

FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes: Thursday, October 11, 2007, meeting 8am-9:15am, Panera, Fountain City

Present: Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Amy Broyles, Geordy Daws, David McGinley, Donna Young, Jamie Rowe, Anne Wallace and Ellen Zavisca

Donna Bueckman, President of Fountain City Connections, called the meeting to order. The minutes from our last meeting, September 12, 2007, were reviewed and accepted by unanimous approval.

Donna B. reported that there were no changes in the treasury. However, Donna B. noted that she had not yet reimbursed herself for the mailings and bumper stickers.

Update on Old Action Items:

Bumper stickers have been acquired. The design is the blue and white "Sidewalks for Knoxville". Donna Bueckman did a great job on the bumper stickers.

Ellen and Donna B. gave an update on the Walk to School event. There were 47 students that participated in the Fountain City Elementary Walk to School. This was less than last year due to the lack of a park and walk location. Additionally, Ellen mentioned that there were about 140 students that participated in the Beaumont Walk to School (park and walk was available). Donna B. asked if these events would help with the Safe Routes applications. Ellen said that the event added to the level of community buy in that was necessary to get a Safe Route to School grant. Ellen also noted that TDOT has yet to announce the Safe Route grants from last year's applications for Bearden and Beaumont Elementary Schools. This year's applications will be for Sarah Moore Green and Fountain City Elementary Schools.

Thea Yoder had requested information from Ellen regarding the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) grants and was wondering how that funding could be used for sidewalks. Ellen presented three packets of information to the group. She also stated that the Knoxville Area TPO allocates the funds for CMAQ grants given to organizations. Typically the funds are spent on light cycles and widening intersections (reducing congestion, but not necessarily reducing the number of cars on the roadway). Thea's interest in this funding would be geared toward schools and the reduction of emissions from vehicles waiting in lines to pick up or drop off students. Ellen mentioned that one challenge of this grant is to show directly how the mitigation is reducing air pollution and it is somewhat difficult to quantify how a sidewalk reduces the pollution. Included in her handouts were a couple of formulas that could be used for this and Ellen said she would look into other communities that had successfully used CMAQ funds for building sidewalks. Also the TPO is in charge of distributing the CMAQ grants which are 80/20 grants, meaning that there has to be a local match of 20%. The current City sidewalk budget could be used as a match for Federal funds to build sidewalks, if justification can be shown.

Following up on the ordinance, there is no word yet the Attorney General. *Donna B. said there was no real timeline for hearing from the Attorney General, she did place another call to Bill Dunn and he said that the AG's office has received it. No up date was given regarding comments from the Permitting Office or the Homebuilders' Association concerning the latest draft of the ordinance.

New Action Items:

Amy Broyles of the Old North Knoxville neighborhood association was present at the meeting to inform FC Connections about their project for a new neighborhood park and their willingness to incorporate Gravel Pave for their pathways. 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. The cost of the Gravel Pave will increase their budget by about \$5,000 and the neighborhood is looking for donations to cover that cost. Amy mentioned that Mark Harmon has pledged \$1,000 and asked if FC Connections would match that donation. Mayor Haslam has agreed to supply the remaining difference. Donna B. mentioned that this would be a great opportunity for Michael Bartow to do a demonstration for the group and City Engineering so that everyone can understand the system. Additionally it was noted that the City will maintain ownership of this property and maintain it in perpetuity. Also it was noted that the Knoxville News Sentinel is following this story and it could be a great advertisement for FC Connections.

Donna Young made a motion to donate \$1000.00 to the Gravel Pave for Old North Knoxville Park and Ellen Zavisca seconded. The Board voted to approve with none opposed.

Donna Y. suggested that FC Connections might partner with the Greenways Coalition or MPC for pedestrian awards. She also mentioned that Fountain City Day (May 2008) would be an excellent opportunity to invite Congressman Duncan for a lunch with FC Connections to promote First Creek Greenway and sidewalk funding. Another suggestion followed that Emily Singer, former FC resident, could be a liaison to Duncan's office in D.C.

Ellen provided an update on the Broadway Corridor Study, stating that the RFQ is ready, but the TPO is waiting for signature from TDOT and one more step from the TPO.

Geordy suggested that as part of the CMAQ request a survey could be given to surrounding households to see if children would be allowed to walk to school if sidewalks were provided.

The neighborhood conference that Bob Becker mentioned to be held on October the 13th has been cancelled, due to a lack of participants.

Donna B. mentioned that she had been contacted by Will Skelton of the Greenway Commission with a request for FC Connections to participate in a request to the owners of Lynnhurst Cemetery, Mr. Berry, for greenway access across their property. A date has not yet been set. Mark Campen of the Greenway coalition and Thea Yoder have also been asked to attend.

Donna B. mentioned that a template has been made for buttons that match the bumper stickers, the next step is copy the template, acquiring button parts, and borrowing the button machine.

Bob Becker asked if anyone has seen the plans for the South Waterfront Greenway. Donna Y. said she had and was concerned about the conflicting barge traffic. She noted that problems will probably arise in the permitting stage.

Ellen gave an update on her presentation of the sidewalk ordinance to the South Haven neighborhood association. There were a lot of good questions and Councilman Hultquist was there. The leader of the group offered support.

Donna Y. raised a concern about the KUB treatment of City owned property along First Creek. This area was used for staging during KUB construction and it appears that several trees may have been damaged due to heavy equipment. She would like to request a letter be written to the Mayor, City Engineering, KUB and Council requesting some form of mitigation (which could include KUB building a segment of First Creek Greenway).

Up Coming Events of Interest

Saturday, October 13th, 7-11 am, Cross Knox Race sponsored by the City of Knoxville (Amy Broyles and Donna Bueckman offered help and hand out bumper stickers)
For more info: <http://www.ci.knoxville.tn.us/>

Saturday, October 20th, 9:00am, East Side Story Neighborhood Bike Ride
Meet at Caswell Park, 620 Winona Street
<http://www.knoxtrans.org/bikeride/index.htm>

Friday, October 26th, 11:00am, Mayors Luncheon for the Parks, cost is \$75/person
For more information contact the Foundation at 865.215.6612 or
cevans@legacyparksfoundation.org.
<http://www.legacyparksfoundation.org/news.html>

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15am

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 14th 8:00am at Panera Bread.

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

Thanks,
Anne Wallace for Thea Yoder

Please contact me for additions and/or corrections (by e-mail or 688-8286)