

These same letters were addressed separately to each of the Commissioners.

Ms. Connie Shih
408 Doublehead Lane
Knoxville, TN 37909

Mr. Herb Anders
Knoxville-Knox County MPC
400 Main Street Suite 403
Knoxville, TN 37902

July 13, 2016

Ref: MPC Case #: 5-SE-16-C BENTLEY ESTATES

Dear Mr. Anders,

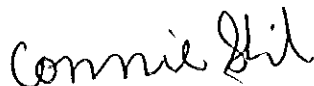
As a resident in the Cavett's Station subdivision of West Hills, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Bentley Estates subdivision off of Broome Road. Specifically, I am worried that the current proposal encroaches upon the existing historic Mars Hill Cemetery, and that houses could potentially be built atop unmarked graves.

In my opinion, the developer of the proposed Bentley Estates subdivision has not done his due diligence to preserve the integrity of the historic Mars Hill Cemetery.

Therefore, I urge you to reject the current Bentley Estates subdivision proposal as it is. Further evaluation is needed in order to both preserve the Mars Hills Cemetery and ensure the proposed subdivision is not in violation of Tennessee state laws.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Connie Shih

These same letters were addressed separately to each of the Commissioners.

Dr. Chia C. Shih
408 Doublehead Lane
Knoxville, TN 37909

July 13, 2016

Ms. Janice L. Tocher
Knoxville-Knox County MPC
400 Main Street Suite 403
Knoxville, TN 37902

Ref: The proposed Bentley Estates subdivision on Broome Road in the West Hill area
(MPC Case #: 5-SE-16-C)

Dear Ms. Tocher,

As a longtime Knoxville resident, I am proud to have witnessed the tremendous growth of our county without losing its traditional southern charm. I would like to commend our community for continuing this effort. I hope our future will retain the vision of how Knoxville was before its founding, and how we are also a part of the effort to preserve it.

Recently, there has been extended news coverage of the Bentley Estates subdivision proposal on a lot that includes the historic Mars Hill Cemetery, a site that reflects a traumatic struggle of the early settlement at the adjacent Cavett's Station outpost in 1793. The Mars Hill Cemetery is a sizable cemetery that some estimated may have accommodated more than 500 graves until it became full.

Here is what I have become aware of based on public records:

According to the Archaeological Site Survey Record of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (2003 Addendum: 40Kn67), the Mars Hill cemetery size is 10,000 square meters (long axis = 100 m and short axis = 100 m). The Cultural Affiliation is Historical Indian (0022) and Historical Non-Indian (0023). This data conflicts with the current Bentley Estates subdivision proposal which only allocates an area of the size 249 ft x 143 ft for the cemetery. It is only about 1/3 the size of cemetery on the state Archaeological Site Survey record.

Out of the 2.4 acres of the cemetery site indicated by the state, the developer has only designated 0.8 acre to the cemetery. The rest of the protected 1.6 acres will be lost to commercial development. It is logical that the burden should rest on the developer to prove that the proposed Bentley Estates subdivision plan is in compliance with the Tennessee Cemetery & Burial Site Laws.

Given the highly significant historical heritage of the site and the sizable discrepancy of the area that should be protected, I am urging you to reject the current Bentley Estates subdivision proposal as it is. Further evaluation is needed to retain the integrity of the historic Mars Hill Cemetery.

Sincerely yours,

