number of conversations I had with constituents, ranging from students, student government officials, and members of the town. I bring a wealth of experience with seeking out and balancing the needs of my constituents before vocalizing them to the best of my ability in a setting similar to this one. My personal perspective on transportation and community building is heavily informed by my academic interests and personal history living around the Town. Academically, I was and still am a student of sustainability, which powers an interest in achieving effective transportation while reducing carbon emissions and congestion. Safe transportation for those that bike or use public transit is especially important to me. I appreciate the efforts that the town has taken recently to protect bikers, but I remain solemnly grounded by the loss of a neighbor during my undergraduate years to a transit-related incident. I biked in and around Town almost every day to class, and I want to work to ensure that workers and students will continue to feel supported and safe -- thanks in part to the work of this board.

Please provide a brief summary of any other relevant qualifications (skills, abilities, interests and/or experience) you bring.

I have been lucky to listen to and work with a number of wonderful disability advocates, which help inform my interactions with and attention to detail surrounding disabled individuals. On the ESAB Board this was particularly poignant because questions about ADA compliance and parking configurations would often arise. One of my fondest memories of this year has been attending the unveiling of the electric busses by Chapel Hill Transit in the Spring. The wrap art, highlighting of student organization collaboration, and short demonstration ride made it a wonderful experience. From a skills and abilities standpoint, reviewing legal documents and development proceedings has given me a solid foundation for understanding and evaluating proposed projects. My experience in environmental modeling and finance graduate level coursework gives me some footing for evaluating transit reports that might benefit a member of this board.

[NoahUpchurch_Resume_TransitBoard.pdf](#)

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Ethnicity *

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender *

Male

If other, please describe:

Please select your age from the following list. *

18-24

Occupation

Are you a caregiver for or identify with a disability?

Yes No

Have you participated in the Peoples Academy?

Yes No

Are you a Town of Chapel Hill employee?

Yes No

Ethics Statement

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Noah R. Upchurch
orange20@live.unc.edu | noahup14@gmail.com
(919) 448-1635

Education:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Class of 2022)
GPA: 3.89 | Majors: Environmental Studies - Sustainability, Philosophy
Phi Beta Kappa | Honors Laureate | Parr Center for Ethics Scholar
Environmental Outreach and Engagement Award Recipient, UNC E3P Program

Relevant Experience:

Board Member, *Town of Chapel Hill Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board* (2022)

- Voted on Land Use Development Projects, including the Jay Street Affordable Housing Project, 101 East Rosemary Project, along with Numerous Others in Accordance with the Town Development Review Criteria
- Helped Pass a Petition for Town Electrification with Heat Pumps and a Plan to Move Away from Gas Heating and Cooking in New Developments

External Appointment, *UNC Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee* (2021-2022)

- Allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars for renewable energy, energy education, and energy efficiency projects on the UNC-Chapel Hill Campus
- Projects Include: LEED Green Associate Education Fund, T5/T8 LED Retrofit Project for Genome Science Building and Caudill Labs, Renewable Energy Project Finance Course Starter Fund

Environmental Affairs, *UNC Student Government Executive Branch* (2021-2022)

- Advocated Successfully for the Creation of a Department of Environmental Affairs
- Advised on Decarbonization Pathways for the UNC Electricity Generation Mix with the Chief Sustainability Officer and University Provost
- Projects: Green Gears Environmental Ethics Training Program, TerraCycle Mask Recycling Project, Undergraduate Environmental Coalition Board

Executive Board, *Parr Center for Ethics Undergraduate Fellowship* (2019-2022)

- Aided in Recruitment, Selection, and Interviewing
- Moderated and Judged Matches at the North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl and National High School Ethics Bowl

Founder, Executive Producer, *Chapel Phil Podcast* (2019-2021)

- Mentored a Rotating Set of Undergraduates in Podcasting Fundamentals and Storyboarding
- Interviewed Numerous Alumni, Visiting Professors, and Community Leaders

Ethics Bowl Coach, Carolina Friends School (2019)

Work Experience:

Project Manager, National High School Ethics Bowl (Jun. 2021- Apr. 2022)

Intern, District Attorney's Office of Harnett and Lee Counties (Jun. 2021- Aug. 2021)

- Provided Organizational Support for Case Management, Called Witnesses, Documented and Made Requests for Information in Over 150 DWI/DUI Cases, and Assisted the 11a Veterans' Treatment Court

UNC Football Undergraduate Film Assistant (Aug. 2020- Apr. 2022)

Sustainability Research Consultant, Water Finance Assistance (Aug. 2020-Dec 2020)

- Compiled research on injunctive norms in water bill design as a conservation mechanism

Farmhand, Botanist & Barrel (Jun. 2020- Aug. 2020)

Research Assistant, Professor Donald Hornstein, UNC School of Law (Jun. 2020- Jul. 2020)

- Research Areas: Trump-Era Clean Water Rule Impacts on Wetland Mitigation & Flood Resilience Planning in Midwestern United States Municipal Governments

Relevant Coursework:

ENVR 548 - Sustainable Energy Systems

BUSI 520 - Advanced Spreadsheet Modeling

ENEC 395 - Independent Research in Energy Law, Advisor: Jonas Monast (UNC School of Law)

Research Paper: Major Questions Through *West Virginia v. EPA*

Graduate Level:

PUBA 787 - Applied Environmental Finance (UNC School of Government)

ENVR 635 - Energy Modeling for Environment and Public Health

Leadership Activities:

Volunteer, *Compostmates* (2022)

- Serviced, Weighed, and Maintained Compost Bins for Off-Campus UNC Students Across Chapel Hill and Carrboro

Volunteer, *Edible Campus Gardens* (2022)

- Assisted in Various Volunteer Workday Events, Including Various Planting, Pruning, Compost Maintenance, and Construction Activities

References available upon request