

Council Update – November and December 2019

Strategic Initiatives

Environmental Stewardship: Reduce carbon footprint



Create a Community Climate Action Plan: We are working to finalize the greenhouse gas emissions inventories for Town operations and the community as a whole. We are also developing a range of community engagement strategies that will be implemented over the next two months. The Council will receive more detailed updates at their meetings on January 22nd and at the Council Retreat.

Environmental Stewardship: Reduce carbon footprint



LED Streetlight Conversion: Duke Energy has ordered the lighting and is scheduled to begin the installation on all standard streetlights as soon as the fixtures are available. As the Council previously requested, we have also developed some information about costs associated with the conversion of other outdoor lighting to LED and will be sharing that in the coming weeks.

Environmental Stewardship: Reduce carbon footprint



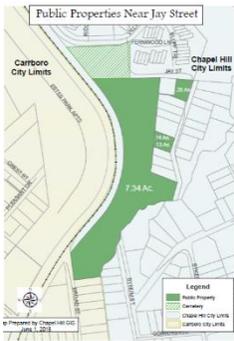
Energy Code: A group of Town staff from Inspections, Fire, Engineering and Sustainability participated in an update the 2021 national model energy code. The results indicate that the code will be 10% more efficient for both residential and commercial buildings – the second biggest efficiency gain in the last decade. Specific improvements were made in electric vehicle charging, residential water heating and lighting efficiency. The State will consider these measures for 2021.

Environmental Stewardship: Invest in green infrastructure and build community resiliency



The Town celebrated Arbor Week from November 15-22. An Arbor Day ceremony and tree planting occurred on November 15 in collaboration with Ephesus Elementary School.

Affordable Housing: Develop affordable housing on Town-owned properties



Consistent with a resolution Town Council approved at the [November 13, 2019 Business Meeting](#), authorizing the Town Manager to seek an affordable housing partner for Town-owned land on Jay Street and begin negotiating an agreement for development, staff have distributed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for potential development partners. We anticipate making a selection of a potential partner by April 2020.

Affordable Housing: Develop affordable housing on Town-owned properties



Town staff is in the process of executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Homestead Housing Collaborative as the potential development partner for the 2200 Homestead Road Town-owned site, dedicated by the Council for mixed-income housing in [September 2017](#). The Collaborative is led by [Self Help Ventures Fund](#) in partnership with [CASA](#), [Community Home Trust](#), and [Habitat for Humanity of Orange County](#), all local affordable housing providers. Staff anticipate providing Council with an update on the plan for the site in the spring of 2020.

Connected Community: Increase connectivity between walking, bicycling, and multi-modal networks to reduce amount of driving needed to get around Chapel Hill



North South Bus Rapid Transit: Transit staff and our consultant team continued work with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on the projects Small Starts Application (<https://nsbrt.org/>).

Connected Community: Actively participate in regional transportation planning



Staff from Planning and Chapel Hill Transit have been attending staff working group meetings to develop a Planning Framework and scope of work for updating the Orange County Transit Plan. The Plan was last updated in 2017 and was centered on the Durham-Orange Light Rail. Now that DOLRT is discontinued, Orange County is leading the effort to rewrite the plan, which will be done by a consultant with oversight from a Policy Committee (elected officials) and Technical Committee (staff) comprised of the county and municipalities. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners heard this item at their November 7th meeting and consider approving the framework and authorizing staff to issue a RFQ for consulting services.

Connected community: Actively participate in regional transportation planning



The Town's Bike-Ped Team and key stakeholders continued work with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and their consultant team to finalize the recommendations for NC 54 Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridor Safety Study (<http://nc54bikeped.com/documents.asp>).

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Preserve the history of Chapel Hill and embrace the future needs of the community



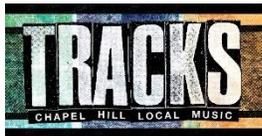
As a part of the Chapel Hill 1819/2019 200th anniversary celebration, Parks & Recreation and Planning teamed up to offer youth an opportunity to envision the parks system of the future. A public exhibition and reception were held on November 14. In conjunction with the "Masters of the Future" exhibition, program guides from Parks & Recreation dating to the 1970s were on display.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Improve connections and partnership with historically disengaged and marginalized populations



The Census grant will fund outreach to Chapel Hill's hard-to-count populations, in partnership with Housing & Community. The programming grant will fund "I Was Still Singing," an exhibit and program highlighting the contributions of Chapel Hill's African American women elders.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Create diverse opportunities for community to engage with the arts



Opened Call for Submissions for Tracks Music Library. Tracks is a collaboration between the Library, Community Arts & Culture, and local musicians to build a commercial-free streaming music platform of local music.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Create diverse opportunities for community to engage with the arts



Coordinated a successful "Chapel Hill-ids" slate of events in collaboration with Downtown Partnership. Programs included Tree Lighting, Holiday Parade, and a new community event, the Downtown Santa Rooftop Rescue. Produced in partnership with Chapel Hill Fire Department, the Santa Rescue brought 600+ families to downtown on 12/20.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Create diverse opportunities for community to engage with the arts



Continued programming Gallery 109 with UNC Arts Everywhere and Downtown Partnership. *Cash Crop!* show closed in late November, after a week's extension and very positive community feedback. *Altered Chapel Hill* ran during December and into early January, featuring altered collage imagery of vintage campus and community photos as well as pieces from youth and adult workshops led by the artist.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Increase engagement with community history



Community Arts and Culture and Chapel Hill Transit installed three (3) art pieces in bus shelters commemorating the local Civil Rights Movement. The shelter locations include Franklin Hotel, Southwest Moe’s and Lot 2.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Continue Peoples Academy



The 2019 Peoples Academy concluded on November 9. The 5 week, 10 class Academy is an opportunity for community members to learn about the Town and our operations. In its second year, the Academy received 72 applications. All applicants were invited to participate and there were 37 graduates for the 2019 Academy (defined as those who attended 6 of 10 class sessions). The 2019 participants included 33% identifying as non-white, 74% identifying as female, and 4% identifying as younger than 24. In addition, several participants had young children (we collected 17 waivers for childcare). For participants who completed our post-Academy survey, 100% identified they know some or a lot about Town government (compared to 26% from the pre-survey) and 85% are considering serving on a Town Board or Commission (compared to 48% from the pre-survey).

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Advance Charting our Future



Following the engagement opportunities in the fall of 2019, Staff worked with Council to develop an alternative approach to the Focus Area Maps, and those revised Maps should be available for Council consideration in early March. Simultaneously, Staff will be working on finalizing the other components of the Future Land Use Map including the Resiliency Maps and the Guiding Statements. According to the current schedule, the Future Land Use Map and all of its components could be considered for adoption at the end of June or in early fall, if necessary. Staff is also working to define the scope of consulting services for the rewrite of the Land Use Management Ordinance.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Short Term Rental



Staff and the Task Force are evaluating appropriate new standards to regulate rooms and homes that are rented out for 30 days or less. Staff developed a public engagement strategy that would meet Council’s interest in identifying goals and developing updated ordinance standards for Short-Term Rentals. The Task Force met in October and November to begin crafting standards for an ordinance. A Task Force Meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Eastowne Development Agreement



UNC Health Care representatives and the Town Council continue to hold negotiation sessions. Staff also held a community meeting, and a Joint Advisory Board meeting. Staff continues to develop a Negotiation Framework and matrix for Council consideration. The next Council Committee negotiation session will be held in January, 2020.

Collaborative and Innovative Organization: Oversee and manage the town-wide capital program



The Town has completed its second Capital Project Manager Certification Program. This training program facilitates the preparation of Town employees to plan, manage, and execute capital projects while promoting better management practices. In our most recent training completed in December 2019, we had 14 participants representing the Fire, Housing & Community, Library, Planning, Police, Public Works, and Town Manager's Office. The training satisfaction surveys indicated that the participants increased their knowledge regarding the execution of capital projects.

Core Business

Streets & Construction: Leaf Collection Update



Public Works' annual Leaf Collection Program is well underway. At the on-set of the program, staff completed two leaf collection cycles in November due to favorable weather conditions and delay in leaves falling. Program goals were met when staff completed a leaf collection cycle between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Compared to last year, staff has collected 56% more leaves this year for the time period mid-October through December 31st.

Community Safety: Holiday Police Patrols and Reduction in Property Crime



Historically, we have experienced a spike in residential break-ins during the winter holidays. For several years, we have increased police patrols during the hours that data show these crimes are most likely to occur. Increased presence, visibility, and focused deterrence have led to a 50% decrease in residential break-ins since 2017.

Transit: Bus Shelter Replacements and Upgrades



Relocated and upgraded the shelter at the Franklin Hotel, in coordination with the ownership group for the hotel. The shelter includes solar powered LED lighting. This is one of the new shelter types we will be trying at locations in our service area. Additional shelter and bus stop improvements are scheduled to begin in January.

Recreation Programming: USA Archery Grant



On November 25 and 26, the Chapel Hill Community Center hosted a USA Archery Level 2 Instructor Certification class for 36 practitioners from 18 communities across North Carolina. The opportunity to host the statewide training resulted from the department's receipt of an Explore Archery grant offered by USA Archery and the NC Recreation and Park Association.

Community Arts & Culture: Launched new Community Arts & Culture website and e-news



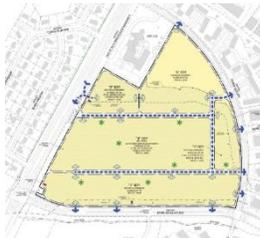
In response to Commission, Council, and community interest in better marketing for arts & culture, website features improved navigation, user-friendly interfaces for event applications and artist calls, and highlights new departmental offerings and initiatives.

Library: Launched collection diversity audit



Beginning of multi-year effort to assess collections with an EDI lens and build collections that reflect the diversity of our community and the world.

Development Review: University Place and Carolina Donor Services



Submittal of a Conditional Zoning application for the University Place redevelopment has been submitted to the Town. Staff anticipates this application will be before the Council for action in late spring. An application for Carolina Donor Services, 7000 Millhouse Road, has also been made – this is a submittal of a Final Plan application (construction plans) anticipating construction of the first building in the Light Industrial Conditional Zoning District (LICZD).

Housing Department: Implementation of Public Housing Master Plan



We are one step closer to filling all staff vacancies to better serve the needs of the all public housing residents. On December 16th, we welcomed Stacey Todd as our Management Analyst to assist in data tracking efforts and creating analytics for our public housing preservation and development plans. Stacey comes to us from a background of managing Capital repair funds with the City of Cincinnati Department of Community and Economic Development.

Housing Department: Resident Programming and Engagement



In an effort to provide access to fresh healthy food for all Public Housing residents, as well as others in the Orange County Community, we have partnered with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina to operate a Food Bank every Wednesday in a Public Housing neighborhood. Currently, we are operating in Rainbow Heights (1st Wednesdays) S. Estes (2nd Wednesdays); Colony Woods West (3rd Wednesdays); Craig-Gomains (Fourth Wednesdays); and Oakwood (5th

Wednesdays).

Capital Projects

Environmental Stewardship: Improve local waterways and conserve biological ecosystems



The Elliott Road Flood Storage project was a top priority recommended in the Lower Booker Creek Subwatershed Study and approved by the Council in January 2017. This project involves constructing a stormwater control facility to mitigate flooding and making park and pedestrian improvements to the area. In December, the Town was in the final stages of land acquisition. Upon completion, construction is anticipated to begin this spring 2020.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Implement Capital Improvement Plan



Bolin Creek Greenway: Re-mobilization for this project is expected to resume during the week of December 2 with work resuming by mid-December. Dependent upon the weather, the project should be able to progress through the winter months. The portion of the trail between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Bolinwood Dr. will be closed for the duration of the project and trail users are being redirected to use the sidewalks and streets as a detour.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Implement Capital Improvement Plan



The Library the parking lot expansion project in the upper parking lot at the Library was completed in January. The work involved adding eight more parking spaces and converting to one-way traffic flow in the upper lot.