

MINUTES
Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission
Agenda Review Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

For the first time in more than 18 long, dreary months, the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission convened *live and in person* on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 11:30 o'clock am in the frumpy, but sweetly familiar Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building in good ole Knoxville, Tennessee, for its monthly Agenda Review meeting.

To the relief of everyone, the meeting was **not** attended by a bevy of loud-mouthed half-wits and nit-wit bullies refusing to wear protective masks (as required by the Public Building Authority) while asserting an imaginary “constitutional right” to threaten the health and well-being of the rest of society.

Rather, and thankfully, the meeting was attended by the unflaggingly courteous and considerate Planning Commissioners Beth Eason, Jeffrey Roth, Sandra Korbelik, Chris Ooten, Lou Browning, Patrick Phillips, Chair of the Commission, Tim Hill, Jacqueline Dent, Scott Smith, Jim Nichols, Richard Graf, Eddie Smith, and Karyn Adams.

Also in attendance were: (i) Amy Brooks, the incumbent Executive Director of the Commission; (ii) various members of Knoxville-Knox County Planning (“Staff”) who gleefully provide professional, technical, and clerical support to the Commission; (iii) local lawyers John King, Benjamin Mullins and Tasha Blakney; (iv) a couple of adult observers resting comfortably at the back of the room whose identities were not known to the Recording Secretary/Minute Keeper; and, (v) two school-aged children also stationed at the rear of the room, who remained quiet and well behaved throughout the meeting. The absence of those children from school was not explained.

While the Commissioners and Staff continued to enjoy a lovely repast in the form of box lunches, accompanied by refreshing room temperature bottled water, Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order at 11:37 o'clock am. The Chairman then recognized the Commission’s newest member, Jim Nichols, recently appointed to that membership by the State’s Local Government Planning Advisory Committee, and offered Mr. Nichols an opportunity to briefly introduce himself to his colleagues on Commission. Mr. Nichols seized upon that opportunity with great success, and was made welcome by the other Commissioners.

Chairman Phillips then reminded the Commission and others in attendance of the mask requirements in the City-County Building. He also advised of tentative planning for a “meet-and-greet” social for Commissioners perhaps at the home of Commissioner Graf, sometime during the first week of June. Details remained vague, and he solicited feedback on those plans.

Finally, Chairman Phillips reminded Commissioners of the traditional gathering of

the Commissioners at a local watering hole (typically Clancy's) after the monthly meeting, which tradition had fallen dormant during the prior 18 months or so, due to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. It appears that the tradition is scheduled to arise again at the conclusion of the May meeting. As an additional incentive for attendance, it is anticipated that the immediate past Executive Director of the Commission, Gerald Green, will be joining the fray as part of his visit to Knoxville from his current home in the Tar Hill State. All are made welcome to attend. Topics for discussion are expected to include: "What is a Tar Heel, and does it leave a scar?"

Chairman Phillips then turned the meeting over to Ms. Brooks, who shared the Executive Director's monthly report, which included the following:

--- A new report on Living with Disabilities has been completed and published. Virtual copies are now available for review and study on the Commission's outstanding web site: www.knoxmpc.org.

--- The Mobility Plan, after many months of work by Staff, has now been adopted by somebody...I think maybe the TPO, but I can't say for certain. I got distracted by a bit of detritus on the end of my pen and didn't follow the comments adequately. The fact of the matter is I'm pretty distracted in general. I missed the title of the new report in the prior paragraph, and had to ask a member of Staff what was said in order to fill in the blanks. I sense some bad mojo in the room. Something is going down, and I'm more than a little concerned.

--- There have been several promotions of Staff in recent days reflecting their valuable contributions to the team, including specifically Craig Luebke, Andrea Kupfer and Chase Marcum.

--- All Staff members are back in the office on the 4th Floor of the City-County Building at least three days per week, and plans are in place to shortly return to a full time in-office work schedule.

---The Commission's long-time attorney, Steve Wise, is retiring effective at the end of the month, after more than a third of a century of service. Based upon comments made, it appears that well more than half of the Commissioners were completely unaware that the Commission even had a lawyer. A couple of the Commissioners who have been around for several years indicated that they had heard vague rumors in the past of a Commission lawyer, but had ascribed the notion as being no more than an urban myth.

--- A talented and engaging young lawyer, Tasha Blakney of Eldridge & Blakney, P.C. has been retained to represent the Commission beginning June 1, 2021.

--- The Workshop/Retreat for Commission and Staff is being pushed back until June or July.

--- Following the findings of a recently completed investigation and study by Staff,

it has been determined that the services of the Recording Secretary/Minutes Keeper for the Commission's Agenda Review meetings will be terminated by the end of business on Friday, May 14, 2021, and a suitable replacement will be found through an appropriately published RFQ, or by other reasonable means, as soon as is practicable, because the study, which spanned over many months, and consumed a large number of man-hours found that severe deficiencies in the quality of the product produced by the Recording Secretary/Minute Keeper, to be including, but not limited too, egregious grammatical errors, multiple and many spelling mistakes, repetitive, redundant and pleonastic adjectives, run-on sentences, poor *and sloppy* punctuation choices; too many wordiness; unparallel nouns! and verbs~ repeating repetitiveness; a confused, disorganized, chaotic and adlepted organization~ illogical and needless shifts in font; the chronic use of imaginary words; sharply unfocused progressions of **thoughts** and ideas. ...migraine inducing *indentation* shifts; false narratives!, overreliance on boilerplate paragraphs, sentences, phrases and paragraphs, the ending? of sentences with prepositions, run-on sentences; deliberate and maleficent typos, outdated pop culture references that be of no consequence or understanding of the general or specific public ; and indiscriminate use of the bold and italic tools, just to name a few, and believe you me there's a whole lot more that have't even been *discussed!* or talked about, including those infernal run-on sentences, all of which are exacerbated by the Recording Secretary/Minute Keeper's off-putting and inflammatory personality quirks, which include but are not *limited* to, tardiness, tempestuousness, timidity, touchiness, truculence, temerity, treachery, tactlessness, tribalism, testiness, tastelessness, tantrums and, most troubling, churlishness, plus those horrid run-on sentences, and it's not like the Recording Secretary/Minute Keeper wasn't given a chance to rectify **the** problems, because there were lot of *chances* given, over and over again, many times, but nothing got better or improved at all or in the least, such the only apparent viable strategy is the termination of the services of the incumbent Recording Secretary/Minute Keeper, which action will surely result in significant economic saving for the Commission and much jubilation among Staff.
(See?!...I told you so.....I won't be bitter).

Ms. Brooks then introduced Kasey Krause, Urban Forester for the City of Knoxville, who offered a most interesting presentation on the City's urban tree canopy. Standing at the modernistic new, power-assisted podium positioned before the Commissioners' dais, and accompanied by a dazzling PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Krause explained the impact of the urban tree canopy on quality of life, and steps undertaken by his office to protect, preserve, maintain and improve the various trees that constitute that canopy. Mr. Krause emphasized the need for diversity of tree inventory, and described the protections afforded by the Tree Protection Ordinance and the periodic tree canopy assessment. At the conclusion of his prepared remarks, Mr. Krause responded to some rather technical questions from Commissioners, always with thorough, thoughtful answers that were couched to be understandable by just plain ordinary folks, including even any unmasked dim-wit bullies, if they had been in attendance.

Michelle ("Michelle") Portier of Staff, then approached the nifty new power-assisted podium, and by merely the push of an inauspicious button silently adjusted the height of the podium to comport with her stature, plugged in her lap top, and offered an explanation

of the Staff recommendation of postponement for Item 6 on the Commission's May Agenda. Ms. Portier responded to questions about possible compromise solutions to issues raised by the application which will be explored in the following days.

Ms. Portier, continuing at the spiffy new podium, then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 11, and responded to questions.

Ms. Portier then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 15, and responded to questions.

Liz ("Elizabeth") Albertson of Staff then approached the stylish new podium, found the magic button and silently lowered the podium height *waaaay* down to comport with her stature, plugged in her lap top, offered an explanation of the Staff recommendation of Agenda Item 10, and responded to multiple questions.

Ms. Albertson then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 12, and responded to questions.

Ms. Albertson then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 27, and responded to questions.

With the novelty of the new power-assist podium having been long since exhausted, Michael ("SmoothFooths") Reynolds of Staff then approached and readjusted the height of that now boring podium, and explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 31 and responded to questions.

SmoothFooths then explained the Staff recommendation for Item 32 and responded to questions.

Ms. Brooks then explained the Staff recommendation for Agenda Item 47, and responded to questions.

Ms. Brooks then explained Agenda Item 48, relating to the City's Capital Improvement Program, and responded to questions.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was duly adjourned.

Goodbye and Best Regards
You will be missed
I'm not bitter

Your Erstwhile Recording Secretary and
Minute Keeper