

MINUTES
TOWNSEND MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Members Present
Joanne Funk, Chair
Pat Jenkins, Mayor
Michael Talley
Byron Begley, Sec

Members Absent
Becky Headrick, V. Chair
Lisa Stewart

Others Present
Shelia Moss
Ron Palewski
Don Headrick
Other interested parties

ETDD Staff Representative: Joe Barrett

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Funk called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on February 9, 2012 at the city hall. The November Minutes were then reviewed by the members. After review, a motion was made by Pat Jenkins and seconded by Michael Talley to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of the last meeting on November 10, 2011 as written. Byron Begley abstained and the motion passed by majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVIEW OF SIDEWALK REQUIREMENTS

There are currently two separate sidewalk requirements being considered. An amendment to the subdivision regulations requiring sidewalks for new major subdivisions and a proposed zoning amendment requiring a connection to the existing greenway for multi-family and non-residential developments that front on Lamar Alexander Parkway (US 321). Staff provided copies of a draft subdivision regulation amendment to require sidewalks in new major subdivisions. There are several performance standards for sidewalks that are contained in the amendment. Staff reviewed the amendment with the members. During the review, a question regarding the ability of a city to require sidewalk connections was discussed. Sidewalk issues were then discussed in greater detail among those present. The members will review the proposed regulations and provide feedback at the next regular meeting. No action taken at this time.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

Working copies of transportation policies were provided to the members. Some of these policies are currently contained in the Townsend Land Use Plan and other policies provided are an expansion of the adopted policies. Staff provided these copies for members to document transportation issues and/or goals that can then be crafted into transportation policies and incorporated in the land use plan. Members also discussed transportation issues for the town and the possibility of initiating a transportation plan. Issues with safe access, signage for the walking tunnels, lighting and crosswalks were the main topics discussed. Staff mentioned some groups that the East Tennessee Development District has been coordinating with to address planning issues including transportation. These include the Plan East Tennessee partnership and the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council. Both of these groups are a partnership between communities and local agencies in which the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) plays a major role. Staff will also coordinate with the transportation planner that works with the development district to discuss the possible transportation assistance that can be offered.

REPORTS FROM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Jenkins announced that Commissioner Charles Tippitt resigned from the city council.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Members discussed some local issues that included concerns with the Johnson property and whether adequate drainage and sediment controls were installed and other administrative matters.

At 7:35 PM, with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

Date