

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Kate Sayre
Cc: Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Excess Fund Balance Appropriation and Splash Pad

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.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
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From: Kate Sayre <katesayre128@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Excess Fund Balance Appropriation and Splash Pad

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Good afternoon,

In reviewing the agenda for tomorrow evening's Town Council meeting, I see that there is a planned discussion on the excess fund balance appropriation. I am writing to ask you to please appropriate the \$500,000 in the recommendation toward the design and construction of a splash pad in Chapel Hill.

[Our petition](#) last year for a splash pad quickly gained hundreds of signatures and has many compelling reasons for making this investment in our town's recreation facilities. Some of the comments include:

- *Our town is at its best when we serve all ages! A splash pad would add vitality to our community. -Heidi Tyson 7/13/21*
- *Completely agree with this! For being a “family friendly” town, Chapel Hill doesn’t really support families by building and enhancing places for families to congregate (without spending large sums of money) -Shimul Melwani 7/15/21*
- *I have said this for years! We pay the highest taxes in the state are crawling with kiddos and yet have the least interesting playgrounds and parks and recreational outdoor spaces. I drive my kids to Burlington, Cary, raleigh and even rural towns all the time for splash pads or playgrounds with interesting features like safe versions of zip lines and I really think it’s time we quit having to pay taxes here but needing to drive for amenities elsewhere. Lack of a splash pad has been one of my biggest related gripes (as first world a gripe as it may be). Also, why so few special needs play ground amenities. Very few accessible swings etc. -August Wells, 7/14/21*

The community's support for a splash pad is clear and splash pads promote many values that our Council and town hold dear, including equity, inclusion and accessibility. With increasing temperatures, the need for affordable ways to cool off only grows. Splash pads can be built to be accessible for those of all abilities to use as well as all ages to enjoy. We know that outdoor activities are safer when it comes to COVID and other transmissible diseases and need more options. We also want to think of keeping our families in Chapel Hill to live, play and spend money to support local businesses rather than traveling to other towns for these amenities.

I plan to attend tomorrow's meeting and looking forward to hearing the discussion.

Thank you for your time,
Kate Sayre

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