

Michael Parker
Candidate for Town Council

I believe that Chapel Hill should be a vibrant, diverse, sustainable, and affordable community. This belief has motivated me to seek election to our Town Council in order to ensure that this is both our present and our future. If am fortunate enough to be elected I intend to devote my energies to:

- Creating more and better jobs, especially for our younger and economically disadvantaged residents, who are all too often underemployed
- Growing and diversifying our supply of affordable housing so that it is available to a broader range of income groups
- Strengthening Chapel Hill Transit and creating new and expanding regional connections to Durham, Raleigh, RTP, Mebane, and other parts of the Triangle
- Ensuring that our Town government works for and is responsive to the needs of all of its residents

In short, I want our Town to be as special for the next generation of Chapel Hillians – folks like my daughter Stephanie and her husband Samuel – as it is for those of us who live here today.

In the past few years I have been privileged to be able to serve our Town as Chairman of the Transportation Board, Co-chair of the Central West Steering Committee, a member of the Rosemary Imagined project team, and, currently, a member of our Planning Commission. I am also the Treasurer of the Arts Center and a member of the Board of the Friends of the Downtown.

I believe that in the course of my professional career as a consultant to not-for profit healthcare organizations, biotechs, and pharmaceutical companies I have developed a number of skills that will be valuable to the Town: negotiation, consensus and team-building, financial analysis, and strategic planning, as well as an entrepreneurial and creative approach to solving complex problems. I am a fact-based and pragmatic decision-maker whose guiding principle in all of my service to Chapel Hill has been and will be to do what is best for the Town as a whole.

I also have a proven record of building consensus around difficult issues. For example, the Central West Plan achieved a supermajority vote from the Steering Committee charged with developing it and it was then approved unanimously by the Council and by every Board or Commission that voted on it. It is my intention to bring to the Town that same ability to “reach across the aisle” and be a Council Member for all of the residents of Chapel Hill.

I am convinced that working with the residents of our Town, the other members of the Council, and our Mayor we can accomplish great things so that the Chapel Hill of tomorrow is even better than it is today.