



Town of Chapel Hill

HISTORIC TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.
Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room C
100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Meeting Minutes

Members: Council Member Sally Greene (Chair), Moses Carey, Joel Curran, Richard Ellington, Josh Gurlitz, Commissioner Penny Rich, Alan Rimer, Lee Storrow and Chela Tu.

1. Opening

a. Roll Call

Members Present: Council Member Sally Greene (Chair), Moses Carey, Richard Ellington, Josh Gurlitz, Commissioner Penny Rich, Alan Rimer, Lee Storrow.

Members Absent: Joel Curran, Chela Tu.

Staff Present: Megan Dale, Travis Myren.

Members of the Public Present: Emily Kass

b. Approval of January 12, 2017 Minutes

Minutes Approved

c. Approval of Agenda

Agenda Approved

2. Public Comment

Council Member Greene introduced Emily Kass, former Director of the Ackland Art Museum.

3. Business

a. Continue Discussion of Chapel Hill/ Orange County Visitors Bureau Needs

Background: At the January 12, 2017 meeting, the Visitors Bureau staff provided an overview of the Visitors Bureau's mission, services, current facility, and operating needs.

Action Item: Continue discussing potential benefits, challenges, and questions of locating the Visitors Bureau in Historic Town Hall.

➤ Action Taken: The committee continued discussing the Visitors Bureau's presentation, space needs and services. No action was taken.

In the Visitors Bureau's presentation the committee heard several examples of combined visitors centers and other organizations. The committee discussed similar issues faced by museums and visitors centers.

The committee discussed the current Visitors Bureau space and office configuration as related to the organization's services assisting walk-in visitors and helping manage logistics for residents' and visitors' events/ meetings.

b. Chapel Hill Museum Presentation

Background: Alan Rimer will represent the Chapel Hill Museum board to provide an overview of the museum's mission, services, former facility, and operating needs. The committee will begin discussing the potential benefits and challenges of locating the museum in Historic Town Hall.

Action Item: Begin discussing potential benefits, challenges, and questions of locating the museum in Historic Town Hall.

➤ Action Taken: The committee received and discussed the presentation. No action was taken.

Alan Rimer provided an overview of the Chapel Hill Museum's history and mission. The museum was located in the old Chapel Hill public library building at 523 West Franklin Street. The museum opened in 1996 and hired a professional director in 1999. Alan shared examples of the museum's programs and collaborative initiatives with the historical society and town departments, and discussed the museum's former sources of financial support.

The museum's closure 2010 was related to building maintenance costs. Alan noted that former board members support reopening the museum and considering the Historic Town Hall for its location.

The committee discussed the former space needs of the Chapel Hill museum and noted that some collections are in storage or on display in other venues. The committee noted that this museum was a separate organization, not a department of the Town of Chapel Hill. The committee discussed potential future opportunities to collaborate with the Town and the university and for community outreach and events.

c. Other Committee Discussion – Including Museum Essays and Discussion Guide

The committee began discussing the readings listed below. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

4. Public Comment

5. Adjournment

Meeting Materials

January 12, 2017 Minutes

Chapel Hill Museum Presentation

Sacred Grove Essays on Museums

“Thinking About Starting A Museum” Discussion Guide

“Is Your Community Better Off Because It Has a Museum” Article

Opportunity Statement: The Inter-Faith Council for Social Services is proceeding with plans to vacate Historic Town Hall. A recommendation is needed regarding the future use and occupancy of this building.

Goal: A Historic Town Hall Committee will represent the interests of the Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County to consider the opportunity to renovate the Historic Town Hall building at 100 West Rosemary Street as a Visitor's Center, a History Center, or both for possible occupancy by the Chapel Hill and Orange County Visitor's Bureau, Chapel Hill Historical Society, and/ or Chapel Hill Museum.

Public Charge: The Historic Town Hall Committee pledges its respect to the public. The Committee asks the public to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous manner, both with the Committee and with fellow members of the public. Should any member of the Committee or any member of the public fail to observe this charge at any time, the Chair will ask the offending person to leave the meeting until that individual regains personal control. Should decorum fail to be restored, the Chair will recess the meeting until a genuine commitment to this public charge is observed.