

From: Sarah Powell
To: Betty Jo Mahan
Date: 2/10/2011 7:42:42 AM
Subject: Fwd: Please uphold MPC staff recommendation for sidewalks in agenda item 12.
HAMPSON COURT, UNIT 2 / 1-SB

>>> "Kline, Margaret (Margot)" <utmargarita@utk.edu> 2/9/2011 9:44 PM >>>

Re: Agenda item 12. HAMPSON COURT, UNIT 2 1-SB-11-C Dear MPC Commissioners, Kudos to the MPC staff for recommending the addition of sidewalks to the site plan for Hampson Court, Unit 2. I live in the subdivision directly across the street from Bluegrass School. We have sidewalks because the MPC required them to be put in due to how close we are to the school, and I am so glad you did! I have been a resident of Knox County since I was 6 years old, and this is the first neighborhood I've lived in where everybody knows everybody else on the street and where there is an old-fashioned sense of community pride. Every day my husband and I see our neighbors out walking their dogs, pushing their kids in carriages, or just taking a stroll for some exercise. I really think that developers will end up getting their money back in the long run if they put in sidewalks... we even have a new house being built on our street right now, and I know that sales in my neighborhood have been good despite the bad economy. Most people specifically mention the sidewalks and streetlights as a major factor that made them want to move here. Half a mile from my house, down Bluegrass Rd., is Williford Subdivision, another new development WITH sidewalks. It is also tremendously popular, and homes have maintained their value despite the recent economic downturn. One other reason for the MPC to require Scott Davis to put the sidewalks in—The Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area just received a \$4.6 million HUD planning grant geared toward creating less dependence on cars and more walkable neighborhoods. Now is the time to start enacting the Livability Principles that the HUD grant administrators expect our county to put in place. Before writing this I double-checked the 2001 MPC sidewalk study and the minimum subdivision requirements published by the MPC:63-10 Sidewalk Location Required. "For the safety of pedestrians and children at play, the Planning Commission may require that sidewalks be provided for access to schools, recreational facilities, commercial establishments, or any other areas where obvious future pedestrian traffic is anticipated. Whenever sidewalks can be connected to existing walks or proposed walks in adjacent areas, such proposed walks should be designed on that side of the street which will make this connection possible." Here is the link to the MPC sidewalks study:

<http://www.knoxmpc.org/pubs/sidewalk.htm> Commissioners, please uphold the MPC Staff recommendations. Thank you, Margot Kine8845 Ebenezer Oaks Lane Knoxville, TN 37922