

FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes from February 21st, 2007 meeting 8am – 10:00am
Panera, Fountain City

Present: Donna Bueckman, Bill Cole, Geordy Daws, Jennifer DeAlejandro, Anne Wallace, Thea Yoder, Donna Young and Ellen Zavisca

We circulated the articles from the Fountain City Focus and the News Sentinel that featured Donna and John Z. Wetmore's interview about *Perils for Pedestrians* in Fountain City. We are grateful to Brad Williams (Knoxville News-Sentinel) and Charmin Foth (Fountain City Focus) for covering the event.

Ellen reported on her discussion with Mark Donaldson. They reviewed the proposed sidewalk ordinance together and he had some suggestions. One was that he thought it might be helpful to allow the Pedestrian Safety Board to exempt existing houses on local roads or houses that have big lots and are on local roads. Discussion followed, *Donna B. will change that part of the ordinance. Also, he suggested that we think about the fact that the city is backlogged right now with repairs on existing sidewalks, yet at the same time is trying to add more sidewalks to the area. Discussion followed on how we could share in the responsibility for maintenance. The most efficient model Bill Cole knew of was one where the city did the repair work but billed the homeowner.

Geordy reported on his discussion with City Engineering. Bill Cole, Tom Clabo, Stephen King and Brent Johnson were present. They had not reviewed the proposed ordinance yet, but planned to get together again in a week or two to discuss it and give suggestions. Geordy asked why the developer of the subdivision near Shannondale School was allowed to build without sidewalks. The answer was that without an ordinance there was no mandate for sidewalks. The city engineers did have questions about the amount of greenspace we were requiring, and thought that we needed to be flexible and allow the Pedestrian Safety Board to make a case-by-case decision. They did like the idea of a Pedestrian Safety Board, but thought it should be less of a review board and more for guidance. They thought the Pedestrian Safety Board should come up with a *Pedestrian Plan* for the city, which we had also included in the ordinance. Geordy asked the group what they thought about asphalt instead of concrete. It was suggested that for the sake of continuity asphalt be used on a neighborhood and not individual home basis. It was also suggested that no sealers (as colorant) be used, as this chips away and the bottom color is then visible. Donna B. mentioned that mix-ins are available in lighter colors, and that she was thinking we could perhaps use a particular color to designate a pedestrian pathway, maybe also with a city stamp pressed into it (see the AsphaColor web site: www.asphacolor.com).

**David Cass will bring us a materials list for proposed sidewalk construction at Knox Road. Donna B. said she checked with him and that he is still working on this. *Donna said she would need to update him on the plans to run the pedestrian pathway up Maple Street as well as along Knox Road.

Donna Y. was asked where the 1st Creek Greenway is going in relation to the Knox Road site? Can we coordinate efforts? *Donna Young to send Donna B. a map with the proposed site drawn in. There was discussion particularly about the area that will need a bridge. How can this best be managed?

Donna B. circulated a letter she wrote to Mark Donaldson asking for the remaining funds allotted to the Mark Fenton “walkability” workshop. All were in agreement that it could be sent out as written. *Donna B. to do this immediately. The committee also approved (with a few changes) the sending of a letter Donna B. had written requesting funds from the City Council members and County Commissioners for Fountain City Connections. *Donna B. will make the changes and send the request out this week by both e-mail and as a hardcopy using our official letterhead. The third letter Donna B. had written was to inform community members about Fountain City Connections and our desire to get a sidewalk ordinance in place, at the same time asking for feedback and encouraging their participation with the committee. It was decided that this letter could wait a while to go out, and *that we would address it again later. *Donna B. will also make a request to Fountain City Town Hall for money to help us fund work we wish to have completed by the East Tennessee Design Center.

Donna B. reported on the meeting she had with David Watson from the E.T.D.C. Donna said that we have preliminary approval for our design request for the Knox Road site. Discussion followed about working with the skate park plan and using the city specifications for the current greenway design. By the end of May we will need to come up with \$386.00 and a board commitment letter before work will be done on the design, then another payment of \$386.00 due at a later date.

Donna B. addressed concerns about the shape of the board for Fountain City Connections. How will our vision and goals change once the Pedestrian Safety Board is in place? A suggestion was made that we should have more Fountain City residents on the board, and more community-at-large members as well. Jennifer said that she and LeGrand would be willing to work with us on structure for the by-laws, giving us various options that we could then bring back to the committee for general discussion and final approval. *Donna B. and *Thea will meet with *Jennifer and *LeGrand at 8am, Wed. March 28th, at Panera, Fountain City.

**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, March 14th, 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)