

Council Update – May

Strategic Initiatives

Environmental Stewardship: Public Climate Action Plan



Climate Action Plan

Guided by initial Council feedback in April, the staff is developing a project scope and timeline for creating the Town's first Climate Action Plan. The Manager's Recommended budget includes \$50,000 for the development of a Plan, which will be supported by a team of staff from across the organization. We will share an update with Council on this and other related work in the fall.

Environmental Stewardship: Climate Action in FY20



Concurrent with the Climate Action Plan efforts, staff will continue to take action in FY20 by exploring things like a tree program, composting at Town Hall, an electric vehicle strategy, evaluation of a green infrastructure ordinance and LED streetlight conversion.

Economic and Financial Sustainability: Implement Facility Maintenance Plan



The Council approved an additional investment of ~\$472,000 for facilities maintenance in the FY19 budget, and staff created a plan to address high priority needs. Of the \$472,000, Public Works has spent or encumbered over **95%** of the funds for roof replacements, boiler replacements, and repairs and basic maintenance at various Town facilities.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Fiber Installations



Technology Solutions, Public Works and Emergency Management are working to make the fiber installations by private companies safer and less disruptive. The fiber installations currently being done support fiber to the home and the installation of small cell towers.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Smart City Sensors



Technology Solutions is coordinating the Town effort with our business partners to install smart city sensors. Two smart city project cameras in the Spotlight City programs were installed and are being tested as a method to count “things” travelling along roads an intersections.

Affordable Housing: Utilize Town-Owned Land for Affordable Housing Development



Town staff are in the process of evaluating three RFQ responses received for a development partner for 2200 Homestead Road site. Staff plan to begin negotiations with a potential partner by the fall. Site analysis is also underway for the three sites prioritized for affordable housing by Council, with anticipated completion of the analysis by the end of June. Staff will update the Council on the results of the site analysis when complete.

Affordable Housing: Housing Displacement Assistance Program



Since launching the program on April 30, Town and Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) staff have conducted outreach to Park Apartments residents including flyer notifications and an on-site interest meeting. As of May 24, ten residents are receiving assistance through CEF. Staff is exploring opportunities for additional marketing and outreach to raise awareness about the program. As of May 20, there were 15 remaining households of The Park searching for housing.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Charting Our Future; Future Land Use Map Refinement and LUMO Rewrite



Refining the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) in advance of rewriting the Land Use Management Ordinance (LUMO). The project is currently in the Blueprint phase of refining the FLUM. Staff is seeking additional Council and Advisory Board feedback on the draft documents as well as direction on the Southern ETJ Study Area.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Implement Community-First Plan for Rogers Road Zoning



Updating development standards for the Rogers Road neighborhood in advance of new sewer service. The Town Council adopted the Rogers Road text and map amendments on May 22, 2019. Staff is now implementing the new standards and working with the project consultant to summarize them as a quick reference for Rogers Road residents, advisory boards, Council, staff, and others.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Implement Community-First Plan – Greene Tract Master Plan



Developing a master plan for the Greene tract to help implement the Rogers Road Community-First Plan. Staff are preparing to meet with the Mayors, Managers, and Chair (MMC) group to begin discussing next steps.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Blue Hill Code Refinements – Massing Standards



Refining the Blue Hill District framework to address interests expressed by Council and the community. The consultant and staff will present a preliminary text amendment proposal on massing for the Council at its work session on June 5th.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Immigrant and Refugee Initiatives



The Building Integrated Communities (BIC) Implementation Team is currently focused on advancing two strategies identified in the BIC Action Plan: creating a Language Access Plan and conducting Community Outreach to immigrant and refugee community members on key topics of interest. Additionally, in the past month, staff coordinated a multi-lingual messaging for Hurricane Preparedness Week and purchased interpretation equipment for Town and community use.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Community Connections Strategy Implementation



Staff are in the process of updating the Strategy based on input from Council and community partners. A cross-departmental team has been assembled to lead Strategy implementation. Staff has submitted an application for the Town to join the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) and anticipate completing the membership process in June.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Transitional Housing Program



Staff completed the move in process for the last of the units the Town recently acquired into our housing portfolio. This fiscal year, the Town increased our Transitional/Affordable Housing portfolio by 56% with the acquisition of 9 units. Renovations will soon be underway for five of the units (anticipated completion this summer) and staff are strengthening support services offered to residents in the Transitional Housing Program.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Public Housing Community Building



Public Housing staff has started their [Annual Pop-up and Clean-up](#) initiative designed to encourage pride in our communities and to foster community interaction between people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Vibrant & Inclusive Community: Create diverse arts and cultural experiences, with a focus on downtown.



Selected seven artists for second round of Art + Transit bus shelter installations. Selected four artists for downtown Summer Open Studio at 109 E. Franklin St. Hosted third Pop Up Gallery at 109 E. Franklin St.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Increase recreation programming access



Read to Achieve Camp currently has 151 participants enrolled. Today is the last day for registration, I can run you final numbers on Monday. We will still be filling open spots created by this opportunity and it may be another week or two before we have a better handle on where the waitlists will settle out.

Vibrant & Inclusive Community: Community History Initiative



Planning and design workshops for Chapel Hill Nine Marker taking place. Producing first season of Re/Collecting Chapel Hill, a grant-funded podcast about local history. Planning for Chapel Hill 1819/2019 program series to celebrate 200 years of local government. Coordinating installation and dedication of two new names to Peace and Justice Plaza.

Collaborative and Innovative: Increase innovation and learning opportunities



Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools' Class of 2019 are graduates of the High School Fire Academy. These students are the first to complete the full course of the high school fire academy that was started in the fall of 2017.

Core Business

Public Works Week



The Town of Chapel Hill observed May 19th - 25th as National Public Works Week, a campaign by the American Public Works Association to call attention to the importance of public works in community life. In keeping with the goal of Public Works Week, we will use this Council update to highlight different aspects of Public Works' core business each month.

Core Business Program: Stormwater



A key aspect of the Stormwater program is community education. Recently, the Stormwater Advisory Board with assistance from Town staff hosted a public workshop, *"The Next Big Flood"*, to assist businesses and residents in preparing for flood events and understanding what to do during and after a flood. The workshop included several short presentations, displays, and opportunities for discussion, and approximately 70 people participated. [See a recent news story here.](#)

Cultural and Community Programs: Summer at CHPL



Planning and coordinating Summer Blast, which includes the reading challenge, cultural/educational performances, family movies, learning programs, and more. Staff visited CHCCS schools and other sites to engage students and teachers about summer programs. Hiring and training seasonal staff to help with increased volume of business, welcoming several Summer Youth Employment staff and summer volunteers of all

ages.

Festivals and Special Events: July 4th and Festifall

Working with multiple Town departments and Southern Village on new July 4th event. Working with Downtown Partnership and Arts Everywhere to plan Festifall 2019. Partnered with Bloom Fest organizers on new festival at 140 West.

Technology Solutions



Technology Solutions is coordinating a smart city project with the UNC School of Information and Library Sciences (SILS) and other Town departments. The project is in the early design stage of a pilot implementation for the ["Array of Things"](#) urban sensors. Among other features, the sensors will collect data about environmental conditions, weather conditions and ambient sound.

Fire Department



Fire Department Squad 61 is now fully in-service. Formalized technical rescue agreements are now in place with UNC-CH and OWASA. In addition to providing ongoing resources and support for technical rescue efforts, the agreements formalize ongoing collaborative efforts that enhance service to our community.

Planning Department Development Review: Development Agreement for Amity Station



Exploring a Development Agreement for Amity Station. The Council Committee and the Development Team have continued negotiations in an effort to reach agreement on a preferred scenario that addresses the needs and concerns of the community.

Planning Department Development Review: Development Agreement for Eastowne



Exploring a Development Agreement for Eastowne. UNC Health Care representatives and Town staff held kick-off community workshops, made introductory presentations to advisory boards, met with Council Committee, and held a Joint Advisory Board meeting.

Planning Department Code Enforcement: Short-Term Rentals



Reviewing the issues regarding short-term rentals (STRs) in the community. Staff will make a presentation to Council on June 19th to share background information and receive feedback and direction.

Public Housing Master Plan: Reduce contractor cost

Master Plan

Public Housing Maintenance Mechanics have recently completed one aspect of the Public Housing Master Plan by replacing 78 refrigerators and gas ranges with more energy star certified models. Energy star certified means that they use less energy than their conventional, non-energy efficient counterparts. Newer appliances will require less calls for service.

Parks and Recreation



AD Clarke pool successfully passed inspection to open for the summer, official open day was Saturday, May 25th. Repairing of the steps and ramp are underway with the contractors on site at Hargraves. Ephesus Park ADA and parking lot improvements project is approximately 35% complete. Major Athletic Field work being completed on our natural grass fields for the beginning of the summer (deep tine aerification, topdressing, sodding, fertilizing).

Capital Projects

Maintenance to improve quality of our transportation infrastructure (including streets, sidewalks, streetscape, and bridges)



Hillsborough Street will be reconstructed from Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. beginning in mid-June. The work is anticipated to be completed within a few weeks. This project is funded largely by 2015 Streets and Sidewalks bonds.

In addition to the recently completed FY19 street resurfacing, street maintenance will be scheduled to begin in June 2019, including patching and crack pouring.

Recent Substantially Completed Construction Projects:

- Reconstruction of Friday Center Drive
- Hargraves Community Center Roof Replacement
- Northside Gym Roof Replacement and HVAC Replacement
- Fire Station #1 Roof Replacement



Upcoming Summer Town Construction Projects

- Downtown Alleyway Improvements including Post Office Alley and Varsity Alley
- Reconstruction of Hillsborough Street
- Elliott Road Flood Storage
- Sidewalk Projects Update

Requirements associated with receiving federal funds for the Homestead Road project (including an NCDOT review) have delayed the construction start date later than originally planned. When NCDOT's review is complete, the Town anticipates requesting construction bids for **Homestead Road and Seawell School Road sidewalks** in Summer or Fall 2019.

Due to increasing cost estimates for the sidewalk projects, **construction for the Ephesus Church Road Sidewalk project will be on hold** while staff works to identify any alternate funding opportunities.

How We Leverage Funding: The CIP Leadership team works with staff to assess cost estimates, priorities, and project sequencing in an effort to maximize funding for construction projects. Staff continues to seek outside funding sources to supplement Town funding for capital projects.