

From: Megan Wooley <mwooley@townofchapelhill.org>
To: 'Erin Schwie Langston' <eslangston@gmail.com>; Michael Parker <miparker1@aol.com>; Amy Ryan <amymorrisryan@gmail.com>
CC: Mary Jane Nirdlinger <mnirdlinger@townofchapelhill.org>; Jim Ward <jimward@nc.rr.com>; Dr. Carolyn Brookhart <carolyn@brookhart.org>
Subject: RE: CW Parent Safety Comment for Walk Zone
Sent: Thu 8/1/2013 4:41 PM

Hello Erin,

Thank you for your email, and I have answered questions 1-3 below. I will post this email with my responses to the Community Input webpage as you have requested.

Thanks!

Megan



Megan Wooley

Housing and Neighborhood Services Planner II
Housing and Neighborhood Services
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Help create a new Comprehensive Plan at www.townofchapelhill.org/2020.

From: Erin Schwie Langston [<mailto:eslangston@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 3:08 PM
To: Michael Parker; Megan Wooley; Amy Ryan
Cc: Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Jim Ward; Dr. Carolyn Brookhart
Subject: Re: CW Parent Safety Comment for Walk Zone

Hi Amy, Michael and Megan,

I again want to follow up on this since the co-chair minutes that just went out did not state that Megan AGREED to read Dr. Carolyn Brookhart's comments in advance (I was the conduit though I keep getting author credit despite the emails clearly stating). Can you please amend those minutes?

I am following up on two items that were not answered last week (copied from below):

1...to clarify, can you point me to the public record that has recorded all emails on CW? I am only aware of the "public community input" link that contains info or documents that have been specifically asked to be posted on it since late June or early July. If there is a page devoted to CW that contains all emailed communication, please share the link.

Answer: There is not a webpage that contains all the emails that have been sent regarding the Central West process. We do have the Community Input webpage which can be accessed [here](#), and I post the materials that community members or Committee members send to me and request to be posted.

2...have ground rules for public input been adopted? It's my understanding that they were to be discussed but never finalized. If you can point me to that specific link or document on the CW webpage, I'd appreciate it.

Answer: The Steering Committee does not have official ground rules regarding community input. They do request that if community members are interested in submitting information to be considered by the Steering Committee, that they do so 48 hours in advance of the meeting. This is stated on the Community Input webpage.

And please respond to this third statement.

3....The co-chair notes that I have seen only generically state "public comment was received" vs specific comment with content, interest and position noted. That is helpful information to know since there is not a verbal recording (to my knowledge).

Answer: The specific statements made by community members during the public participation period are detailed in the action minutes for each meeting that the Town prepares. The action minutes can be found on the Steering Committee Meeting Materials webpage which can be accessed [here](#).

When we know the answers, I will then ask that information is posted to the community input page on CW.

Megan- please post this entire email exchange to it. .

Erin Schwie Langston

{Sent via my phone. Please excuse any typos - thanks.}

On Jul 23, 2013, at 9:29 PM, Erin Schwie Langston <eslangston@gmail.com> wrote:

Appreciate your response.

Megan agreed to read it aloud (as email noted below). However, someone emailed us after the meeting to say that her promise to do so was then refused/changed. Since we were unable to be present, I then sent the email below asking for clarification.

If we had known that was going to change in advance, other arrangements would have been made in order to have another safety focused parent who was in town (and available) to reiterate the comments or even private childcare arrangements.

As you may know, there is quite a lengthy record of feedback, questions and/or emails going to the CW Staff, Co-chairs and /or Steering Committee without any response or acknowledgement since at least early spring.

And to clarify, can you point me to the public record that has recorded all emails on CW? I am only aware of the "public community input" link that contains info or documents that have been specifically asked to be posted on it since late June or early July. If there is a page devoted to CW that contains all emailed communication, please share the link.

And to clarify my question, have ground rules for public input been adopted? It's my understanding that they were to be discussed but never finalized. If you can point me to that specific link or document on the CW webpage, I'd appreciate it.

The co-chair notes that I have seen only generically state "public comment was received" vs specific comment with content, interest and position noted. That is helpful information to know since there is not a verbal recording (to my knowledge).

I will continue to ask how can those not physically present be allowed to have a "dialogue" with the decision makers, especially since promises have been made and then changed by town staff on providing volunteer child care.

Erin Schwie Langston

{Sent via my phone. Please excuse any typos - thanks.}

On Jul 23, 2013, at 9:16 PM, Jim Ward <jimward@nc.rr.com> wrote:

Erin and Carolyn,

The issue(s) surrounding the request to read an email that was sent to Megan and others was discussed by the entire CW Task Force. There were Task Force mbrs on both/many sides of this question/issue.

I believe the rationale that represents the majority of the Task Force is the following: It would be unwise policy to set a precedent of having emails received prior to the meeting read as part of the the public comment period or during any part of the main agenda. If reading such emails became standard practice during either the public comment period or during main agenda, it's not hard to imagine how the entire time allowance for public comment could be used by people not attending meeting, and by default, silencing some or all attending. Similarly, the meeting agenda could get hijacked by a score of emails.

All emails received by Megan directly or forwarded to her by Task Force members are effectively and promptly distributed to all Task Force members and become part of the public record which Megan makes available to the rest of the world via the Town's web site dedicated to the CW planning process.

While I've not been able to attend every CW meeting, I don't believe it accurate to insinuate that it was established CW protocol, to read all public comments aloud during public comment time. I encourage you to ask the CW Task Force membership what their understanding is/was about this issue. If it turns out I'm wrong about this, I'll be the first to apologize. If someone promised you that your email would be read during the public comment period, that person made a mistake, as such a decision is one for the Task Force to make as a whole.

Lastly, I don't believe I (Councilman Ward) changed any rules when I voiced my concerns (see paragraph two above) during the CW meeting last evening. I don't recall that the issue had been raised previously. Now that it has, we all know what's expected, and we've have had a chance to be part of the discussion. The rules for public comment have changed a little over the last couple of meetings, to the benefit of everyone. At first, each meeting agenda allocated 5 minutes at the beginning and 5 minutes at the end of each meeting. Recently, the Task Force supported a member's suggestion to increase the initial 5 minutes to 10 minutes. And last night the Task Force support the suggestion to increase the 5 minutes allotted at the end of each meeting to 10 minutes. So, now each meeting has a total of 20 minutes set aside for public comment.

I hope my reply is helpful. If not, I hope you'll let me know and give me a second opportunity. Thank you for being part of the process.

Sincerely,
(Councilman) Jim Ward

On Jul 23, 2013, at 9:54 AM, Erin Schwie Langston wrote:

Hi Co Chairs and CM Ward,

Can you please provide any other context to the message below that went to Megan?

Thanks,
Erin and Carolyn

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erin Schwie Langston <eslangston@gmail.com>
Date: July 22, 2013, 10:24:01 PM EDT
To: Megan Wooley <mwooley@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: "carolyn@brookhart.org" <carolyn@brookhart.org>
Subject: Re: CW Parent Safety Comment for Walk Zone

Hi Megan,

I was emailed that Carolyn's comment was not read as promised tonight. Can you please clarify what happened? Why you are no longer reading public comments aloud during public comment time as promised? Did Councilmember Ward change "rules" that has been in effect for several months? Have rules for public input been adopted?

Thanks.

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 22, 2013, at 10:34 AM, Megan Wooley <mwooley@townofchapelhill.org> wrote:

Hello Erin and Carolyn,

I have forwarded the following email to the Steering Committee, and I will read this aloud at the meeting tonight. I will also post this to the "Community Input" webpage.

Thanks!

Megan

<image001.gif>

Megan Wooley

Housing and Neighborhood Services Planner II

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