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Application for Town Council appointment
Sally Greene
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Council Member Rich's resignation comes at a critical time. The Chapel Hill 2020 Comprehensive Plan—created through an unprecedented process involving some 3,000 people—has been adopted. That the plan well reflects the town's aspirations and values is broadly agreed. It forms the basis for more detailed land use decisions, and toward that end, much work remains.

Moreover, Chapel Hill 2020 aspires to be a new type of plan, an "adaptive" model, addressing goals not traditionally encompassed by urban planning. Green energy and the environment, economic development and job creation, tourism and the arts, and socioeconomic diversity are some of the concepts implicated in this holistic model. As you on the Council grapple with encompassing these broad goals, your choices will be limited by highly constrained resources. Your upcoming budget discussions, for example, will force you to make hard decisions.

The appointment is for just under a year, until the voters speak in November. As you weigh what's important, I ask you to consider the value of bringing on someone with a demonstrated ability to understand complex issues and make well-reasoned decisions; someone with a proven record of working collaboratively to accomplish community goals; someone who has won the confidence of the voters in the past.

While helping to advance the work of Chapel Hill 2020, here are three timely issues on which I believe I could be helpful:

1. Affordable rental. Given recession-era realities of the housing market, the time is ripe for focused discussions on (a) regularizing a formula for payments-in-lieu for rental developments under the Town's affordable housing policy in rezonings; and (b) identifying non-regulatory strategies for supporting rental and all affordable housing. I am ready to work with community housing advocates to take on these issues.

2. Public library. To see the expanded library take shape is exciting. I would work to ensure that operations are funded at the highest practicable level given fiscal constraints. Further, having served on the committee that negotiated the Interlocal Agreement for Library Services between the Town and the County, I believe I could contribute productively to the next round of conversations, projected for March 2013, on potential areas of interoperability.

3. Homelessness. In 2007, the four County jurisdictions launched a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Five years on, federal funding priorities are changing. The plan needs to incorporate revised policy goals. Meanwhile the IFC's shift from emergency shelter to a transitional men's program leaves a critical void. I would be eager to facilitate conversations on updating the Homelessness Partnership's plan and to work with the County, the IFC, and others toward finding a new solution for emergency shelter.

Chapel Hill is a special place. I learned years ago that it didn't get that way by accident. The town we cherish today evolved from thoughtful actions by generations of caring citizens. It was my privilege to serve on the Council before, and it would be my pledge to work as hard as possible again for the good of all.

Sally Greene