

NEWS RELEASE

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MPC Proposes Mixed Use District Zone in Bearden

Community meeting to discuss proposed zoning changes

Knoxville, Tennessee – June 20, 2016 – On Tuesday, June 28, staff from the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will host a public meeting to discuss the proposed Mixed Use District zone for the Bearden Village area. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of Bearden United Methodist Church at 4407 Sutherland Avenue.

The agenda for the meeting will include an overview of comments received to-date, answer questions about how the proposed zoning applies to renovations and additions to existing development, and be an opportunity to provide feedback on the preliminary zoning map. The next public meeting is anticipated for late July. MPC staff is available to meet with individuals and groups as schedules permit.

The Bearden Village Opportunities Plan was originally developed in 2001 with extensive input from the community. The plan for this “urban village” focuses on enhancing pedestrian activity and access, enhancing the sense of place and community, and building upon Bearden’s urban character and unique atmosphere. Recommendations include creating a complete and integrated community of housing, shops, workplaces, schools, parks, and civic facilities within easy walking distance of each other.

In order to realize the Bearden Village concept, new types of development will be necessary. Within the past year, MPC staff has determined that existing development standards are not adequate for residential uses and that changes need to be made to existing commercial areas. To create the sense of place and community envisioned for the Bearden community, MPC is proposing new Mixed Use District zones.

The purpose and intent of the proposed Mixed Use zoning:

- Provide appropriate areas for mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development
- Group and link places used for living, working, shopping, educating, and recreating to reduce vehicle trips, relieve traffic congestion, and improve the overall quality of life
- Provide a variety of residential housing types and densities
- Integrate new mixed-use development with its surroundings

The current draft of the proposed Mixed Use District zoning is available online:

<http://www.knoxmpc.org/mixed-use/bearden>

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Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) was established in 1956 by Knoxville and Knox County as the agency responsible for comprehensive county-wide planning and administration of zoning and land subdivision regulations and remains so today (except for the town of Farragut). Funding for MPC activities comes primarily from city and county appropriations and from federal grants for specific studies. The Commission prepares and adopts a general plan, reviews subdivision regulations and site plans, prepares and recommends zoning ordinances and maps to the Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council, reviews proposed zoning amendments, and prepares a capital improvements plan for the City of Knoxville. For more information, visit our website:

www.knoxmpc.org