

UPDATE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 28, 2010

Announcements

City Administration Requests Consideration of Zoning Code Amendment Regarding the Location of **Public Safety Facilities**. The City of Knoxville Permitting and Inspections department has requested MPC consider an amendment of the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance to allow the location of public safety facilities, both privately and publicly owned, in all zone districts in the City. MPC staff will study the issue and post recommended amendments on the MPC website prior to bringing forward a recommendation for consideration by the Planning Commission.

City Council Requests MPC Consider Making a Recommendation Regarding the **Rezoning of the 100 Block of W. Baxter Avenue**. At its June 1st, 2010 meeting City Council requested MPC conduct an evaluation of the zoning of the 100 block of W. Baxter Avenue and, if appropriate, make a recommendation regarding the proper zoning of the area. The area is currently developed as low density residential and there is a strong movement to renovate the existing housing stock. The area is zoned I-2 (Restricted Manufacturing and Warehousing) and the Sector Plan classification is Commercial.

City Council Action Regarding **Urban Hens** Requires Zoning Amendment. At its June 15, 2010 meeting City Council passed on first reading an ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens and establishing standards for this activity within the City. Currently, the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance prohibits the keeping of poultry in all but the Agriculture (A-1) zone district. To accommodate this new ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance will have to be modified. MPC staff will study the issue of urban hens within the context of this general urban agriculture movement and post recommended amendments on the MPC website prior to bringing forward a recommendation for consideration by the Planning Commission.

County Commission Requests Consideration of Zoning Code Amendment Regarding **Flea Markets**. At its June 28, 2010 meeting, the Knox County Commission requested MPC study and make recommendation on amendments to the Knox County Zoning Ordinance regarding standards and requirements for flea markets. MPC will consider proposed zoning ordinance amendments at its August 12, 2010 meeting and make a recommendation to County Commission.

MPC Drafts **New EN District Regulations to Replace Existing R-1EN District** in the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance. MPC staff has drafted new regulations for neighborhoods that are currently zoned Established Neighborhood (R-1EN) district and for areas that are considering the protection of this zone district in the future. This recommended amendment will be posted on the MPC website while the proposal is under review by City of Knoxville staff. Prior to bringing forward a recommendation for consideration by the Planning Commission MPC staff will schedule a public meeting.

MPC Drafts **New Heart of Knoxville Residential Zone District Regulations**. MPC staff has proposed a new residential zone district, called R-1HK, that could be used in neighborhoods developed in Knoxville prior to World War II that currently do not meet the requirements of the more prevalent low density residential (R-1 and R-1A) zone districts. These proposed district regulations will be posted on the MPC website while the proposal is under review by City of Knoxville staff. Prior to bringing forward a recommendation for consideration by the Planning Commission MPC staff will schedule a public meeting.

Meetings

MPC staff participated in a webinar on June 22nd in which five experts shared their insights into the key elements of sustainable design that may be regulated by form-based codes, including: renewable energy systems, storm water and waste water conservation, urban agriculture, green roofs and landscaping, and community-based transportation, and others.

At the request of City Council, MPC staff conducted a public meeting on June 22nd to review the proposed R-4 zone district regulations recommended for approval by MPC at its April meeting. City Council will consider the proposed amendment at its June 29th meeting. Revised regulations will be posted on the MPC website and sent to City Council prior to their meeting.

Bicycle News

Beginning July 1, bicyclists will be able to legally proceed through a red light when an in-pavement sensor does not detect a bicycle, just as motorcyclists have been able to do for several years. This does NOT mean you can run any red light.

Smart Trips Commuter Challenge

After one month, businesses participating in the Smart Trips Commuter Challenge are off to a great start and have already reduced 77,000 pounds of CO2 emissions from the air. Organized into groups by number of employees, the leaders are:

- Group 1 - The University of Tennessee;
- Group 2 – TVA;
- Group 3 - Kimberly Clark;
- Group 4 - Home Federal;
- Group 5 - MPC; and
- Group 6 - Elizabeth Eason Architecture.

With an 80 percent participation rate from their six employees, Elizabeth Eason Architecture has singularly prevented 157 pounds of air pollution. The Smart Trips Commuter Challenge began May 1 and ends on September 30. For more information, go to www.knoxsplat.com.

Information Services

GIS and graphics staff are working with KAT to create almost 30 new route schedules to reflect the KAT route changes that will take affect August 16. Each of these brochures includes several maps and timetables. GIS also is responsible for creating the new system map that reflects all the route changes.

Welcome

Brian Pierce has been appointed to the Planning Commission to replace Trey Benefield, whose term expires this month. Also, Laura Cole and Becky Longmire have been reappointed to new terms. Mr. Pierce is an architect with the firm of Michael Brady, Inc.

Notes

On June 15, the City of Knoxville officially opened the PetSafe Downtown Dog Park, located at the intersection of Summit Hill Drive and Central Avenue.

The MPC office will be closed Monday, July 5 for the Fourth of July holiday.