

## FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes from February 7, 2007 meeting 8am – 9:45am  
Panera, Fountain City

**Present:** Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Bill Cole, Jennifer DeAlejandro, LeGrand Gold, Thea Yoder, Anne Wallace, and Ellen Zavisca

We circulated the articles from the Fountain City Focus and the News Sentinel referring to the building of sidewalks on Jacksboro Pike. It was exciting to read about the increased recognition of the need for sidewalks in Fountain City. Bob Becker stated that historically less than ¼ of a million dollars was spent annually on sidewalks, but this year the hope is to spend about \$3 million. This is encouraging news.

Donna B. received mailing addresses from both Ellen and Thea for the city school board members, the North Knox Co. neighborhood groups, and the city council members.

\*Donna B. will draft a letter to attach to the draft ordinance, focusing on what Fountain City Connections is, why we've written this ordinance, our hope for support in efforts to encourage sidewalks in our community, and especially our need for further dialogue and feedback.

\*Donna B. will meet with the people at the East Tennessee Design Center this afternoon at 2pm to ask for their assistance in a design for the Knox Road site. \*Anne Wallace will help put this request in writing. After some discussion, it was decided we should attempt to run a sidewalk both at Knox Road and along Maple, and to coordinate efforts with the skate park group. Donna B. has been attending the meetings of the Fountain City Town Hall's task force on a skate park in Fountain City, and it appears that their preferred location is the Knox Road site. \*David Cass will bring us a materials list for proposed sidewalk construction at Knox Road. A question for \*Donna Y. – where exactly is the 1<sup>st</sup> Creek Greenway going to go in relation to the Knox Road site? Can we coordinate efforts?

\*Donna B. is working on a letter to Mark Donaldson with a request for the remaining funds allotted to the Mark Fenton "walkability" workshop.

Ellen reported that the funding request from TPO for TDOT to look at Broadway with the idea of planning for a "complete street" model would likely go ahead. She explained that they had asked for \$75,000 for this project, and it may be that there would be some other areas that will be researched at the same time, but that she thought it would be about an 18-month study. It was mentioned that we should start asking state officials and local citizens for support of this effort.

Donna asked Bob about the timing and the avenue for receiving funds for the mailing of our letter with the draft of the proposed ordinance. \*Donna B. is to get the request for funding to Bob, within the next two weeks, in a letter with an official letterhead. Bob mentioned that he reported on the work our committee is doing to the Council of Involved Neighborhoods (C.O.I.N.), and that they were by in large in favor of our efforts, with two concerns mentioned. First, they worried that this effort may increase taxes, and they were also concerned that there would not be enough space in people's front yards if we go by current specifications. Much discussion followed on ways to address these concerns.

Ellen stated that she met with Madeline Weil (Knoxville Policy Development Department Deputy Director), and that Madeline shares our interest in seeing the community become more

pedestrian and bike friendly. \*Donna B. will make an effort to contact her and tell her more about what we're doing.

Geordy and Bill will be meeting with the city engineering department tomorrow, sharing the draft ordinance as well as some ideas and hopes that we have for Fountain City sidewalks. We will be glad to get their input.

Ellen has arranged a meeting for \*Donna and \*Thea with John Z. Wetmore, who does the online and cable access show "Perils for Pedestrians." They will meet with him next week Tuesday. \*Donna B. will notify the *Focus* and the *Shopper*, and \*Ellen will notify the *News Sentinel* concerning the meeting. During the meeting we will focus on the difficulty crossing Broadway, the lack of sidewalks along Broadway, and the need for sidewalks and crosswalks in all the PRZs.

LeGrand handed out information on writing bylaws for Fountain City Connections. He and Jennifer talked about things we need to consider concerning 501c3 status, such as: What is our goal? Can we reach our goal without influencing legislation? Where is our money to come from? How will it be spent? Who is to be on the board of directors? What voting rules do we use? \*Thea and \*Donna would meet this Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am to discuss the information LeGrand and Jennifer presented, and will \*set up a meeting with them to create bylaws for our organization. LeGrand also put together a list of resources for us in thinking further about becoming a not-for-profit with 501c3 status. Many thanks for their efforts! \*We will follow up with them via email.

Donna discussed the final changes we will make to the draft sidewalk ordinance before sending it out to the community. \*Please review these final changes. \*Donna B. will send them out to you via email today. It was suggested we might want to have an MPC commission workshop to let them know why and how we've put the sidewalk ordinance together. Discussion followed. \*Let's review this idea after we have feedback from the community.

\*\*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.

**Note: \* denotes Action Item.**

**\*\* denotes Old Action Item.**

**Next meeting: 8am Wednesday, February 21st, Fountain City Panera**

**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)