

Report to Council  
June 27, 2016

As you know, many citizens of Chapel Hill were disappointed when our Town decided it could no longer afford a museum and were unwilling to support it with any funds. (As a former Chair of the Board, I was particularly disappointed.) We now are pursuing a unique opportunity to open a new museum and relocated Visitor's Center in the old town hall once vacated by the IFC Kitchen. This is a brief summary of the activities that have taken place with regard to the utilization of the old town hall as a relocated Orange County Visitor's Center and Chapel Hill Museum.

- Met with the Orange County Visitor's Bureau Board and made a presentation on the proposal. I believe it is safe to say that the general concept of combining the Visitors Center with the Chapel Hill Museum was met with enthusiasm.
- We have met with the IFC on several occasions to discuss their schedule, look at alternatives for the kitchen and keep lines of communication open.
- We are scheduled to talk with Chancellor Folt after the Fourth of July to enlist the University's support for the idea, provide Chancellor Folt with a similar update to this presentation this evening and explore the potential for some economic aid for the effort.
- We have reviewed the report provided by the County for the upgrade of the old town hall. While a number of us believe that the estimates are on the high side for the repairs that need to be made we recognize that a variety of different sources of funds will be necessary to not only renovate the building but up-fit the space for both the visitor center and the museum.
- We have contacted five old board members of the museum who have expressed an interest in helping in any way to revive the museum.
- We anticipate having a reconstituted Chapel Hill Museum Board of Directors this year who can work in concert with the Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Thanks for your enthusiasm and support for this idea.

Rev. Robert Seymour   Alan E. Rimer