

FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes from January 24, 2007 meeting 8am – 9:45am
Panera, Fountain City

Present: Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Bill Cole, Geordy Daws, Jennifer DeAlejandro, LeGrand Gold, Jamie Rowe, Thea Yoder, and Ellen Zavisca

Donna introduced Jennifer and LeGrand, both UT law students who will be helping us amend our charter and get our bylaws in place. Also, they will guide us in beginning the process toward our 501C3 application.

Donna reported that the Fountain City Skate Park Task Force is focusing on the Knox Rd. site as for their park. *Donna said she would contact the East Tennessee Design Center for assistance with drawings. It was suggested that we work with the Skate Park effort and incorporate our design with theirs. *Donna will also call Joe Walsh to encourage the inclusion of lighting and sidewalks in their focus.

Thea reported that Dr. Tumblin reviewed the annexation materials found in the McClung Collection and found no promises made regarding sidewalks. Jamie suggested that there might have been a verbal commitment made, but not written.

Ellen reported that there is still some money given to MPC by Rob Frost that was earmarked for Mark Fenton's "Walkability Audit". She suggested that we apply for those funds by sending a request to Mark Donaldson with mention that we have non-profit status and submit our Tennessee state identification number (\$1158.50 will be asked for). *Donna will follow up on this.

A few more suggestions were made for changing the proposed ordinance. It was suggested that we add a third line under "Applicability" to include sidewalks when there is roadway or bridge reconstruction. *Donna will add this to the draft. Also, Bob Becker asked us to consider what happens in a situation where a sidewalk is required on one side of the street only and homeowners on both sides of the street are doing major reconstruction. Who pays? It was decided that we should add a line stating that both parties are to pay ½ the cost of a sidewalk plus 5%. *(Please reconsider this at the next meeting, and look at adding an asterisk to the ordinance under "Local Road" (page one) adding "one side acceptable, * both sides preferable")

Report on action items:

Donna called Mark Johnson to determine which Division within the Engineering Department should be listed in the proposed ordinance when an occupancy permit is be given. Donna changed the draft to reflect his recommendations.

As mentioned above, *Donna will follow up with the E.T.D.C. to ask for help working on the Knox Rd. site. (*Anne to help with this request) It was noted and will be added in our request that we work with the proposed skate park task force.

**Donna Y. will continue working on the timeline for our committee.

**Donna B. and/or *Ellen will ask Mark Fenton to look over the Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance and make suggestions for improvement.

What's next?

Make changes to the ordinance that reflect today's meeting.

Bob Becker suggested we work next on outreach, especially neighborhood associations, P.T.O.s, and school board members. *Donna will write a letter to be sent out and *Bob offered to help with the mailing. *Donna will contact Town Hall East and she will offer to do a program on what we are hoping to accomplish. *Ellen said she could help with that. Bill suggested that the mailing should focus on asking for feedback rather than presenting a product.

Once we have neighborhood support we can then send our draft to the city council members and also contact the Home Builder's Association, hoping for their support as well.

Our thanks to both Jennifer and LeGrand for assisting us with legal help for Fountain City Connections and for helping us start the process in applying for our 501C3 status. We are excited to have your valuable input and look forward to working with you.

LeGrand said he and Jennifer would use this semester to help us formulate our bylaws and amend the charter, but that the 501C3 application would take much longer and that likely there would be someone else assigned to help us finish the process. It was stressed that a tax-exempt organization cannot lobby for legislation. *Jennifer said she and LeGrand would review our minutes and the proposed ordinance, and begin making suggestions as early as our next meeting.

Note: * denotes Action Item.

**** denotes Old Action Item.**

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7th, Panera, Fountain City, 8am

If you would like to have a copy of these minutes available at the next meeting, please print a copy to bring along.

Thanks,
Thea Yoder

Please contact me for additions and/or corrections (by e-mail or 688-8286)