

Happy Second Birthday

FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes: Wednesday April 9th, 2008 meeting 8am-9:50am, Panera, Fountain City

Present: Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Geordy Daws, Rick Emmett, David McGinley, Stephen Millsaps, and Thea Yoder

Donna Bueckman, President of Fountain City Connections, called the meeting to order. The minutes from our last meeting (March 14th, 2008) were reviewed. No additions or revisions noted. Donna made a motion to pass the minutes as written, Geordy seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Donna Bueckman gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that \$99.95 was spent on button making materials. Donna requested funds to be used for copying materials that will be handed out to the City Council. Thea made a motion that we use Fountain City Connection's funds for the necessary copying of materials for City Council members. Geordy seconded, all were in favor.

Update on Old Action Items:

Bob suggested that we drive to the Stratford Park Subdivision off Dry Gap Pike. He said this is an example of what happens when MPC requires sidewalks and developers put them in however they see fit. These sidewalks are reportedly in a patchwork pattern throughout the neighborhood. There seems to be no enforcement standards by MPC. Rick questioned whether the city and county would even have the same standards.

Bob shared a copy of the City/County's current Parks Plan and mentioned that the number one reason that people gave as to why they didn't use the parks was that they couldn't walk to them, as there were no sidewalks or pathways to get them there. Bob also mentioned that parks were primarily used for walking/jogging, followed by bicycling.

Donna and Thea met with the Homebuilders' Association to hear their concerns and answer questions they had about the proposed ordinance. Thea reported that while the Association in principle favors putting in more sidewalks throughout our community, they feel overburdened with the current economic conditions, new regulations, and fees, and worry that this will be another expense that will only make things more difficult for them.

Donna, Thea and Ellen met with Bill Lyons, Larry Martin, and Rick Emmett on Monday, March 17th to further discuss sidewalk concerns. Rick is here today as the liaison for us with the city. We are grateful for his efforts and welcome his participation.

New Action Items:

Donna raised several questions for Bob related to the ordinance, including: when it will be most helpful to show outside support for the ordinance, when should we encourage people to come show their support, when do we push for publicity, and how does the ordinance proceed from here?

Bob handed out copies of the Resolution to be read at the next City Council meeting. He mentioned that he hoped we would then have a workshop on or near June 26th. At that time it would be wise to ask supporters of the Ordinance to come for discussion. It will be likely that 3-4 options will be laid out, probably by Rick Emmett, ranging from one extreme to the other; from doing nothing to raising taxes to pay for sidewalks. There will be a straw poll taken. Then it is likely that a technical working group would form after the workshop to develop language and work with the legal codes, and finally they would send the worked-out Resolution to MPC for approval. The Resolution would probably be voted on in City Council in late July or even August. Bob stressed that this is a complicated issue and that it will take time to process.

Donna mentioned that she presented the ordinance to KAT (indicating the sections that referred to bus pads), and that she may go to their next meeting to ask for a show of support. The main expression of concern was financial- great idea, but how do we pay for this? *Geordy will find a cost record of sidewalks in PRZs. Rick said he'd like to see a city wide map showing all the PRZs. It was thought that maybe MPC had one.

David said his main concern is still linking up individual sidewalk sections, and if and how that would be feasible. Much discussion followed. *David was asked to see if he could come up with a plan that might work. *Geordy will get Roger Doughty's contact information to Donna, as he would be the one to help her answer the infill question.

Donna, Thea, and Ellen met with members of the Health Department, who said they would put together a fact sheet showing the benefits to the health of the community when sidewalks are in place. Also Donna mentioned that Mark Jones would be willing to make calls in favor of the Ordinance. Donna asked Bob when and to whom he should make those calls. His response was to have calls go out sometime just before the workshop.

Bob suggested that *Donna come to two meetings: the first is tomorrow (4-10) at Caswell (5:30pm), where there will be discussion of how to spend the Community Development Block Grant money, and the 2nd meeting is May 1st (lunch), when the Mayor's budget will be submitted to City Council.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am

Note: * denotes Action Item.

****denotes Old Action Item.**

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9th, 8:00am at Panera in Fountain City.

Respectfully,
Thea Yoder