

FOUNTAIN CITY CONNECTIONS

Minutes: Wednesday, December 12th, 2007, meeting 8am-9:20am, Panera, Fountain City

Present: Bob Becker, Donna Bueckman, Bill Cole, Geordy Daws, Barbara Nicodemus, Anne Wallace, Thea Yoder and Ellen Zavisca

Donna Bueckman, President of Fountain City Connections, called the meeting to order. The minutes from our last meeting (November 14, 2007) were reviewed. Two revisions were suggested. Anne made a motion and Donna seconded that we should change the date of the FCE winter carnival from the 16th to the 6th (see paragraph 3 under New Action Items) and that “in road pop-up signs” were requested for the crosswalk at Children’s Hospital (see paragraph 6 under New Action Items) – not striping of crosswalks. Children’s hospital is even willing to pay for those signs. The minutes with revisions passed unanimously.

Bill mentioned that he will be evaluating locations for the new pop-up signs and that the location at Children’s Hospital will be examined carefully. He hopes to start placing the in-road crosswalk signs in April. It was mentioned that Marilyn Roddy had donated \$10,000 for placement of the pop-up signs throughout the city. Ellen gave Bill a list of locations to look at for possible sign placement.

Update on Old Action Items:

Amy Broyles will call us when the Old North Knox neighborhood plans to put in the Gravel-Pave path, and will let us know how and when we can help.

Following up on the ordinance, there is no word yet from the Attorney General. It was mentioned that the length of time it has taken to go through the ordinance is not surprising because the Attorney General’s word is often taken as law, therefore time must be given to research each part of the ordinance thoroughly.

New Action Items:

Donna reported on the Dec. 6th Fountain City Elementary Fest. She passed out packages of pretzels and peanut butter crackers. This worked really well to draw the crowds to her booth. She received feedback on sidewalks from parents. The most common request was a need for a sidewalk between Grove and Campus on Gresham.

Ellen said she will be working with two schools this year for “safe routes to school”. Each school will receive \$250,000.00 from “safe routes” monies. That will provide Beaumont Elementary with about 400 linear feet of sidewalk and two crosswalks. Geordy mentioned that usually only short stretches of sidewalk are funded. Donna asked how these schools are picked. Ellen said it is usually given to schools that let them in the door and give the most community support for such a project.

Bob displayed a map of the changes that Gresham is planning. Donna pointed out potential dangers she saw for pedestrians walking to school. The question was asked whether pedestrian safety was considered in drawing up these plans. Bob said it was Garry Menendez that drew up the plans. *Ellen will call him to ask what considerations have been made for pedestrians, and if he had considered in his plan a back access for students coming to school.

Ellen and Donna reported on the *Smart Mobility* conference they attended on Monday Nov.26th. This group had worked on “from rails to trails” and is now working on doing something with this concept-providing trails, bike paths, sidewalks etc. along current railroad paths. MaryAnn Fowler, who is from this region, now works with *Smart Mobility*, and she would like to get Knoxville on their list of cities for funding. That funding could provide 50 million dollars to our area to improve mobility. How exciting!

It was mentioned that, with or without money, we should come up with a plan that might aid Knoxville in prioritizing the need for sidewalks in PRZs. The city does have a Greenway and a bike plan in place already. City Engineering also has a priority list for sidewalks. It was stated that the city’s plan would help us in prioritizing the PRZs. *Geordy was asked if it might be possible to get a copy of the city’s current plan.

Bob reported that City Council now has a new Transportation and Mobility Committee. The committee includes Council members Joe Hultquist and Joe Bailey. *Bob will invite them to our next meeting. We would like to assist the city as best we can, without duplication of efforts.

Bob mentioned a Metro Pulse article on Mayor Haslam, where it was stated that sidewalks were one of his pet projects. How could we lend assistance, considering this is our project as well?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20am

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 16th 8:00am at Panera in Fountain City.

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).