

## 02-23-2022 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

### **ITEM #3: Approve the Miscellaneous Budget Ordinance Amendment to Adjust Various Fund Budgets for FY 2021-22**

**Council Question:**

While the donation will no doubt improve the Teen Center, its current location is, fundamentally, unsustainable. What plans, if any, do we have for creating a program and facility for our teens worthy of the Town?

**Staff Response:**

*At this time, there are no current plans to establish a new Teen Center. Staff proposes to include an assessment of the Teen Center and related programming within the development of a new comprehensive plan for Parks & Recreation.*

**Council Question:**

The \$15,300 donation is generous, and I'm happy to see some of the proposed upgrades. However, the current facility falls short of expectations that suit our town and youth needs. What is the long-term vision for our teen center? Have we identified any opportunities and demand for a new facility all together?

**Staff Response:**

*The status and future of the Teen Center has been a topic of interest for several years. Staff proposes to include an assessment of the Teen Center and teen programming within the development of a new comprehensive plan for Parks & Recreation. This proposed analysis could help to further inform the vision for and future of the Teen Center.*

*In 2018, the Town formed an interdepartmental work group focused on youth initiatives. A summary of the work of the group can be found at [this link](#)<sup>1</sup>. Several key themes emerged from this initiative, including a strong interest from youth in the community for more accessible, safe and inclusive public spaces for people their age rather than creation of a new teen facility. We expect that the upcoming assessment of teen programming will provide updated information on the preferences of teens.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showpublisheddocument/42058/636873080216070000>

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### **Council Question:**

What are the current programs that invest in, empower, and prepare our young people for the future?

### **Staff Response:**

*The Town's Parks & Recreation, Library, Community Arts & Culture, and Affordable Housing and Community Connections Departments all offer teen spaces and/or programming. Hargraves Community Center is currently working with partners to grow and enhance teen opportunities at the center. To assist with preparing youth for the future, the Town's Affordable Housing and Community Connections Department manages the Summer Youth Employment Program. Funded with Community Development Block Grant funds, this program provides Chapel Hill youth, ages 14-18 years old, with opportunities to work part-time for 6-8 weeks each summer with Town departments. Teens also receive mentoring and job training workshops to complement their work experience.*

### **Council Question:**

What are the current numbers for teen center funding?

### **Staff Response:**

*Funding for the Teen Center's operation and related teen programming is included in the Parks & Recreation budget. Specifically, funding is allocated as follows:*

- *Recreation Specialist: **Full-time staff salary plus benefits***
- *Program Support Staffing: **\$20,000.00***
- *Operations & Supplies: **\$6,700.00***