

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 14, 2010

Meetings

The next meeting of the Joint City/County Task Force on Ridge, Slope and Hillside Development and Protection will be Thursday, June 17 from 2-4 p.m. at New Harvest Park. The task force is looking at potential sites for four public meetings, which will be held in late July/early August.

City Council, at its June 1 meeting, requested MPC conduct an additional meeting regarding the proposed R-4 (Residential/Office) zone district. A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 22nd, at 5:30 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. The proposed district, which has been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, will replace the existing R-4 zoning regulations with new regulations intended to create a flexible, mixed-use zone district that will allow the development of residences and low intensity office and professional uses within mixed-use land use plan classifications. The district is intended to be used: 1) as a transition between more intense development and low density residential uses, 2) within a neighborhood center, or 3) at the edge of established neighborhoods along arterial and major collector streets.

Excellence Awards

Thank you to all the planning commissioners who attended the Excellence Awards voting luncheon. If any commissioners have not yet voted, the online voting will be available until this Friday, June 18. You should have already received an email with a link to the finalist gallery. The 2010 Excellence Awards banquet will be Thursday, August 26 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

TPO

TPO was mentioned on the front page of the Knoxville News Sentinel June 5 in conjunction with an article about the increase in bike commuters. Check out the story at <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/05/commuting-bike-knox-125-percent/>

Join us for a webinar, "Policy Promotion: Getting Policy Makers on Board with Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements," Wednesday, June 16 from 3-4 p.m. in the MPC large conference room, 4th floor City County Building. TPO's Ellen Zavisca will be one of the presenters, who will talk about successes and lessons learned as their communities worked to develop the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, complete streets policies, and improved standards for rumble strips, while engaging law enforcement and bicycle/pedestrian advisory committees.

Notes

Planning Commissioner Jack Sharp was named the 2010 Fountain City Man of the Year at Honor Fountain City Day. The honor was given by Fountain City Town Hall in recognition of his long service to the City of Knoxville and Fountain City.

Planner Liz Alberston will be presenting her project, The Cardboard City, as part of the Pod Art attraction at Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn. This project is based on sustainable city design and provides a space for participants to design their own city, dragging/carrying large scale buildings across a simulated landscape while protecting scarce natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, farmland and mountains.

The Center for Transportation Research (CTR) is hosting a free Transportation Academy summer camp for middle school girls June 14-18 at UT. Rising 7th and 8th graders will enjoy a fun experience that they hope will encourage girls to pursue technical careers. More information is available at <http://stc.utk.edu/transportationacademy/>.

The Health Department presents an encore broadcast of the ground-breaking PBS documentary "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" The eight-part film and discussion series will be presented on consecutive Wednesdays (except July 7) from noon to 1 p.m., beginning June 2 in the Community Room at the KCHD facility at 140 Dameron Avenue.

Knox Heritage is once again holding a series of suppers at historic homes to raise funds for their important work. For more info, visit: <http://www.knoxheritage.org/suppers>.

East Tennessee Community Design Center is holding its annual fundraising 500 Block of Gay Street Party on Thursday June 17. For more info, visit: <http://www.etcdc.org>.