

## FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes: Wednesday September 12, 2007 meeting 8am-9:10am Panera, Fountain City

**Present:** Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Bill Cole, Geordy Daws, David McGinley, Thea Yoder and Ellen Zavisca

**Donna Bueckman, President of Fountain City Connections, called the meeting to order.** The minutes from our last meeting were reviewed and accepted by unanimous approval.

Donna B. reported that there were no changes in the treasury.

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

Reporting on the Safe Routes to School program, Donna B. said she gave a presentation on the program to the PTO at Fountain City Elementary, but did not get much support. Their concern was the safety issue involved. It was noted that when so many children have died in the last year walking to and from schools, parents are no longer willing to put their children at risk.

Ellen expects to hear about the Safe Routes to School grants some time in the next few weeks. She reported that Julie Settle has agreed to help with the Safe Routes to School program at Gresham Middle School.

Following up on the ordinance, there is no word yet from either Bill Dunn or the Attorney General. \*Donna B. said there was no real timeline for hearing from the Attorney General, and thought perhaps she would give Bill Dunn another call if she doesn't hear anything soon. No word from the Permitting Office or the Homebuilders' Association concerning the latest draft of the ordinance.

Donna B. circulated a letter she had drafted to Mark Donaldson, and will adjust for Steve King to request official approval for city employees to continue as board members. \*She will get these letters off in the next few weeks.

Thea mentioned that she had checked with Julie at Yee-Haw, and she said they don't usually do bumper stickers but would be happy to work with us on a t-shirt design. Julie suggested Ullrich Printing on Middlebrook Pike, but they also do not do bumper stickers. Thea checked with Alphagraphics, which will do bumper stickers and much more. Thea passed their catalog to Donna B. for future reference. Donna B. said she'd like to order just 500 bumper stickers from a place online that she had already been working with. The design would simply be blue with white words saying Sidewalks for Knoxville, and our contact information. Thea made a motion that we spend \$190.00 for 500 bumper stickers. Ellen seconded and there were no objections. \*Donna B. will order bumper stickers.

### **New Action Items:**

Thea mentioned that we should consider applying for a CMAC grant to help put in sidewalks around schools, and perhaps put up covered waiting areas for parents to wait for their children after school,

if they choose to walk their child home. If we could cut the cars standing with their motors running for drop off lines and pick up lines by even 50% at every school in Knox County this should make a pronounced difference in air quality.

Donna B. received information about a new park that was being built in the Old North area of Knoxville. Money had been donated by Rohm and Haas as a community grant, and the neighborhood is in the process of getting materials and workers together. They are having their next meeting on Wednesday night at 7pm. \*Thea will attend and ask if they would consider using Gravel Pave for their walkways, allowing us to use this as our test case for city officials. We would also volunteer our labor and share some of the cost. Donna B. stated she is still in conversation with Michael Kane about alternative surfaces at the Skate Plaza.

Geordy mentioned that work continues along Jacksboro Pike near Central High School and this would be a great opportunity for all of us to see first hand what is involved in putting in a sidewalk. He also mentioned that it was likely there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the completion of the project and hoped we would all attend.

Bob Becker mentioned that there will be a neighborhood conference on October the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Old Convention Center. \*Thea will follow-up on this in hopes of reserving a booth for Fountain City Connections.

Donna B. and her husband attended a dinner in which Fountain City Connections was given an award of excellence for creating a new standard for civic achievement. Good job!

Donna B. read through the new charter that had been written up by LeGrand and Jennifer. We had all received a copy via email. We decided we liked everything as it was written with the exception of #10. We decided to change that to a calendar year. Ellen made a motion to accept the charter as amended. Thea seconded. All were in favor. \*Donna B. will submit the new charter to the state at the appropriate time.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:10am**

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

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

**Next meeting: Thursday, October 11, 8am, 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)