



Meeting Notes  
Neighborhood Advisory Council  
Wednesday, August 12, 2015  
Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street

**Present:** Amy Midas Anna Compton  
Ashley Williams Bill Hutton  
Danny Gray David Gillette  
Donna Downen Lauren Rider  
Lola Alapo Robbie Arrington  
Terry Caruthers Travetta Johnson

**Absent:** Donnie Ernst Kimberley Fowler

**City Staff:** David Massey, Debbie Sharp, Rebecca McIver, Susan Shin

**Guest Speaker:** Gerald Green, Executive Director, MPC

**City Council Members:** Daniel Brown, Finbarr Saunders

**Media:** Mike Steely, Knoxville Focus, and Wendy Smith, Shopper News

**Actions or Votes Taken by NAC:** None

Here is a brief summary of the announcements, presentations and discussion at the August 12, 2015, meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

- 1) The NAC welcomed Lola Alapo as its newest member. She was appointed by Mayor Rogero to At Large Seat C, and her term expires March 31, 2018. Lola is the founder and coordinator of Boright Area Neighborhood Watch in north Knoxville.
- 2) Neighborhood Coordinator David Massey introduced Rebecca McIver and Susan Shin, AmeriCorps members who will be working with the Office of Neighborhoods over the next 11 months.
- 3) The next NAC meeting will be **Wednesday, September 9, 2015**. It was suggested that City Tree Arborist Kasey Krouse and Knoxville Area Transit Director Dawn Distler be invited to speak.
- 4) Devin Lyon, City Law Department, who had been scheduled to discuss the state's Open Meetings law, will now speak at a later date.

- 5) Anna Compton thanked city staff for their role in restoring a median on Palmetto Drive and a Cumberland Estates neighborhood entrance sign. By mistake, part of the median and the sign were removed by a TDOT contractor as part of the widening of Western Avenue. TDOT had the contractor restore some of the median and the sign.
- 6) City Councilman Finbarr Saunders noted that a City Council workshop was scheduled for Thursday evening, August 13, on the city's new traffic signalization system.
- 7) MPC Executive Director Gerald Green spoke about his background in the planning field and his approach to the planning process. He touched on a wide range of subjects, including the need to update the city's zoning ordinances, the fact that even good planning and development can be influenced heavily by larger forces in society and the economy, and the challenge of creating a more walkable and pedestrian friendly environment along the city's major corridors.

He noted that both developers and neighborhoods want clear answers to three major questions when new developments are proposed: What are the standards? How long will it take to determine if the development meets those standards? What will it cost?

Mr. Green also emphasized his interest in "a high level of communication" with the city's neighborhood organizations and helping neighborhoods learn how to identify options and define a vision for their future.

In addition, there was discussion about a number of issues regarding specific blighted or vacant properties, as well as the relationship between developers and HOA's.

David Massey  
Office of Neighborhoods  
August 17, 2015