

PITTSBORO

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and incorrect paperwork filed with the State of North Carolina and other pertinent authorities by Pittsboro Matters, Inc. If they are that sloppy with their own legal paperwork, they are probably that sloppy with everything else they do.

Their latest case in the Superior Court was dismissed with prejudice because it lacked credibility. No amount of spin from the group or its adherents can change that. A "dismissal with prejudice" for a civil matter means that it is over forever.

Pittsboro Matters appealed the decision because the court order of December 9th was a direct stab at their credibility. They need to keep their credibility alive to raise money and seem relevant because they have effectively been barred from appearing before the Superior Court again on these issues. (By appealing, their lawsuit is technically "alive" in the legal sense, which allows their illusion of relevance to continue unabated

and the fundraising to continue.)

That organization continues asking for money, attacking those it is at odds with, trying to create chaos and pretending they are beyond reproach. But when the Court asked for them to provide evidence of the 200 members it claimed, they couldn't do it. If the court doesn't believe them, why should anyone else?

The Judge acknowledged the fact that they had no members in his order, which said in part "...the Court concludes that there exists a factual dispute that must be resolved prior to the Court determining whether Pittsboro Matters, Inc has members or not..."

Pittsboro Matters never provided the evidence and the Court decided to dismiss the case with prejudice.

Pittsboro Matters struck out. It is about time that reasonable people came together to make reasonable policies that move Chatham Park forward in a direction that the community finds acceptable and mutually beneficial.

Virginia Penley is Democratic Vice-Chair, Mann's Chapel Precinct

FACTS

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it does NOT mean that citizens cannot in the future challenge decisions made by the board about Chatham Park.

Penley claimed the court order was a direct stab at our credibility and we have been effectively barred from appearing before the Superior Court again on these issues.

This ruling had absolutely nothing to do with our credibility. The judge simply disagreed with some of our legal arguments. We believe our claims will be upheld on appeal and we will be able to continue pursuing our lawsuit in Superior Court.

As our attorney wrote, regardless of what happens with our appeal *neither Pittsboro Matters nor any other citizen with legal standing would be barred from challenging other decisions - such as approvals of small area plans, development agreements, or amendments/modifications to the Master Plan.*

We will continue to stay on top of this

development throughout every step of the process for reviewing Chatham Park plans.

Penley said "when the music stops let us not forget that when the Court asked for them to provide evidence of its 200 members they shot an air ball when the judge acknowledged the fact that they had no members in his Order." *This is simply incorrect. The Court never asked us to provide evidence, nor were we given an opportunity to do so. And the Court never made any finding regarding the number of members. He, in fact, said, "This determination need not be made at this time.*

To summarize, we find it strange that a non-lawyer, who did not attend the court hearing on this matter, has again taken on the duty of making false and misleading attacks about our lawsuit on behalf of former Mayor Voller and CPI. It would seem CPI's attorney would be the appropriate party on behalf of their clients.

Amanda Robertson is Chair, Pittsboro Matters, Inc.

HAPPINESS

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work. Before she was fired from her job, her boss agreed that she could participate in therapy for herself. After a while, she did improve and was able to go back to work. I asked her, of all the techniques that we had used, what worked the best? To my surprise and dismay, she said she had learned to say to herself the magic words "So What?" Well I'm not dismayed anymore. Those words can in fact be very helpful in dealing with doubts, anxieties and self criticisms. So, in a time of stress when you need to cope, you can say those magic words to yourself, "So What?" And go about your life and your business with less anxiety and more positive feelings. Yes, try the magic words! For yourself!

Since I wrote the original articles on this

topic, I've been increasingly interested in spiritual aspects of our lives. I've written about the fact that we all have personal and positive spirit guides and angels whose purpose in life is simple: "love", who love you and want to help you feel self-love and love for others. I know there are people who think that these ideas are crazy and we should all be sent to the funny farm. But there is no funny farm here! When you do invest in contact with your spiritual helpers, you will be granted real life signs and signals so that your doubts about their existence will be erased. I've also written about the Institute of Heartmath which has developed many techniques to increase a heart-based focus in your life. The Institute will demonstrate to you that your heart is many thousands of times more powerful than your brain. The heart is your route to happiness here and in the hereafter. So, in improving our feelings about ourselves and

increasing our happiness we can look to our hearts and to the heavens for precious and wonderful assistance.

I often like to end my articles with quotations. So here are two pertinent quotations. "You can be the most beautiful person in the world and everybody sees light and rainbows when they look at you, but if you yourself don't know it, all of that doesn't even matter. Every second that you spend on doubting your worth, every moment that you use to criticize yourself, is a second of your life wasted, is a moment of your life thrown away. It's not like you live forever, so don't waste any of your seconds, don't throw even one of your moments away." (This was written by C.JoyBell C. If you don't know who she is, as I didn't, you can look her up on Amazon!) There is another quotation that you might enjoy from Tina Fey (of Saturday Night Live fame) "Do your thing and don't care if they like it."



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MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS.



Following up on last week's report, today we're shining a light on two more key parts of our local education infrastructure.



Source: Chatham County Schools

Preparing students for the future by expanding the classroom.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

With 17 schools and more than 8,000 students, Chatham County Schools is focused on collectively creating success. It encourages community support of and involvement in its mission to foster globally competitive, well-rounded students, and its goal of preparing them for success after graduation. "We want all of our stakeholders to

be invested in our schools and our children," said Chatham County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Derrick Jordan. "Through a grant from Chatham Park, we'll be able to strengthen our online presence and ability to communicate about all of the positive things that our students and faculty are accomplishing via our schools. That's key for us."

CHATHAM ARTS COUNCIL

One of the Arts Council's main focuses is on educating children through the arts. "Every county in the Triangle has a robust Artist in Schools program, except Chatham County," said Executive Director Cheryl Chamblee. "With assistance from Chatham Park and other groups, we're working right now to change that." The Council is partnering with Chatham County Schools - and gathering input from educators, parents, artists and teachers - to introduce a program in the upcoming school year that will bring professional artists into schools in ways that support math, science, language and history curriculums.

DID YOU KNOW?

For the 2013-2014 school year, all 17 Chatham County district schools met or exceeded growth expectations set by the State Board of Education.



Source: Chatham Arts Council/Photographer Linda Booker

Inspiring the next generation of Chatham County artists at the Arts Council's Annual ClydeFEST

"Here at the Chatham Arts Council, we invest in artists and we educate kids through the arts. Chatham Park is helping us do both those things by supporting our new Artists in Schools initiative."
--Cheryl Chamblee, Executive Director, Chatham Arts Council.

Another in an ongoing series of updates on what's happening at Chatham Park.