

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 27, 2009

Meetings

- The **Hillside and Ridgetop Task Force** has completed six of its eight public meetings to review and discuss the proposals for development and protection in the hillside and ridgetop lands of Knoxville-Knox County. Each meeting features the same introductory content and format. The meetings consist of a presentation of the Task Force proposals, followed by a period of public feedback. If you haven't already read about them, the first two weeks of Hillside and Ridgetop public meetings produced lots of publicity and excitement. If you haven't experienced one, there are still two meetings left:
 - Thursday, August 6; 6:30 p.m.; Deane Hill Recreation Center - 7400 Deane Hill Dr.
 - Monday, August 10; 6:30 p.m.; Ramsey House - 2614 Thorn Grove Pk
- The **Sustainable Development Working Group** was assembled to explore the development of programs that encourage sustainable development by providing incentives in the city and county zoning ordinances. The Working Group briefed the City Council, County Commission and Planning Commission on its proposed sustainable development program on Monday, July 20. A public presentation of the proposed program is scheduled for Thursday, July 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- The Knox County **Transfer of Development Rights Task Force** met on Tuesday, July 21, to finalize their recommendation to the County Commission. The group was unable to come to consensus, so another meeting has been tentatively set for Monday, August 31 at 5:30 in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Two open forum meetings were held recently to discuss changes being proposed to the **Town Center Zoning Districts** in both Knoxville and Knox County. It is expected that these zoning amendments will be on an MPC agenda in the near future for a recommendation to the City and County.
- **Hold the Date.** MPC staff members have been working with Knox County administration to schedule a training session for the Knox County Commission, Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals and the Metropolitan Planning Commission to provide background on land use law and the role each of these bodies plays in the planning and zoning processes. Staff from the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) will lead the session, which has been set for **Thursday, August 20**. Information on time and place will follow, though it will likely be a morning session.

Excellence Awards

Planning Commissioners have already received an invitation for the 2009 Excellence Awards. Commission Chair Trey Benefield will be giving the keynote speech on the Sustainable Development Incentive Program. If you are interested in attending this annual event please be sure to contact or RSVP Laura Stout at laura.stout@knoxmpc.org or 215-3234, by August 7.

Publications

- The annual publication of **Knoxville Area Facts and Figures for 2009** is now available on the MPC website or in the library. This brochure provides a description and statistical summary of local physical, social, cultural, government and economic conditions in the Knoxville area.
- The Summer '09 **MPC Quarterly** has been published. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, it will be available online soon.

Get a Free Ride

Don't forget, this summer you can ride KAT for free on days when the Air Quality Alert is orange or above. The fare-free service will apply to all KAT services. An Air Quality Index of orange means the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups, including active adults and children. It is a great way to help the environment and save money! If you can't ride the bus, slow down and follow the speed limit – it improves mileage, saves money and produces less pollution.

News

- The 9th annual Neighborhood Bike Ride will be Sept. 19th at 10 a.m. Meet on Market Street, between Clinch and Church Streets. More information will be available in August.
- TPO staff are preparing for "UT Bikes" Day on Wed, Sept. 2. Various events are being planned to encourage students to bike to and around campus.

MPC Calendar

The MPC website now features an extended calendar that lists all public meetings through the end of 2009 in addition to the existing rollover calendar feature on the website front page and a printable pdf calendar for the current month.