

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 29 – Tuesday, August 9, 2016

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1. Neighborhood Walk This Evening in East Knoxville
2. City Seeks NAC's Input on Airbnb, Similar Services
3. New Greenways Plan to be Aired Thursday
4. Bluegrass and Folk Musician to Play in Edgewood Park
5. Parks & Rec Seeks Proposals for Challenge Grants
6. City Council to Consider Action on Blighted Properties
7. Several Properties Added for Sale in Homemaker Program
8. City, MPC Schedule Meeting on Revisions to Parking Ordinance
9. Help MPC Improve Sector Planning
10. TPO Asks for Public Input on Transportation Projects
11. [Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) (clickable to online calendar)

Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

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1. Neighborhood Walk This Evening in East Knoxville

Walkability, bikeability and community engagement are expected to be among the topics discussed this evening when Mayor Madeline Rogero, other elected officials and city department representatives tour a portion of East Knoxville with community members and other stakeholders.

This “Stepping Ahead Together” tour will begin at Jackie’s Dream, 2223 McCalla Avenue, circle KCDC’s Dr. Lee Williams housing development, cut through Walker Hardy Park, move west on MLK Jr. Avenue as far as Vine Middle, head north on Bertrand St., and return to the starting point on McCalla.

The event is co-sponsored by [Bike Walk Knoxville](#) and 5PointsUp. The latter is a community organization sponsored by the [Knox County Health Dept.](#)

2. City Seeks NAC's Input on Airbnb, Similar Services

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) will meet this week to provide input to the City about regulating and restricting short-term rentals of residential property.

The NAC meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, in the community room of the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street, near the Hall of Fame exit on I-40. NAC meetings are free and open to the public.

For some background on the issue, [see this 2014 study](#) commissioned by the City of Asheville to examine regulations in other cities and the effects of short-term rentals on the supply of affordable housing. See the longer article in [last week's newsletter](#).

3. New Greenways Plan to be Aired Thursday

If you are interested in the future of greenways in Knoxville, set aside this coming Thursday evening, August 11, to learn about the Greenway Corridor Feasibility and Assessment Project that is now being finalized by Ross/Fowler landscape architects and the City's Greenways Commission.

Mayor Madeline Rogero, City Council members, City Greenways Coordinator Lori Goerlich, members of the City Greenways Commission and representatives of Ross/Fowler all will be at the meeting that begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, at John T. O'Connor Center, 611 Winona St.

Ross/Fowler will present its findings, and City officials will discuss the immediate opportunities in moving ahead with the most comprehensive greenways build-out plan in the City's history.

The plan will address building connections in 13 different corridors. The new greenway connections will create a true transportation network that will allow people to walk or bicycle to get to work or school or other destinations, in addition to enjoying all the traditional healthy-lifestyle benefits of greenways.

Mayor Rogero and City Council have budgeted more than \$3 million in the past three years for new greenway connections.

"We have some great segments in our greenway system, but many of them are disconnected," Mayor Rogero said. "This comprehensive plan is a blueprint for turning those segments into a connected network. This will be a focal point of our investments in outdoor recreation and alternative transportation for the next 20 years."

4. Bluegrass and Folk Musician to Play in Edgewood Park

Farragut musician Bill Whitacre will be playing acoustic bluegrass and folk tunes in Edgewood Park from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, August 18.

This "family friendly" event is part of the "Third Thursdays in Edgewood Park" series sponsored by the [Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association](#). The park is located on Edgewood Avenue one block off North Broadway and adjacent to the North Knoxville branch of the Knox County Public Library.

This family-friendly event is free for everyone. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. No alcohol. For more, contact Carly Baskette at carly.baskette@gmail.com or 865-253-5216.

5. Parks & Rec Seeks Proposals for Challenge Grants

The City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for its 2016-17 Challenge Grant Program, which offers grants to nonprofit projects associated with public parks or recreation facilities within the City limits.

The grants are available this year to 501(c)3, 501(c)4 and 501(c)6 status community groups, homeowner associations, schools, Scout troops and other organizations.

Recipients of a challenge grant will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of a single project, up to \$2,500.

Previously, the grants have been used for projects such as playground equipment, water fountains, benches and landscaping. The Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department has been awarding Challenge Grants to nonprofit groups for more than 25 years.

The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. Applicants will be notified and announced by late October 2016. All project work must be completed by Friday, April 28, 2017. [See the grant guidelines and applications](#). Questions may be directed to 311 or 865-215-4311.

6. City Council to Consider Action on Blighted Properties

Knoxville City Council next week will consider the Community Development Department's request to purchase two properties under the Chronic Problem Properties Program and sell two others under the Homemaker Program.

City Council meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, in the Large Assembly Room at the City County Building on Main Street.

Properties slated for purchase are 229 Ailsie (across E. Young High Pike from Woodlawn Christian Church) and 3960 West Bellemade (across Tobler Lane from West High School).

Community Development has buyers for and seeks City Council permission to sell 3037 E. Fifth Avenue in the Chilhowee Park neighborhood and 5620 Sierra Road in the Tower Heights neighborhood.

Under the Chronic Problem Properties Program, Community Development identifies certain blighted properties and requests that they be determined and then later certified as blighted by the [Better Building Board](#). This newsletter carries notices when these actions are pending.

If the owner misses several opportunities over a period of time to take corrective action, the City may then proceed to acquire the properties if given approval by City Council. Properties acquired through negotiation or via eminent domain are then listed in the Community Development Department's [Homemaker Program](#). Individuals or developers can make proposals for acquiring and then rehabilitating or improving properties so that they contribute to neighborhood stability.

Details on the above four property transactions can be found in the Aug. 16 City Council agenda, which will be posted [here](#) on the city website by Friday of this week. To see the underlying documentation for each item, click on the date of the City Council meeting and then on the individual agenda item.

7. Several Properties Added for Sale in Homemaker Program

The City of Knoxville has recently listed several vacant lots and structures for sale in the Community Development Department's Homemaker Program.

The structures are located at 2115 Coker Avenue in North Knoxville, 3031 E. Fifth Avenue in the Chilhowee Park neighborhood, 5126 Villa Road off Tazewell Pike, and 338 E. Moody Avenue on the edge of the South Woodlawn neighborhood.

The vacant lots, all suitable for infill housing, are 123 S. Chestnut Street, 2517 Louise Avenue, and 4704 Holston Drive in East Knoxville, and eight parcels in the 3300 and 3400 blocks of Thomas Street in the Lonsdale neighborhood.

Under the Homemaker Program, the City offers vacant lots and lots with substandard structures for sale to individuals, non-profit organizations and developers. These properties have been identified by the City for acquisition to further its mission to remove blight, improve neighborhoods and provide affordable housing opportunities. The purchaser will be required, in almost all cases, to construct a new dwelling on vacant parcels or rehabilitate existing structures.

Individuals can make an offer on a property by submitting an application. The sales agreement includes a provision that allows the City to take the property back if the new owner fails to make improvements to the property per guidelines.

[See program details and the application.](#)

8. City, MPC Schedule Meeting on Revisions to Parking Ordinance

Staff of the [Metropolitan Planning Commission](#) and various city departments will conduct a public meeting later this month to receive public comment on proposed revisions to the city's parking ordinance.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, August 25, in the small assembly room of the City County Building, 400 Main Avenue.

A copy of the draft ordinance can be found on the MPC website. To review the proposed changes and an MPC memo on the subject, browse to <http://www.knoxmpc.org/zoning/proposed-zoning-ordinance-changes/>. This is a launching page for various proposed zoning changes for both the city and the county. Under the city column, scroll down to "Active Ordinance Amendments" to find the parking ordinance link. The May 18 draft and summary will be replaced by the latest version within the next week.

Neighborhood leaders should be interested in this ordinance only if you care about the quality of commercial development on the edges of your neighborhoods.

As noted in the MPC memo, items addressed in the updated ordinance include:

- *** Reduction in the minimum number of parking spaces required for most uses.
- *** Establishment of a maximum number of parking spaces for all uses, with a provision for exceeding the maximum.
- *** Clarifying and expanding opportunities for shared and remote parking.
- *** Requiring bicycle parking for all uses.
- *** Clarifying and expanding the requirements for landscaping of parking areas.
- *** Providing for a staff administered reduction in off-street parking requirements for uses located in areas undergoing redevelopment.

9. Help MPC Improve Sector Planning

The Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission is inviting the public to participate in a survey to assess the effectiveness of the current sector planning process.

In addition, you can arrange for an MPC staff person to speak on sector planning at your neighborhood meeting (see below).

The survey should take 5 minutes to complete and is expected to remain open through the end of November. Results from the survey will be posted on the MPC website in December. [Take the survey.](#)

"Community opinions and input regarding the sector planning process is critical when planning for the future growth and development of the City and County. The desires and wishes of residents, property owners, and business owners must be known in order for MPC staff to shape how the sector planning process can be more effective and useful for all," said Gerald Green, Executive Director of the MPC.

Knox County and the City of Knoxville are divided into 12 planning sectors. Sector plans are updated on 6-year cycles to provide recommendations for land use, transportation, and community facilities. Each sector has a 15-year plan that guides land use and development, as well as a 5-year capital improvement and implementation program to help guide them in the near-term. Within these documents are specific recommendations, such as adopting a scenic road corridor overlay zone district to transportation improvements or allowing mixed-use development in certain areas.

Sector plans are part of the Knoxville-Knox County General Plan 2033, which also incorporates small area plans, the Knoxville-Knox County Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Plan, Major Road Plan, and other adopted plans. This plan gives broad, long-range recommendations for the entire 525 square mile jurisdiction, while sector plans are specialized and give specific guidance for the area to which they apply.

[Learn about sector plans.](#)

Focus groups regarding the sector planning process are now being scheduled. If you are interested in having an MPC staff member attend your community group meeting to

discuss the survey and collect input from your group regarding the sector planning process, please contact Liz Albertson at liz.albertson@knoxmpc.org or 865-215-3804.

10. TPO Asks for Public Input on Transportation Projects

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization ([TPO](#)) is seeking input on proposed projects for the Draft 2040 Mobility Plan.

TPO updates the Mobility Plan every four years, and the 2017 update is now underway.

In order to receive federal funding, cities, counties, state and other agencies across the TPO's planning area submitted projects they want to be completed in the next 23 years. Staff received 180 projects, which they matched with funding and prioritized based on public input, staff scoring, and financial limitations.

A special online mapping application has been created to show projects that were submitted and allows users to select a project to learn about the details, requested and proposed funding amounts, and project schedule. Users can also submit comments on each project within this application by selecting "submit a comment" under either the project list or on the map. The input is then sent to TPO staff for review.

[Learn more about the plan and the list of projects.](#)

Following the public comment period, the list will be reviewed by the TPO Board and federal and state partners. The comment period will be open until August 31, and general comments about the draft project list can be emailed to mobility@knoxtrans.org. The list of projects will be finalized at the end of May 2017.

While not all submitted projects will be adopted into the 2040 plan, future funding from additional resources --- local or additional federal funding that may become available for the next four-year update to the plan --- could help them see completion in this timeframe.

For more, contact Amy Brooks, Integrated Planning Manager, Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, 865-215-2500, amy.brooks@knoxtrans.org.

11. Neighborhood and Government Calendar (clickable to online calendar)

Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this calendar. Call 215-4382.

Visit <http://knoxvilletn.gov/calendar> for a complete list of meetings of various city boards and commissions.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

About This Newsletter

- ** *This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*
- ** *Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*
- ** *Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*
- ** *May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*
- ** *See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*
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