

MEMORANDUM

To: Carrboro Board of Aldermen
Chapel Hill Town Council
Hillsborough Board of Commissioners
Mebane City Council
Orange County Board of Commissioners

Chapel Hill–Carrboro City Schools Board of Education
Orange County Schools Board of Education

From: Intergovernmental Parks Work Group

Date: March 4, 2014

Re: Resolution Supporting Community Use of School Facilities for Recreation

On December 11, 2013, the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group approved the attached resolution, which is the accumulation of several years of discussion on the topic of enhancing the ability of the greater community to access and use public school facilities for recreation purposes.

While there is a history of local recreation programs using individual school facilities on an ad hoc or annual basis, there is no formal mechanism to provide for this use as a matter of policy for both local governments and the school systems. Across the state and the nation, many local governments and public school systems have worked together to make a vast array of public school recreation facilities available for community or public use when not in use by school activities. This concept has allowed many locales to avoid unnecessary duplication of facility construction. In 2008, a set of proposed guiding principles were developed and shared with the local governments and school systems, and then were adopted by all of the local government boards in the county. These principles laid the foundation for the resolution that is attached and is commended here for your consideration.

This resolution is also consistent in its intent with the recent modifications to facility use policies by both school systems. These modifications have helped to clarify and elaborate on opportunities for local recreation programs to use school playing fields or gymnasiums.

The resolution notes the mutual benefits accrued to both schools and local governments by community use of school facilities in promoting healthy lifestyles, teamwork and cooperation, and other life skills, and that many of those who would benefit from greater community use of school facilities for recreation are students at these schools.

The Intergovernmental Parks Work Group hereby recommends that each local government board and school board consider and adopt the attached resolution, to formalize the intent of all parties to promote prudent and reasonable cost community use of schools for recreation purposes, as outlined in the resolution.

Information Contact: David Stancil or Marabeth Carr, Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation 919-245-2510.

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Intergovernmental Parks Work Group
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