

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 11, 2010

Meetings

- MPC staff will attend a meeting of residents interested in the general rezoning of commercial tracts in the vicinity of Murphy Road and Washington Pike recently requested by the City Council of Knoxville and schedule for consideration by MPC at its January 14 meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, **January 11**, at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of Jerry Tipton on Washington Pike, located next door to Ritta Elementary School.
- The city of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed plans for the renovation of Inskip Park on Monday, **January 11** beginning at 6 p.m. in the Adair Building at 1807 Adair Dr.
- The working group to review Knox County stormwater regulations and policy will meet Wednesday, **January 13** at 2:00 p.m. at the offices of Knox County Engineering and Public Works.

Tour de Lights

More than 450 people turned out for the third annual Tour de Lights in downtown Knoxville last month. It was the **largest participation** that the Bike Program has ever had on any of their bike rides. The effort and creativity everyone put into their costumes and decorations was inspiring. The neighborhoods welcomed us with groups on porches and in yards for a very festive night! View pictures from the event at <http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/bikeprog/tourdelights/2009/pix.htm>

Town Center Zoning District Amendments

The amendments to the City Town Center (TC-1) district were **withdrawn by City Council** at their November 17 meeting. There was discussion about reducing the amount of one story buildings from the proposed 25 percent to 10 percent. As a result, the TC-1 zoning district has not been changed and there are no current plans to bring the proposed changes before City Council for consideration. The County Town Center (TC) district amendments were **approved by County Commission** as submitted at its November 16, 2009 meeting.

Downtown Design Review Board

- An **appeal** of the Downtown Design Review Board's approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the operating characteristics of the two Electronic Message Centers used by the Knoxville Convention Center will be considered by MPC at its January 14 meeting. In approving the Certificate the Board found that the proposed operating characteristics of the Electronic Message Centers were compatible with its setting.
- Staff for the Downtown Design Review Board is reviewing with the city's engineering department three options that would lower the minimum height for **hanging signs** in the district.

Safe Routes to School

Congratulations to Knox County as it was selected as one of 41 sites across the country for the Robert W. Johnson Foundation **Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities initiative**. The Knox County Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities partnership will focus on creating safer places for children to walk, bike and play near their homes by expanding neighborhood Safe Routes to School options and improving access to healthy, affordable foods by starting community gardens and adding to the number of healthy food and beverage options offered at local convenience stores.

Notes

- The MPC **Annual Report** for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is now available online and in the MPC Library.
- The MPC office will be **closed January 18** in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. day.