

MINUTES
Knoxville-Knox County Planning Committee
Agenda Review Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
City – County Building

The Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission convened on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 11:30 o'clock a.m. in the Small Conference Room of the City-County Building for the monthly Agenda Review Meeting. The temperature was 72 degrees, with the skies partly cloudy. The expected high for the day was 84 degrees, with an expected low of 57 degrees. The UB Index was hovering at 6 out of 10. The wind was out of the west at one mile an hour, with humidity hovering at 47%. The dew point was 52 degrees; the barometric pressure was 30.14 and steady; and, visibility at the local airport was 10 miles. Tree pollen was rated high as was grass pollen. On the other hand, ragweed and outdoor mold spore levels were rated as moderate.

In attendance were Planning Commissioners Chris Ooten, Mac Goodwin, Lou Browning, Richard Graf, Elizabeth Eason, Art Clancy, III, Gayle Bustin, Tim Hill, Patrick Phillips, Mike Crowder, Janice Tocher, Chair of MPC, and Tamara Boyer. Also in attendance were the Planning Services Manager for Knox County Planning, Amy Brooks, and various staff members of Knoxville-Knox County Planning.

Ms. Brooks called the meeting to order at approximately 11:42 o'clock a.m., and advised that City Council will review the latest iteration of the proposed Zoning Code for the City of Knoxville at 3:00 o'clock p.m. on May 14. Copies of this latest iteration are available online and Planning Staff will continue to accept comments from the public.

Commissioner Scott Smith joined the meeting at this time.

Ms. Brooks then explained how to track changes to the various iterations of the Zoning Ordinance and described tools that are available on the Planning Commission's website. Ms. Brooks then introduced the Planning Staff's newest employee, Michelle Portier, who will be working with rezoning and sector plan work.

Ms. Brooks then introduced Sandy Alsman from the U.S. Postal Service who rose to the podium to read from a series of slides projected upon the wall screen and the screen in front of the Commissioners. She read about the Postal Service's central delivery/mail kiosks and the financial advantages of that system to the U.S. Postal Service. At the conclusion of Ms. Alsman reading from the projected slides, she was met with a series of hard questions and severe criticism from various Commissioners about the roll out of the new policy, and the harsh impact of that policy on developers and homeowners, making for a most awkward and uncomfortable atmosphere. Ms. Alsman was evidently unswayed by the criticisms, and Commission was audibly dissatisfied with her responses. At the encouragement of others, Ms. Alsman concluded her remarks and retired from the podium.

Thereupon, Tom Brechko of Knoxville-Knox County Planning Staff then presented the Staff recommendation for Item 37 on the Commission's May Agenda. In his initial remarks Mr. Brechko made a specific promise to the Commission that his presentation would be brief, and that his accompanying PowerPoint presentation would be dazzling. He was brutally wrong on both counts. Commencing at 12:19 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brechko spoke unabated for 22 minutes, seemingly without pausing for breath. His accompanying PowerPoint presentation, although informational, was staggeringly short of dazzling, primarily because it consisted exclusively of muted, beige colors including: tan, light brown, sandy, dirt brown, mud brown, tawny, tenné, fulvous, off-white, oatmeal, coffee, camel, taupe, putty, greige, neutral, and the never popular ecru. There is nothing dazzling about ecru. At the eventual conclusion of Mr. Brechko's remarks, discussion among Commissioners ensued, particularly regarding the process for securing Utility District approval of plats.

Liz Albertson of Knoxville-Knox County Planning Staff then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 20 after which discussion ensued. Commissioner Eason left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Albertson then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 28. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Browning left the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Albertson then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 30, and discussion ensued.

Mr. Brechko, evidently rested up from his lengthy comments on Agenda Item 37, then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 11. During the course of that explanation, Commissioner Browning returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Ooten then advised the Commission that a joint workshop between County Commission and the Planning Commission may be in the offing, with a topic of potential revisions to the Growth Policy Plan.

There being no further business, the Agenda Review meeting was duly adjourned.

This 7th day of May, 2019.

Recording Secretary