

FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes: Wednesday, February 20th, 2008 meeting 8am-9:35am, Panera, Fountain City

Present: Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Diane Bunch, Geordy Daws, David McGinley, Thea Yoder, Donna Young and Ellen Zavisca

Donna Bueckman, President of Fountain City Connections, called the meeting to order. The minutes from our last meeting (January 18th, 2008) were reviewed. Donna Young made the motion to pass the minutes as written and Donna Bueckman seconded. The minutes were accepted as written.

Update on Old Action Items:

Donna Bueckman and Ellen will be representatives on the city's new Transportation and Mobility Committee. Their involvement helps us to work more closely with the city and be working together as one voice.

Ellen called Garry Menendez to ask what considerations have been made for pedestrians in the Gresham Middle School landscape plans, and if he had considered having a back access for students coming to school. He said that the landscaping would not affect the Dahlia side of the property.

Stephen was unable to be here today, but Geordy brought in the current copy of the prioritization document that the city of Knoxville is using for sidewalks. This document was circulated. Donna B. mentioned that we still really need a Pedestrian Safety Board to work with or for the city to have these priorities be based on safety and not just on the number of complaints that come in.

New Action Items:

Ellen said she has begun working on the applications for the "Safe Routes to School" program for Fountain City Elementary and Fountain City Middle School.

Donna sent Bob a copy of the ordinance and the letter from the Attorney General. Bob took both to Charles Swanson (City Law Department), who will review it for proper legal language, etc. Donna said she is attending the City Council meetings now in order to become better informed on how the council works.

Our efforts now need to be on garnering support for the proposed ordinance.

Thea contacted C.O.I.N. and has arranged for Donna to give a presentation there.

Thea spoke with Terry Faulkner from the Bearden Council. She will ask Bearden Council at their next meeting if she could write a letter of support for the proposed ordinance in the name of the Bearden Council.

Ellen talked with Madeleine Rogero and gave her a copy of the proposed ordinance, asking for feedback.

*No one has contacted the Police Department

**Ellen will contact the Health Department

Thea contacted the Hallerin Hilton Hill Show via e-mail, but has not heard back yet. *She will follow up with a visit to the main office.

*No one has approached the office that hosts the George Corda Radio Show

*Donna Young said she'd ask Greenway Groups for a letter of support

*Donna and *Ellen to speak with the Homebuilders' Association

* Bob to talk with Jason Whittle on the Mayor's Advisory Board on Neighborhoods, asking for a letter of support and/or a list of individual groups we could talk with to send information and ask for support.

*Donna B. will set up a booth at the Neighborhood Conference on March 8. Donna B. said she would like a bullet-point listing documenting the main points of the proposed ordinance for handing out at that conference. Donna Y. said she would be happy to help with the printing if any is needed.

*Thea to call Gary Drinnen from Blue Ridge Development LLC asking for a letter saying that they opted to put in sidewalks at the request of the Bearden Neighborhood Association

*Donna B. said she would request a letter from Mike Hensley, a developer who put in sidewalks with his recent strip-mall renovation, mentioning that he thought it was a goodwill gesture for the community

*Donna B. will request a letter of support from the Skate Park group

**Ellen said she'd talk to Anne about putting together a powerpoint presentation.

**Ellen will make "Sidewalks for Knoxville" buttons.

*Donna B. will speak with Amy Broyles about a letter of support from her neighborhood

*Diane will take photos of missed sidewalk opportunities, need for improvements, unsafe crossings, areas that need attention etc.

*Donna will pull up the email list of Neighborhood Watch Groups etc., and then send them an information letter on the proposed ordinance, stating that this is nothing official yet and that we would still like their feedback and/or a letter (Via email) of support from their particular group.

*Donna Young will ask for support letter from West Hills Neighborhood

*Ellen, who spoke to the South Haven neighborhood group about the proposed ordinance, will contact them via email asking for a letter of support.

*Donna B. will visit Ron Emory (5 and dime) in South Knoxville, giving him a copy of the ordinance and asking for his support

*Ellen will contact the Island Home Neighborhood Association and the Old Sevier neighborhood group requesting an email letter of support

*Bob to contact Paul Kelly asking for a letter of support from the Oakwood/Lincoln Park group

FCTH said they would send a letter of support

*We need to contact Sandra from the Halls Shopper

*Ellen to contact Jack Neely from the Metro Pulse

*We should send an information and request for attention letter to the whole City Council

*Donna will call the Norwood group and ask if she could give a presentation, also requesting a letter of support

*Ellen said she would ask the North Knoxville United group for a letter of support

*Thea will ask Carol Evans if Legacy Parks could send a letter of support. *Thea will also ask whether Carol is willing to meet with the corporate office personnel of the Highland Cemetery Organization to request land for a greenway.

Donna Young mentioned that when she was in Atlanta the city hired a contractor to put in sidewalks with private individuals paying in a public-private partnership. She asked why we couldn't do this too. She stated that it would be so much less expensive if we could use asphalt, then use Asphalt-color, if we didn't want it black. (Heat-island effect)

Bob thought it likely that MPC would be given a copy of the proposed ordinance for review. There was much discussion about whether they would then spend a year, as we have, reviewing it, making changes and recommendations, etc. It seemed to many that MPC would then have to reinvent the wheel. Bob thought that maybe City Council could put in a request that MPC work directly with Fountain City Connections so that this would not happen.

Thea made a motion that *Ellen be given the money necessary to purchase materials for the 500 buttons that she is putting together for Fountain City Connections. Donna B. seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

Bob mentioned that March 31 will begin a week of the Mayor's budget hearings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am

**Note: * denotes Action Item.
denotes Old Action Item.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12th, 8:00am at Panera in Fountain City.

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).