

Fort Sanders Special Called Stakeholder Meeting
October 21, 2010
4:30 – 5:30 pm
UT Visitors' Center, 2704 Kingston Pike

Meeting Notes:

Agenda Item I:

Welcome and introductions were made and each stakeholder introduced themselves. The purpose and goal of these meetings has been to facilitate communication between various stakeholders.

Agenda Item II: Fort Sanders District Plan Discussion

Anne Wallace presented the Fort Sanders District Plan to the group. This document was the updated version of the previous Ft. Sanders Neighborhood District Long Range Planning Implementation Strategy that was presented to the group for discussion in September. The first item that was changed was the title of the document recognizing the previous title was rather cumbersome.

Ms. Wallace then walked through Chapter One, the background and overview, Chapter Two, the history of planning in the Fort Sanders Neighborhood and finally Chapter Three, the implementation strategy. The major focus of this discussion was the previous meeting's discussion regarding the map that showed various proposed land uses, enhanced connections, gateways and intersection improvements. The map maintained the previous designations with the exception of two areas 1) the existing Fort Sanders School was changed to Public Institution to more accurately reflect its current and probable future uses; and 2) the area west of Twenty First Street was changed from Low to Medium Density Residential (LMDR) with an Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NC-1) to just LMDR. This change was based on the conversation at the September 2 meeting of the stakeholders, where this change was agreed upon as a potential compromise.

Randall De Ford then informed the group that he was not comfortable supporting the plan without the NC-1 Overlay in the proposal. As that was not likely to be agreed upon by some of the other stakeholders, Mr. De Ford requested that the plan be withdrawn from the MPC agenda. Marilyn Roddy noted that the parliamentary procedures with regards to a withdrawal include a specific timeline that an item cannot be heard, typically one year. Councilwoman Roddy suggested that tabling the plan might be a better request because it would allow the stakeholders to bring the plan back for adoption if a consensus is reached at some point in the future. Additionally, the move to table the item would effectively create two public hearings at MPC on the item, one to un-table and the second to hear the item. Mike Gallegos noted that he was comfortable with tabling the item.

That decision being made the conversation shifted to a few other items that were of concern with the plan document. Some property owners expressed concern to City staff in an e-mail regarding the language in the plan about landlord responsibilities, addressing landlord/tenant issues, and the recommendation of annual inspections of rental properties. Since the plan will be tabled, the concerns are mitigated; however, the City of Knoxville is going to be addressing some of these issues in a City Council Workshop on November 11, 2010 in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building at 5:00 pm. It was recommended that those with interest in this process attend the workshop and voice concerns to Council members at that time.

Agenda Item III: Stakeholder Updates

Robert Moyers, Neighborhood Codes Enforcement, described the neighborhood code sweep. The purpose of the sweep was to identify code violations and educate both property owners and renters of their responsibilities.

The code sweep was held Wednesday, September 29th and one week prior to the sweep notices were posted within the neighborhood about the event. The sweep covered from 17th Street east to 11th Street. The eastern section of the neighborhood was chosen because it has historically experienced the most problems. However, the enforcement officers were pleasantly surprised that there were relatively few violations. The sweep generated less than 20 issues. Some of the signs announcing the sweep were stolen, but the overall condition was actually much better than the other neighborhoods that have had codes sweeps. Additionally, it was a great opportunity to get out and educate folks about their responsibilities in order to prevent future problems.

If future concerns come up, feel free to call the City's one call number, 311. Thanks to our codes enforcement officers for their time and attention to the Fort Sanders neighborhood.

The next update came from John Hunter, Chief of Traffic Engineering, who shared with the group an effort by the neighborhood and the East Tennessee Community Design Center (ETCDC) for traffic calming within Fort Sanders. This effort looks at establishing new residential speed limit and neighborhood enforcement zone signs along select roads throughout the neighborhood. This is a draft plan that also looks at adding rumble strips where appropriate to notify motorists of upcoming stops. The stakeholders present felt like this was a reasonable plan for traffic safety.

Additionally, Mr. De Ford asked if traffic engineering could study the possibility of changing the one way north/south bound streets from 13th to James Agee to two-way traffic. Mr. Hunter indicated that Engineering would assess that request. Also noted at this time was a request from Fort Sanders Regional Hospital for the temporary change at Laurel Avenue currently from 19th street to 21st street to become a permanent change from 18th Street to 22nd Street. Rudy McKinley of

Children's Hospital noted their support for the extension to 22nd street because the current configuration is causing additional traffic to cut through their primary entrance location. Mr. Hunter also noted that additional study would need to be done regarding the block between 21st & 22nd and the on street parking associated with the Fort Sanders School.

Darrell Calloway of Fort Sanders Regional mentioned that the hospital also has a request into City Engineering for the approval of a mid-block crossing (cross walk) from the Thompson Cancer Center to the main entry of the hospital on the 1900 block of Clinch Avenue. Mr. Hunter indicated that that request was still being considered. Mr. De Ford then noted the lengthy delay of the pedestrian signal at 11th Street and Clinch Ave. and wondered if there was a way to adjust to be more pedestrian friendly. Mr. Hunter said that he would have staff look at the situation.

Ms. Wallace provided an update on the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project that included an announcement about the upcoming public meeting. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the UT Visitors Center, 2704 Kingston Pike at 6:00pm in Ballrooms A & B. The meeting will provide an update on the detail design of the street, potential overhead utility options, and concepts for the furnishing zone and landscaping.

Anna Gallegos noted that the stormwater drain project on the west end of White Avenue was close to completion and she wanted thank the contractors, the city and KUB for their work on that project.

Fareed Nasser, business owner of the 18th St. Market, provided a brief update to the stakeholders regarding an electrical fire that he experienced at the store late last month. Mr. Calloway noted that the hospital owns that property and they are having an insurance company look at the building and assess its conditions. They will continue to evaluate the situation and of course cost is a factor in whether or not to make repairs.

Ms. Wallace provided a brief update on the KUB substation at the corner of Dale and 17th Street. KUB has pinned down a design concept and shared it with neighborhood representatives. For more information on the project visit KUB's website and look at their special projects link.

Kim Trent provided an announcement regarding the Knox Heritage open house for their Victorian Renovation on 11th Street. The event will be Sunday, October 24 from 1:00-5:00 pm. More information is available at www.knoxheritage.org.

Mr. Calloway also offered an update about the status of the new medical office building (MOB) at Fort Sanders Regional. The ambulance bay and MOB garage will open to 19th St. on November 22nd. The first tenant is scheduled to start

moving in the following weekend. There will be some changes to the signs, but the wayfinding package is not being implemented yet.

Agenda Item V: Future Meeting Times

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2nd, at 4:30pm, location to be determined. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue conversations between stakeholders.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.