

02-15-2023 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

ITEM #12: Appointments to the Planning Commission

Council Question:

If the Council can appoint a town resident to the ETJ seat because Orange County hasn't acted, shouldn't those town candidates be listed under the ETJ category (identifying who is an ETJ applicant, who a town resident)? Right now, even though it's an option to vote for a town resident for the ETJ seat, there really isn't a mechanism for doing so.

Staff Response:

Council members may vote for a third Chapel Hill resident on the existing ballot if they choose. Alternatively, they may follow the recommendation to leave the seat open. Duplicating the names in the second category tends to create a split vote, thus not achieving the five-vote minimum.

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APPOINTMENTS

Council Question:

I saw that we only are voting on appointments to the Planning Commission at this week's meeting. The Stormwater Board is seriously undermanned right now and having trouble making quorum (only three members were available for the January meeting). I know we delayed voting in January because there were issues with the wording in the application notice, but can we vote some of the seats this month and some in March (to give new applicants time)? We have some good candidates who've been waiting a long time, and voting on them now would still leave open spaces for new applicants next month.

Staff Response:

Staff plans to send a SMUAB appointment item to Council at its March 22 meeting. Should the Board have quorum on March 7, then it can review the applications and make a recommendation. This follows the advisory board membership policy appointment process. Alternatively at the Feb 15 Council meeting, the Council may affirm its interest to see a SMUAB appointment item on Feb 22. It will include the SMUAB's September 27 recommendation and all current eligible applicants. As warranted, staff will provide additional appointment item(s).