

August 25, 2016



Narrative

Proposed Chapel Hill Cooperative Preschool

The Chapel Hill Cooperative Preschool (CHCP) was originally organized in 1960 by the Community Church in Chapel Hill as a parent cooperative and the first integrated preschool in the area. The Preschool is a non-profit childcare center governed by a board of directors, including parents, and community representative. We believe family involvement is essential for effective daily operations of the preschool. Families are welcomed and encouraged to come to CHCP at any time to spend time with their child(ren) and aide with activities, hence becoming a meaningful part of the overall support network we provide for all children and their families. Each family is required to complete 6 participation hours at the school and outside of school hours. There are many participation jobs that help the daily functions of the school. Parents are responsible for taking out the recycling to the bins. Families are responsible for taking out the trash to the trash dumpster.

The children at the preschool are grouped "family style" in open centers. The preschool first extended its enrollment to the full year in 1972. In 1973, the teachers became voting members of the Cooperative. In 1980, the two-year-old program was started. In 1997, the Infant and Toddler Site was opened at 110 N. Elliott Road at the Church of Reconciliation.

Currently the two schools enroll about 80 children and has 20 teachers (including the Executive Director). Staff have staggered work schedules. There are morning shift teachers and afternoon shift teachers. The staggering of staff and children will minimize the traffic impact to the surrounding area. Additionally, proposed access to the site will be restricted to right turns into the site and right turns out of the site. This will be accomplished through the use of a raised brick median within Mt. Carmel Church Road.

The hours of operation for the school is 7:30-5:30. The preschool families drop off between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00am. Pick up and drop off times are staggered for the CHCP families. Currently, at the facilities we utilize, there are 2 handicap parking spaces and 8 parking spaces for parents to drop off/pick up their child. Pick up times for CHCP families is between 12:00-5:30. The enrollment options for incoming families to choose from when they enroll their child is half day (7:30-12:00), $\frac{3}{4}$ day (7:30-3:00), and full day (7:30-5:30). CHCP also offers families part-time care. Part-time care children can attend on 3 days a week or 2 days a week.

CHCP offer a breakfast snack, lunch and afternoon snack to the children. We prepare all food onsite. Our menu consists of many organic nutritious foods such as whole grain breads, fresh veggies, fresh fruits, cheese, hummus and pasta.

Both Sites are state licensed through the Division of Child Development and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The Executive Director serves as liaison between parents and teachers and as the overall coordination for the daily program. Each person's contribution to the running of the preschools program determines its quality.

The Chapel Hill Cooperative Preschool is proposing to combine their operations by constructing a new facility at 110 Mt. Carmel Church Road, Chapel Hill North Carolina; this project is the subject of this Site Plan Application.

The Chapel Hill Cooperative Preschool is proposing to construct an 8,929 sf one-story building with an adjacent playground and associated site improvements. The Chapel Hill Cooperative Preschool and the design team have thoroughly reviewed the site and the present/future needs for the school. The application being presented has been designed to utilize the character of this site while minimize the impact (to the site) and the surrounding area. A few examples of this are as follows:

- Existing on-site structures such as the "Sugar Shack" and the dwelling are being re-used. The "Sugar Shack" will be utilized by the staff/children for activities and learning opportunities within the woods. The existing dwelling will be used during construction as an office for the contractor(s). Once the project has been completed, the dwelling will be vacated; the use of this structure will be determined at a later date.
- An effort was made to maintain as many existing trees as possible and to integrate them into the design of the site. Specifically, the 20" double Hemlock tree at the center of the site was the major factor for the placement of the proposed building and parking area. This CHCP wants to utilize this tree and the immediate area around it as another learning opportunity which is unique to this site.
- Rainwater will be harvested from the roof of the proposed building to irrigate the gardens that will be created.
- Paved/impervious areas were minimized.
- Land disturbance was minimized and kept below 40,000 sf.