Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

– Author Unknown
Interested in local issues?

Serve your community.
Apply to an advisory board or commission.
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Provide recommendations to the Town Council on key community issues
- Help inform the policy making process that influences the future of Chapel Hill
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARDS

• Community Design Commission
• Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board
• Historic District Commission
• Housing Advisory Board
• Planning Commission
• Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board
OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

• Board of Adjustment
• Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board
• Community Policing Advisory Committee
• Cultural Arts Commission
• Grievance Hearing Board
• Human Services Advisory Board
• Parks, Greenways and Recreation Commission
• Stormwater Management Utility Advisory Board
SEATS ON OTHER BOARDS

- Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership
- Orange Water and Sewer Authority
- Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool
AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Justice In Action Committee
- EZ Rider Advisory Committee (members appointed by the Chapel Hill Transit Partners Committee)
- Other Task Forces and Committees
  - Chapel Hill Nine and Other Historic Civil Rights Commemorations Task Force
  - Historic Town Hall Committee
  - Town Properties Task Force
SEAT REQUIREMENTS

• Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board (one Orange County resident seat)
• Parks, Greenways and Recreation Commission (one Orange County resident seat)
• Justice in Action Committee (two seats for residents who live outside the Chapel Hill/Carrboro planning jurisdiction)
• Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board (two regional collaboration seats)
• Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board (two regional collaboration seats)
• Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment (both have seats for residents of the ETJ and JPA)
APPOINTMENT PROCESS

JANUARY: Notice of expiring terms June 30
FEBRUARY – APRIL: Advertise vacancies
MARCH & APRIL: Boards review applications and make recommendations
MAY & JUNE: Council makes appointments
JULY: New appointees take the oath and begin attending meetings
MEMBERSHIP

• Members serve staggered three-year terms, which expire on June 30
• No one shall serve on an advisory board for more than two consecutive full terms (excludes partial terms)
• Members of standing boards may apply for a different board without having to resign unless and until the new appointment is made
The Chapel Hill Youth Council’s mission is to shape the future of our town by amplifying the views and opinions of youth, influencing local decision making, and developing community-oriented service projects and social activities.
Planning Commission

Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board

Board Chair Training

Community Design Commission
Cultural Arts Commissioners served on artist selection panels for the *Into the Streets: Community Art Project* and the *Creative Project Awards*, and for selecting artists for the Town Hall and Chapel Hill Public Library exhibition programs.
Members of the Board of Adjustment organized a quasi-judicial training by David Owens from the UNC School of Government. It was designed to update the BOA's understanding of quasi-judicial concepts, and members of other boards and commissions were invited.
The Community Policing Advisory Committee reviewed policies and standards to detect racial and gender bias and to promote fairness in the engagement of officers and citizens.
The Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission made recommendations related to the Estes Drive pedestrian and bicycle improvements.
The Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board provided guidance and feedback for staff to develop and improve the Getting Around Chapel Hill webpage. The Board was instrumental in initiating and working with staff to develop solutions for better communication about project status, the 2015 bond investment, and progress toward implementing the Bike Plan.
The Justice in Action Committee issued a statement in support of UNC Center for Civil Rights.
The Stormwater Management Utility Advisory Board reviewed the final draft report of the Lower Booker Creek Subwatershed Study and provided the Town Council with a set of recommendations, which were subsequently accepted by the Town Council.
OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED...

• Town Council meetings
• Public engagement meetings
• Volunteer for a community organization
• Serve on a community nonprofit board
• Get involved in a committee (school, neighborhood, faith community)
• Run for office
HOW DO I...
QUESTIONS?
REFLECTION ACTIVITY
WRITE A LETTER TO YOURSELF IN ONE YEAR...

Dear [your name],

Since finishing the Academy, I hope I have…

Sincerely, [your name]
1. Put an address that will find you in a year
2. Put your card in the envelope and seal it
PANELISTS

Pam Hemminger, Mayor
Nancy Oates, Town Council Member
Rachel Schaevitz, Town Council Member
Louie Rivers, Planning Commission Vice Chair
Amy Ryan, Community Design Commission Champion on the Planning Commission