

SOUTHSIDE WATERFRONT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

MINUTES - July 30, 2018

CityView Club Room

PRESENT (22) Malcolm & Sally Blowers, Art & Donna Breitenstein, Dennis Clabo, Jeanette Cox, Linda Cunningham, Curt Ellsworth, Dawn Michelle Foster, PeTe Garza, Kevin & Andrew Jeske-Polyak, Debbie Mallard, Mike McClung, Kacy Nibarger, Jane & Brandon Roberts, Daphne Rutledge, Marsha Spence, Stephanie Welch, Logan Wells, and Chris Yeager.

DISCUSSION & ACTIONS

The meeting was called to order at **6:30 pm**. The July 30 minutes were approved with no revisions. **Dead Trees** – Art reported that eleven dead trees have been removed at Cityview thanks to **Kasey Krouse** (Knoxville Urban Forester). New trees will be planted.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Jane reported the purpose of the committee is to improve recruiting, participation, & retention and help members realize the full benefits of their membership, including access to the searchable member database. Drew will provide hands on assistance with a laptop to help anyone build their profile. Contact Drew at Captain@TennesseeBoatLine.com. Chris is helping to provide new resident notification regarding SWNA. Member participation demographic data was reported with emphasis on encouraging engagement among renters . . . **PROJECTS COMMITTEE** - \$500 micro grant has been awarded to SWNA for a **Welcome 303 Party**. A \$3,000 Small Neighborhoods Grant Proposal with great letters of support has been submitted to fund a **Butterfly Habitat** that will feature 200 sq ft of garden space with 60+ plants during January 2019 – Dec 2019. Labor will be provided by neighbors wishing to “earn their wings” following the principle, “never let 1 neighbor do what 2 can do”. The first garden beds will likely be located along the river walk, providing the additional benefit of erosion control. Approval for these locations has been obtained from the city. SWNA will also pursue butterfly habitat certification. **Railroad Underpass** – Drew reported we are taking baby steps on a huge undertaking with the railroad underpass. Norfolk Southern will allow us to do the work if we pay for it ourselves. Meetings have begun with **Liza Zenni** (Exec Dir, Arts & Culture Alliance) to discuss her experience with public art and obtaining necessary funding. The timetable is likely to take 2 years to complete, including solicitation of Artist RFQs, RFPs, and installation. An EZ Chamber of Commerce grant proposal (\$1,000) will be submitted on Aug 6 to begin the process. **Dawn Michelle Foster** (Knoxville Redevelopment Director) also reported the city is working with the railroad on the trellis part of the underpass . . . **EVALUATION COMMITTEE** – Kevin reported the purpose of the committee is to help residents convert their project ideas into strong project proposals. No news reported . . . **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE** – Malcolm reported there has been no spending since April and our current balance is \$75. He commented we are very *frugal* - we even pop our own corn. We expect to receive our \$500 grant award soon. It will be used to fund the Welcome 303 Party. SWNA elections will occur in October. Online nominations will occur Oct 14 – 21. Voting will occur Oct 22-29 online, via email, or paper ballot at October 29 meeting. There will be plenty of reminders through the Grapevine. **SWNA Neylgate events** – Don Browder, Debbie & Art will be organizing tailgating events on the Riverwalk terrace. Don will provide a tent, table & chairs. All neighbors are invited to participate, even if only to visit for a short while. We will explore printing a banner. Each event will begin ~ 4 hours before each game until 1.5 hours before kickoff. Bring food to share and BYOB. Residents (and their families) are invited to volunteer to be “co-hosts” on specific football weekends. Major job responsibilities of co-hosts include, eating, drinking, telling stories, and having fun. Contact Don via email DonBrowder@outlook.com. **Chapman Highway Corridor** – Jeannette represented SWNA at a recent stakeholders’ meeting. She was impressed with how organized they were, their ideas, and the visual presentations. TDOT has the ultimate say regarding design and spending, but she was able to make recommendations using a voting “clicker” device. She recommended biker/walker lanes be separated from the road with grass medians. Dawn Michelle offered to work with Jeanette to make sure our concerns are heard. The first segment of the corridor being given priority is between the Chapman Highway/Blount intersection and Fort Dickerson Park. Input regarding Chapman Highway can be directed to Jeanette via email jsCox2@comcast.net. **Knoxville Area Transit** – KAT has received a huge grant to re-examine their current bus schedules and the frequency of their stops – including our own Route 45 which goes to Vestal. With sufficiently expressed interest, KAT will consider doubling the frequency of that route. Kevin will be meeting with **Dawn Distler** (Director of Transit) to take a ride on some of the neighborhood routes and discuss KAT services. **Anne Victoria** (Service Delivery Specialist, Knoxville Area Transit) requests any input neighbors may have regarding Route 45. Email her at aVictoria@katbus.com. **Daphne Rutledge** (Leasing & Marketing Director, 303 Flats) reported that 303 Flats has successfully negotiated a 2-year contract with KAT to provide an additional KAT bus route and bus stop with direct service to Cumberland Ave and every bus stop on the UT campus. It will run on a 15-minute schedule through the week (30-minute schedule on weekends) and will be open to anyone with a city bus pass. Daphne will reconfirm public access and email the schedule to us. **One Riverwalk** is progressing according to plan and they expect to welcome 500 new residents by the end of the year. The traffic path will be switched by the end of September, but the sanitary sewer in front of the railroad underpass will have to be connected which will cause another road closure and detour. Parking in the parking garage and on the surface lot behind Kerbella will be offered at no cost in evenings and on weekends. Progress on the **river walk connection** continues. When finished, it will include 37,000 square feet of public space with performance space and restrooms under the Henley Bridge. An elevator or grand stair case will lead to the river walk. River walk completion is still targeted for the end of the year, including connection under the railroad bridge. In the worst case, if there is a snag in connecting the river walk under the railroad bridge, an alternative path will be provided via the sidewalk through the railroad tunnel. **303 Flats** – Daphne introduced **Kacy Nibarger** (Property Manager, 303 Flats) and reported total capacity at 303 Flats will be 431 residents. The move in dates will be Aug 18 & 19. Occupancy is expected to be about 60% at opening. **City Council** – **Stephanie Welch** (City Council Representative, 1st District). The **Aubrey’s** project is still on track. The **Urban Wilderness Project**, (\$10M investment) connecting South Knoxville to downtown, is thriving. More public meetings are scheduled. A new **Gateway Park** anchored on the southwest corner of Blount & Chapman Highway is still very much a part of the waterfront plan. Sadly, **Art & Donna** will be moving out of state by the end of August. During their 1.5 years in the neighborhood, Art, Donna, & Augie have been extremely supportive of our efforts to organize social events and other neighborhood activities, including: Second Monday events, movie night, daily litter pickup, Ijams River Rescue, dead tree removal, and participation in the formation of the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association. They will be missed. The meeting was adjourned at **7:30 pm**. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be **Monday, October 29, 2018**.