

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: February 19, 2002

TITLE: Orange County Park Bond Projects and Draft Policy Statement on Use of County Funds for Park Projects

DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Parks	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A – Resolution B – Letter from John Link Requesting Prioritization of Carrboro Bond Projects C – List of 2001 Park Bond Projects D – Draft Policy Statement Use of County Funds for Joint Parks and Open Space Projects E – Memo from Cal Horton Responding to Draft Policy Statement	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard E. Kinney – 918-7381 Recreation and Parks Director

PURPOSE

The Orange County Board of Commissioners has received from County staff a plan to fund capital projects over the next five years, inclusive of the recently approved Parks, Recreation and Open Space Bond. The Commissioners have asked each local government to comment on prioritization of projects that were included in the bond referendum that directly affects them. The Commissioners also ask that the Board of Aldermen respond to a draft policy governing use of County funds for joint parks and open space projects. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board of Aldermen an opportunity to prioritize bond projects directly affecting Carrboro and respond to the County's draft policy statement on use of County funds for joint parks and open space projects.

INFORMATION

The letter from John Link, County Manager, transmitting the Commissioner's request to prioritize Carrboro park bond projects follows as Attachment B. Also included is the staff's plan for a potential scheduling of issuing or selling of the bonds. The July 2002 sale recommends that \$2,050,000 be sold from the total \$20,000,000 approved for parks and open space. The entire park bond package delineating each project included is listed in Attachment C. Carrboro projects could include the following:

- ◆ Chapel Hill Township Park/Educational Campus (Phase I) - \$1,200,00
- ◆ Joint Town and County Open Space (Chapel Hill Greenways, Carrboro Greenways) – \$1,750,000
- ◆ Land Acquisition for Future Parks, Nature Preserves (Lands Legacy) - \$7,000,000
- ◆ Smith Middle School/Park - \$250,000
- ◆ "Soccer Superfund" - \$2,000,000

Because Smith Middle School/Park is under construction, the lighting of the fields make it an apparent number one priority due to its immediate impact on soccer field availability. But consideration should be given to issuance of the "Soccer Superfund" part to address emerging opportunities to build soccer fields throughout the County as they may become available. Other emerging needs such as the Adams property preservation could rise to the forefront. The July sale of \$2,050,000 does not provide much funding when viewed with competing needs of the over-all bond package.

The administration would recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider the following priority list:

1. Smith Middle School/Park and the Soccer Superfund
2. Land Acquisition for Future Parks, Nature Preserves and Joint Town and County Open Space for Greenways (Adams Tract acquisition)
3. Chapel Hill Township Park/Educational Campus

In the spring of 2000, because of the need for significant collaboration among the Towns and the County for certain parks and recreation initiatives, the Inter-Governmental Parks (IP) Work Group was formed by all local governments in Orange County. Carrboro representatives on the IP Work Group are Mark Dorosin, Alderman and Doris Murrell, Recreation and Parks Commission Chair. More recently, County staff has drafted a policy statement on the use of County funds for joint parks and open space projects (Attachment D) that the Board of County Commissioners asked the Board of Aldermen to comment on. This draft has also been sent to the IP Work Group for its comments and was discussed at its last meeting on January 31, 2002 meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting of the IP Work Group on February 21, 2002. The draft statement follows as Attachment D and comments from the Chapel Hill Town Manager are included as Attachment E.

Alderman Dorosin voiced many of the potential problems that are delineated in the Chapel Hill Town Manager's memorandum and analysis. The analysis is not duplicated in this abstract. Please refer to a complete analysis in Attachment E and a list of concerns is included in the resolution (Attachment A). The Board is asked to discuss this issue and provide direction when this topic returns for discussion to the IP Work Group's meeting on February 21st.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

It is the administration's recommendation that the Board of Aldermen adopts the following resolution prioritizing the Bond projects and addressing concerns with the County's draft policy on use of County funds for joint parks and open space projects.