



Town of Chapel Hill

HISTORIC TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.
Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room C
100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Meeting Agenda 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, Joel Curran, Josh Gurlitz, Commissioner Penny Rich, Alan Rimer, and Lee Storrow.

Members Absent: Richard Ellington, Chela Tu.

Staff Present: Megan Dale, Travis Myren.

b. Approval of Minutes

c. Approval of Agenda

2. Public Comment

3. Business

a. Discuss Exhibition – “Local Histories: The Ground We Walk On”

Background: Professor elin o’Hara slavick will join the committee to share information about the installation she curated in the space at 523 East Franklin Street shortly after the Chapel Hill Museum closed.

Action Item: The committee will receive and discuss Professor o’Hara slavick’s presentation.

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

In 2011, Professor o’Hara slavick approached the Town with the support of Jeff York to organize a “Local Histories” exhibition at the Chapel Hill Public Library. She and Art Historian Carol Magee co-curated the exhibit, which featured 55 local and national artists, 35 with strong ties to North Carolina. Artists were invited to submit pieces that engaged with the statement “Place cannot be global”. The art featured a wide range of media, was free to the public and attracted a diverse audience. The exhibit also featured other special events including a walking tour, panel discussions, and performances. The committee discussed the interest in a

space focused on local history and culture that could engage diverse groups and reflect the community.

b. Committee Discussion

Background: The committee will begin discussing a report and recommendation to the Town Council.

Action Item: To move toward a report, the committee will review and discuss key themes of past discussions and presentations received at past meetings.

- **Action Taken:** The committee revisited and discussed key points from past committee meetings related to the Historic Town Hall facility condition, the Visitors Center's mission and interests, and expectations and needs for a museum/cultural institution. No action was taken.

The committee discussed the need to gut the interior of the Historic Town Hall building in the next renovation while preserving the historic exterior, the need to determine the use of the building in order to develop a cost estimate and design for renovations, and continue to invest in repair and maintenance pending a decision about future use. The committee also discussed the need to understand the Visitors Bureau Board's interest in Historic Town Hall as a potential future location for the Visitors Center.

The committee further discussed interests related to locating a history or cultural center in Historic Town Hall, including the importance of engaging the community in the discussion and identifying opportunities for collaboration, the need to define the Town's involvement and financial commitment, and an interest in preserving history and culture downtown and integrating with conversations to activate Rosemary Street.

The committee noted that the next meeting will be at 5:30pm on May 3, 2017 (location to be determined).

4. Public Comment

5. Adjournment

Meeting Materials

Minutes from March 22, 2017 Meeting

["Local Histories Exhibition Inaugurates New Cultural Arts Space at 523 E. Franklin St."](#)
January 2011.

Presentation on "Local Histories" Exhibit

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.