



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

Town Council Meeting Agenda

Town Hall
405 Martin Luther King Jr.
Boulevard
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Mayor Pam Hemminger
Mayor pro tem Karen Stegman
Council Member Jessica Anderson
Council Member Camille Berry
Council Member Tai Huynh

Council Member Paris Miller-Foushee
Council Member Michael Parker
Council Member Amy Ryan
Council Member Adam Searing

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 6:30 PM

Library Meeting Room B

Language Access Statement

For interpretation or translation services, call 919-969-5105.

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如需口头或
书面翻译服
务，请拨打
919-969-5105.

Para servicios de interpretación o traducción, llame al 919-969-5105.

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In-Person Meeting Notification

View the Meeting

- *Public attendance is welcome, and limited to room capacity*
- *We will not live stream the event, but will provide the Post-Meeting Video <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/councilvideo/>*
- *The Town of Chapel Hill wants to know more about who participates in its programs and processes, including Town Council meetings.*
- *Participate in a voluntary demographic survey before viewing online or in person - <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/demosurvey>*

Parking and Entry

- *Parking is available at the Library lots. The Library is served by CL Route, D Route, and GoTriangle Routes of Chapel Hill Transit*
- *Meeting Room B is to the right from the main entrance.*
- *Please do not bring signs.*

ROLL CALL

OPENING

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Planning Department Updates. (no attachment) [\[23-0669\]](#)

PRESENTER: Britany Waddell, Planning Director

The Planning department will present updates on administrative initiatives, policy implementation and process proposals that have progressed this summer.

This discussion is a continuation of the Council Committee on Economic Development meeting from June 2, 2023.

2. Boards & Commissions Assessment/Staff Response to Council Petition. [\[23-0670\]](#)

PRESENTER: Susan Brown, Community Arts & Culture Executive Director/Chapel Hill Public Library Director

The purpose of this item is to share staff findings and recommendations in response to Council petition requesting an assessment of Town Boards & Commissions.

3. Update: Consider Water and Sewer Boundary Expansion. [\[23-0671\]](#)

PRESENTER: Judy Johnson, Assistant Planning Director

The purpose of this item is for the Council to receive this update and provide guidance on the next steps.

REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PROPERTY ACQUISITION, PERSONNEL, AND/OR LITIGATION MATTERS



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

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Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Item Overview

Item #: 2., File #: [23-0670], Version: 1

Meeting Date: 9/20/2023

Boards & Commissions Assessment/Staff Response to Council Petition.

Staff:

Susan Brown, Executive Director
Sarah Poulton, Senior Project Manager
Anita Badrock, Senior Ombuds
Shenekia Weeks, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer
Sabrina Oliver, Director
Amy Harvey, Deputy Town Clerk
Brenton Hodge, Assistant Town Clerk

Department:

Community Arts & Culture/Library
Manager's Office

Governance Services/Town Clerk

BACKGROUND

In June 2023, a [petition from several Council Members <https://chapelhill.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12100727&GUID=38F2693C-E72B-4F06-8891-6D71B80EE2F6>](https://chapelhill.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12100727&GUID=38F2693C-E72B-4F06-8891-6D71B80EE2F6) requested an assessment of the Town's Boards and Commissions along two tracks:

- **Track 1 covers the seven bodies formally or informally included in development review**, which are being assessed as part of the LUMO rewrite. As that work continues, recommendations from Track 2 may be incorporated.
- **Track 2 covers the remaining boards and commissions**, with a focus on Council expectations, board charges, and member roles, and includes:
 - Library Advisory Board
 - Cultural Arts Commission
 - Human Services Advisory Board
 - Community Policing Advisory Committee
 - Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Commission
 - Grievance Hearing Board
 - Justice in Action Committee

The petition also asked for an assessment of current methods for screening and appointing members, which has not yet been addressed.

The Town Manager referred the petition to a team comprised of staff from Governance Services, Managers Office, and Library/Community Arts & Culture for response.

SHARED INTERESTS

Before beginning an assessment process, the staff team considered what they have heard from Council, staff, and community and developed three high-level interests to guide the assessment and subsequent recommendations:

- Meaningful community engagement and diverse public input
- Good stewardship of staff and community resources

- Clear, common understanding of roles and responsibilities

STAFF ASSESSMENT

The staff team conducted a three-part assessment process:

1) Analysis of Staff Time and Meeting Length - The staff team surveyed liaisons from both tracks and reviewed Zoom meeting data. Key findings include:

- 20 staff spend about 270 hours per month supporting 17 boards and commissions
- 7 boards or commissions have 2 or more staff members supporting them
- Average meeting time for Track 1 boards is 2 hours, 26 minutes
- Average meeting time for Track 2 boards is 1 hour, 22 minutes

2) Engagement with Staff Liaisons - In two focus groups, staff from both tracks shared their perspectives and experiences with boards and commissions. Key findings include:

- Now more than ever before, staff have numerous avenues available for diverse, equitable, and inclusive community engagement and public input.
- Staff have the subject matter expertise needed for decision making about programs and service delivery.
- Staff find that boards and commissions are most beneficial when they engage on high-level policy matters that rise to the level of Council attention.
- Boards and commissions often veer into advising staff rather than Council and focusing on programs and projects rather than policy.

3) Engagement with Board and Commission Members. Members from Track 2 were asked to share their perspectives and experiences via a survey. Key findings from this include:

- Members feel valued when asked to engage on important policy matters.
- Members want clear charges and understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Members want to be acknowledged by Council, even if Council disagrees.
- Members and staff struggle to recruit members from diverse backgrounds.

THEMES

Staff developed three overarching themes from across the assessment phases:

- Both Town Council and Town staff value community engagement and public input for making decisions and setting policy.
- Both Town Council and Town staff engage community in numerous ways for decision making and feedback with a focus on hearing from traditionally marginalized voices.
- Advisory boards and commissions work best when their charge is specific, concise, and consistent and their relationship to Council and staff is clearly articulated.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

To meet the interests of meaningful public input, stewardship of resources, and clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, the broad staff recommendation is for Council to consider adopting standard practices for boards and commissions, which may include:

- Consistent naming conventions, with Advisory Board used for most*
- Charges focused on advising Town Council on policy matters**
- Meeting while Council is in session
- Meeting bimonthly or quarterly
- Consistent approach to board size and terms of office
- Standard training for all members, including racial equity tools.

**Except Planning, CDC, and HDC, and Board of Adjustment*

*** Unless the body has a statutory authority or quasi-judicial decision-making function.*

Recommendations for individual boards and commissions could be as follows, recognizing that implementation may look different across different boards:

Library Advisory Board - Align written charge with understood charge.

- This board underwent a self-assessment in 2015/16 and petitioned Council to change their name from the Library Board of Trustees to the Library Advisory Board. At the same time, the Board agreed to a new charge of advising Council on policy matters related to the Library. However, they did not ask Council to formally adopt that charge.

Cultural Arts Commission - Approve petition to change name, charge, and membership.

- This body recently petitioned Council to change their name, charge, and membership. These changes would rename the body to the Community Arts & Culture Advisory Board, clarify roles and responsibilities, and reduce their membership from 11 to 9.

Human Services Advisory Board.

- Staff team can work with staff liaison, departmental leadership, and Board to explore implementation of standards.

Community Policing Advisory Committee.

- Staff team can work with staff liaison, departmental leadership, and Board to explore implementation of standards.

Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Commission.

- Staff team can work with staff liaison, departmental leadership, and Board to explore implementation of standards.

Grievance Hearing Board - Consider best practices for external, objective disciplinary action reviews.

- This Board is currently comprised of community members and meets very infrequently to review and verify that the Town followed its disciplinary policies and processes when a serious disciplinary decision has occurred. This is an important step in the serious disciplinary process and we want to ensure that our review process provides the best possible objective, professional guidance. Staff recommend working with HRD, Legal, and the Employee Forum on this review to explore best practices, including if review should be provided by people with certain skill sets and professional training.

Justice in Action Committee - Sunset this committee.

- This was an ad hoc committee whose initial charge is being addressed across multiple Town departments and Council initiatives, including our DEI Office and One Orange framework, the Community Connections team's work around equitable engagement and language justice, and a town-wide focus on DEI at the departmental level.

Public Housing Advisory Board---Consider creation.

- Earlier this year, Council asked for alternative governance options for the Town's Public Housing program and staff proposed that Council consider establishing a Public Housing Advisory Board. Staff can continue this consideration and draft a charge and membership in alignment with the standards recommended above.

NEXT STEPS

If Council agrees with the above standard and recommendations, staff can do the following:

- Work with staff liaisons, departmental leadership, and Boards to explore those standards and bring any changes back to Council for approval.
- Review best practices for external review of serious disciplinary action and return to Council with recommendation.
- Draft a resolution and ordinance for Council to sunset Justice in Action Committee.
- Draft preliminary information for Council to consider in establishing a Public Housing Advisory Board.

Additionally, staff can assess the application and appointment process using both a racial equity lens to promote greater diversity and representation and a user experience approach to promote a useful and useable process for applicants, staff, and Council.

The Agenda will reflect the text below and/or the motion text will be used during the meeting.

PRESENTER: Susan Brown, Community Arts & Culture Executive Director/Chapel Hill Public Library Director

The purpose of this item is to share staff findings and recommendations in response to Council petition requesting an assessment of Town Boards & Commissions.



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Item Overview

Item #: 3., File #: [23-0671], Version: 1

Meeting Date: 9/20/2023

Update: Consider Water and Sewer Boundary Expansion.

Staff:

Brittany Waddell, Director
Judy Johnson, Assistant Director

Department:

Planning

Overview: The boundary expansion could increase housing opportunities consistent with the recent Complete Community Strategy Comprehensive Plan amendment and support the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor in the southern part of Chapel Hill. The Council could consider the water and sewer boundary expansion in the southern part of Chapel Hill along the US 15-501 corridor to the Chatham County line.



Recommendation(s):

That the Council receive this update and provide guidance on next steps.

Decision Points:

- If desired:
 - Proceed with expanding the water and sewer boundary
 - Hold information meetings to share project facts with the public
 - Schedule consideration at an upcoming Town Council meeting

Key Issues:

- This discussion is in response to petition received at the [June 14, 2023](https://chapelhill.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6261093&GUID=2FDA230D-FD16-439B-) [Council meeting](https://chapelhill.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6261093&GUID=2FDA230D-FD16-439B-)
- Proposed expansion includes 139 parcels and approximately 360 acres
- Modifications to the Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement (WASMPBA) boundary would require Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Orange County, OWASA, and Hillsborough approval.
- Changes to the boundary would offer opportunities to connect to the water and sewer systems, not require connections.

Fiscal Impact/Resources: No proposed fiscal impact as no construction is proposed. The change would allow extension of water and sewer services by OWASA, but the Town would not construct or be financially responsible.



Attachments:

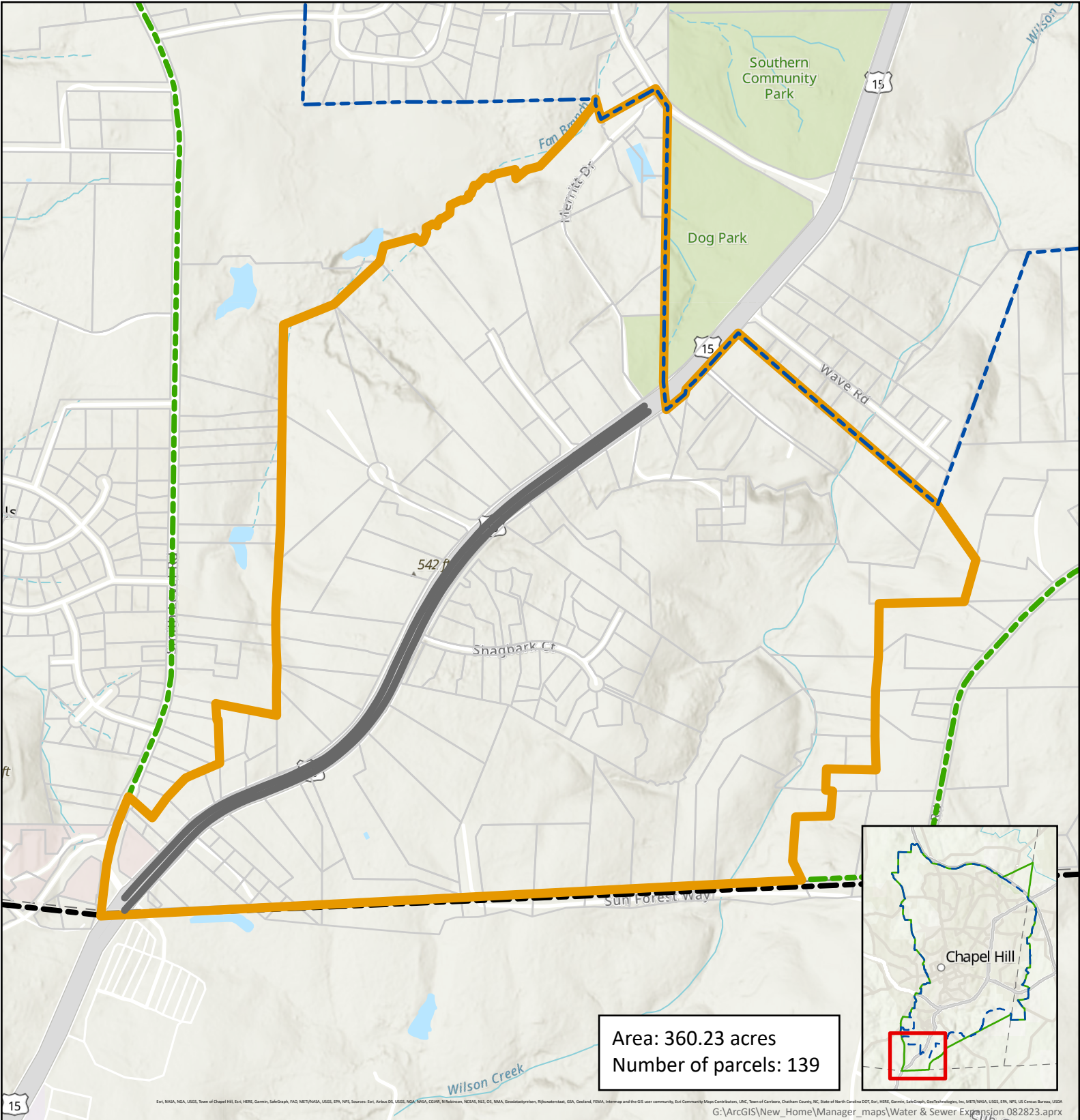
- Water and Sewer Boundary Expansion Proposal Map
- Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement
<<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showpublisheddocument/54584/6382952741463000>>







The Agenda will reflect the text below and/or the motion text will be used during the meeting.

PRESENTER: Judy Johnson, Assistant Planning Director

The purpose of this item is for the Council to receive this update and provide guidance on the next steps.

Water & Sewer Proposal for Southern Chapel Hill



- Legend**
-  Proposed New Service Area
 -  Existing Urban Service Boundary
 -  Orange County Parcels
 -  Chapel Hill Jurisdiction Boundary
 -  Orange County Boundary
 -  15-501 Southern Corridor



Town of Chapel Hill GIS & Analytics
August 2023

