

## FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes from April 11, 2007 meeting 8am – 9:40am Panera, Fountain City

**Present:** Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Diane Bunch, Bill Cole, Geordy Daws, Parci Gibson, LeGrand Gold, Indya Kincannon, Rachel Swinney, Anne Wallace, Thea Yoder, Donna Young and Ellen Zavisca

### **Update on Old Action Items:**

Donna B. reported that she and Thea worked a booth at the Library's Garden Heritage Festival. There was overwhelming support shown by way of signatures (three pages) for the need for greater connectivity in our city.

Donna B. reported on the contact she made with a representative from the Asphacolor and the method they use for adding color to an iron oxide base. (See the AsphaColor web site: [www.asphacolor.com](http://www.asphacolor.com))

Donna B. reported that Fountain City Connections has received money from Mark Donaldson that had been set aside for the Mark Fenton Walkability audit. We also received money from the city council by way of 202 funds. \*Thea and Donna B. will now be able to send a check to the East Tennessee Design Center to pay for plans detailing the area along Knox Road where we hope to be able to do a test case walkway incorporating the Greenway and, if possible, the proposed skate park. \*Donna B. and Thea will draft a request letter. Parci mentioned that it may be possible to ask David Hagerman if he'd be willing to do studies on the use of porous concrete on the Knox Road site, thereby defraying costs.

Donna Y. passed out some beautiful colored maps made to show where the proposed greenway will be along the Knox Road site. \*Donna B. and \*Thea will use these when addressing the ETDC. \*Thea will give copies to Michael Kane of Fountain City Town Hall for his review.

LeGrand and Jennifer have submitted proposed by-laws for Fountain City Connections to their professor for approval. Once their professor has reviewed those, they will present their final document to our committee for changes and/or acceptance.

### **New Action Items:**

Donna Y. reported that work would be done along First Creek to help prevent flooding along Broadway and Fairmont. She requested that we write a letter to the mayor asking for the addition of a greenway at that site, as was originally planned. She also suggested that we start a First Creek Council of Neighborhoods to help encourage the building of a First Creek Greenway.

Parci passed around information on a local company (East Tennessee Geosynthetics) selling grass and gravel pave as walkways. \*Donna B. and \*Thea will visit their showroom before our next meeting. The walkway is ADA compatible and it is stated to wear about as long as concrete. The surface is permeable and may be a very good idea for the Knox Road site.

The main focus of this meeting was to try to make decisions about the proposed ordinance, as it has not been sent out to neighborhoods yet. We are hoping to be able to do a mailing very soon. Bob Becker was asked about a timeline that would work best for us to present the ordinance to the City Council for approval. There were many possible time frames presented, with pros and cons for each. We will proceed and make decisions based on completion of tasks until a timeline can be written. There were four main points of discussion in reference to the changes of the proposed ordinance. First, we have not heard back from the City's Engineering Department yet. Geordy says that they are planning to meet this week. We would like to get their comments before we proceed further. Secondly, Anne reported on the comments she received from Mike Carberry of MPC. Next, Ellen made comments on necessary changes to the ordinance that focus on ADA compatibility. She talked about the need for KAT landing pads at various sites that would measure 8 feet deep and 5 feet wide. Additions to the proposed ordinance will be made. She also mentioned that we would need to be flexible on the width of pathways or sidewalks because often urban neighborhoods do not have the space we mandated in the ordinance. We decided that the Pedestrian Safety Board would need to allow for variances based on these limitations. Finally, Donna B. mentioned Thea's concerns about the ordinance not really impacting much change. If we focus only on the PRZs, which are for the most part in established areas of the city where not much construction will occur, then not many sidewalks would be built, nor will much money be generated for sidewalks or pathways to and from schools. The idea to make this citywide would be to generate greater income or increase the number of sidewalks citywide. The Pedestrian Safety Board would use the monies received in lieu of sidewalks and work with a prearranged priority plan for construction of pathways, first in the PRZs, and then throughout the city. Hopefully, this would mandate change much more quickly. Discussion followed centering on the increased costs for developers, the problems that would arise for low income housing units, how that would affect the demographics of the community at large, and the impracticality of suggesting that we could get sidewalks throughout the city. Donna B. asked for a formal vote. There were three votes for the change to include the whole city, and two votes against, with all others abstaining. Bob Becker stated that it probably didn't matter which way the ordinance was presented, because it would likely go to committee for study either way. See the web site ([www.fountaincityconnections.org](http://www.fountaincityconnections.org)) for changes to the ordinance.

A note of thanks and welcome to Diane, Parci, Indya, and Rachel for their attendance and helpful participation at our meeting today. We hope we see you all again at the next meeting.

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

\*\*David Cass to compile detailed cost estimates for Knox Road site.

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

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

**Next meeting: 8am Wednesday, May 2nd, 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)