



# Town of Chapel Hill

## HISTORIC TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 22, 2017, at 12:00 p.m.  
Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room C  
100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

### Meeting 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, Richard Ellington, Josh Gurlitz, Commissioner Penny Rich, Alan Rimer, Lee Storrow and Chela Tu.

Staff Present: Megan Dale, Travis Myren.

##### b. Approval of Minutes

Approved Minutes from March 22, April 13, and May 3, 2017

##### c. Approval of Agenda

#### 2. Public Comment

#### 3. Business

##### a. Debrief on Community Input Meeting

Background: The committee will discuss the community input received at the May 3, 2017 committee meeting.

Action Item: No action is anticipated.

- Action Taken: The committee reviewed the May 3 minutes and discussed the community input received. No action was taken.

The committee discussed community members' comments from the May 3 meeting including the need for public space for community dialogue; the need to consider possible future connections between nearby Town-owned properties and Historic Town Hall; interest from UNC faculty and students in a local space for community engagement; the opportunity to explore connections between history and the arts; and acknowledged an interest in selling the building and placing it on the tax roll.

The committee further discussed potential benefits and challenges in co-locating the Visitors Bureau and a history/culture center in Historic Town Hall. The committee noted that the Visitors Center's current location is not ideal and discussed the mutual interest of the Visitors Center and a history/culture center in telling Chapel Hill's story. The committee also discussed that the different audiences (visitors vs. local community members) may present conflicting needs for the space, and Historic Town Hall's small size presents a challenge for co-location.

The committee reiterated the need for the building to be remodeled to be open, welcoming, and versatile. The committee discussed that the Town is continuing to maintain and repair the building pending a decision regarding future use.

#### **b. Discuss Report and Recommendations to Town Council**

Background: The committee will discuss their final report to the Town Council.

Action Item: The committee is anticipated to determine recommendations to the Council regarding a possible future use of Historic Town Hall as a history and/or visitors center.

- Action Taken: The committee discussed and made revisions to a draft report to Town Council, including the committee's activities and findings, and recommendations for next steps.

The committee agreed on the draft report and made the following revisions:

- Noted the need to think entrepreneurially regarding the potential for future connections with nearby properties, including a possible space for the arts
- Noted the need to continue to engage the Visitors Bureau and Orange County Commissioners regarding the desirability and feasibility of co-locating the Visitors Center and a history/culture center
- Noted the importance of understanding both the direct and indirect return on investment of locating a history/culture center in Historic Town Hall

The final report is scheduled to be presented to Town Council on June 26, 2017. This committee will be dissolved and the Town Council will determine the process going forward.

#### **4. Public Comment**

#### **5. Adjournment**

#### **Meeting Materials**

Minutes from March 22, April 26, and May 3, 2017 Meetings

**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.