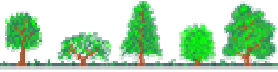

TOWN OF CARRBORO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



Meeting on **January 8th, 2004** at 7:00 p.m.
At the Carrboro Town Hall
Carrboro, North Carolina

Minutes

Board Members Present

Rickie White
Neil Flanagan
Kathy Buck
Glynis Gore

Board Members Unable to Attend

Bill Rehm (unexcused)

Guest

Sarah Myers

Staff Present

Jeff Kleaveland, Planning Zoning Development Specialist

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Call to Order/Opening Comments. The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by chair, Glynis Gore at 7:09 pm.

Announcements, Introductions

Keith Burwell and Mike Mathews have resigned from the committee. Prospective member, Sarah Myers, was invited to the meeting to introduce herself and to consider joining.

Committee Assignments

Committee had a brief discussion on the issue of committee assignments; it was generally concluded that an improvement in follow-through by members is needed.

Dark Sky lighting project

The lighting ordinance as proposed by the Northern

Transition Area Advisory Committee (NTAAC) was briefly discussed. Some of the proposal is based on the work of the International Dark Sky organization which is dedicated to improvements in night sky visibility primarily from the standpoint of stargazing. Staff was requested to keep the EAB in the loop with regard to the NTAAC's lighting work.

Carolina North Discussion

Kathy Buck reported briefly on the status of the Carolina North campus plan. She is on the Carrboro advisory board to the proposed campus. Her opinion of the plan is that it is auto-centric, featuring excessive parking. She stated that the plan does not incorporate a possible transit connect near the adjacent rail corridor. Additionally, she opined that the number of stories (three) of the buildings is insufficient. She thinks the site calls for more intensive development.

The project spurred some discussion regarding transportation problems. The “Zip Car” program currently in testing phase on the main university campus was briefly discussed; essentially it is a car-sharing program to allow several people to share use of a few cars.

New project Walkabout reports

White reported on the “Villages of Berkley” walkabout out on the old Harmony Farms site. His main comment was regarding the applicant’s desire to reclassify the designation of one of the “streams” on site. Staff informed the committee that in order for the applicant to do this they have to prepare a Stream Classification Study and have it approved by the Town Engineer. The classification study essentially is a series of questions that must be answered as presented on a special DEHNR form.

Buck reported on the Merritt Mill Apartment Walkabout. Her original take on the concept plan was that it was not urban enough but was rather suburban in style. Staff informed that the revised concept plan is more urban, featuring drive-thru access as well as an internal roundabout, still this proposal does not include any public dedications of right-of-way.

General staff discussion ensued. It was agreed that the EAB would like to see concept plans as early as possible. It was suggested by Gore that applicants of new projects be invited to the EAB. Buck felt it better that the EAB first see concept plans so as to have something to respond directly to.

Staff agreed to bring all current concept plans for active projects to the next meeting.

Election of new EAB chair

Rickie White was unanimously elected as the new chair of the EAB and Kathy Buck was unanimously elected as the new vice chair. Huzzah to all.

Other Business

The Board of Aldermen wanted the EAB to comment on the downtown parking study; to date this has not occurred.

The “Protecting you Open Space” brochure was discussed. The committee would like more color copies produced. The process of making such a document specifically for all of Carrboro’s Homeowners Associations was discussed.

Sarah Myers a prospective new member of the committee introduced herself. She is currently

employed as a Construction Waste Specialist for UNC and has worked in the construction industry. She also has completed a tour of duty for the Peace Corps.

The other committee members introduced themselves and a good time was had by all.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.