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Rogero asks council to table Historic Overlay

By Mike Steely
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Responding to concerns voiced by the two elected officials from East Knoxville, Mayor Madeline Rogero is asking the city council to table the proposed historic overlay in the Parkridge neighborhood.

The council had passed the expansion on First Reading in their November 7th meeting but

Rogero notified city council members Tuesday of her wishes. She said she had spoken with council members and there is a level of distrust and disagreement among different factions in Parkridge.

"The debate has raised a host of separate but related questions that need to be resolved through constructive community dialogue," she said.

The mayor noted that Councilman Daniel Brown, who initially requested the study, ended up voting against the proposal. She also noted that Brown's position is shared by Gwen McKenzie, who was elected to represent the area.

Critics of expanding the historic overlay have cited worries regarding the possible gentrification resulting from the expansion, the

cost of repairs to historic and non-historic homes, and the various hoops that homeowners would need to jump through when repairing homes. Many of the residents are renters or live in homes built during the 1950s which are not seen as "historic" but would still be required to seek permission for repairs.

"Unfortunately the heated discussions around

this proposed expansion, which would triple the size of the existing H-1 district, have amplified rather than allayed fears about the possible impact on low-income residents and property owners in the neighborhood," Rogero said.

Councilman Mark Campen, who had voted for the overlay expansion in the last city council meeting, said he spoke with the

mayor Monday and understands her position.

"We need more dialogue. There are lots of concerns and the issue merits a pause," Campen said.

"Let's push the pause button," he said.

Councilman Duane Grieve, who had voiced strong support for the expansion, was caught by surprise with the mayor's

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

The six scholarship recipients are joined by their presenters Thursday at the Knox County Retired Teachers Association Awards Ceremony and Luncheon at the Foundry at the World's Fair Park.

KCRTA awards scholarships at annual luncheon

By Ken Lay

Six aspiring teachers were awarded Thursday at the Knox County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Foundation Awards Ceremony and Luncheon at the Foundry at the World's Fair Site.

The scholarships were awarded to students who have a passion for teaching and they were awarded to college seniors and graduate students from the University of Tennessee, East Tennessee State

University and Maryville College.

Robin D. Byard received the Christine Williams Scholarship. Kendra Edgell was awarded the Reuben and Pat Hunter Scholarship. Sarah G. Jones earned the Tom Underwood Scholarship. Byjan Kajaei received the Collene Bennett Scholarship. Hannah Reddick earned the Carrie Moudy Huber Scholarship and David Williams received the Knox County Retired Teachers' Association

Scholarship.

The KCRTA is a 501 3c non-profit organization and the scholarships were awarded to the students to help offset school expenses during their senior year or during the fulfillment of their respective student teaching requirements.

The awards were presented by retired educators including Janet Oakes, Shirley Underwood, Connie Silva, Vicki Andrews and Chris Vandergriff.

Teacher Banquet Sponsor Found, Rules Change at Commission

By Mike Steely
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The funding of the school system's "Teacher of the Year" ceremonies at the Knoxville Convention Center came under questions by the Knox County Commission at last week's work session. Commissioner Charles Busler asked

Superintendent Bob Thomas where the \$15,250 in cost comes from.

Thomas addressed the commission and explained that, in the past, the event had been sponsored by corporations but since a sponsor wasn't available the school board thought to use funds from the school

coupon book sales.

The superintendent then paused and told the meeting that since that vote the school system has sought corporate sponsorship and found it from Lifetouch Studio's, the in-school student photo company.

The matter passed the work

session without a recommendation and will be taken up at tonight's regular session.

The commission Rules Committee decided to move the pledge to the flag and the prayer to the beginning of a commission meeting. The committee also is talking of

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, PEPPERMINT PANDA!

Christmas in the City begins Friday, Nov. 24

Twinkling lights and the sound of jingle bells will be the festive sensory backdrop in downtown Knoxville when Christmas in the City begins Friday, Nov. 24, with the kick off of Regal Celebration of Lights and the opening of the Holidays on Ice skating rink.

In preparation for the season, the City's Public Service Department workers have wrapped and draped downtown trees and lampposts with more than 100,000 holiday lights. Mayor Madeline Rogero will electrify those lights along with the 42-foot animated Christmas tree located in the Krutch Park extension during a ceremony that begins at 6 p.m.

"Downtown truly feels like a Christmas village," said Judith Foltz, the City's Special Events Director, offering up compelling evidence like the train rides, hot cocoa by the Salvation Army, photos with Santa Claus, marshmallow roasting, face painting, balloon animals, and a marketplace with vendors offering an array of "make and take" or "buy and give" items.

Also, the super-sized AT&T Snow Globe returns to the square for DIY family photo opps, which may be ideal for your 2017 holiday card. Bring your own camera; volunteers will be on site to help you snap the perfect pic.

The Christmas in the City kickoff festivities mark the beginning of a most wonderful season in downtown Knoxville, with additional annual traditions in the coming weeks, including the WIVK Christmas Parade on Friday, Dec. 1; the Knoxville Community Band's free Christmas Concert, presented by City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department at the Bijou Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 3; two free showings of "It's a Wonderful Life," presented by Knoxville TVA Employees Credit Union at the Tennessee Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 10; and Tour de Lights bike ride on Friday, Dec. 15.

All Christmas in the City events and updates will be listed on the City of Knoxville's website: www.knoxvilletn.gov/christmas.

Also kicking off the season are:
The Regal Celebration of Lights - Friday, November 24

Market Square, Market Street and Krutch Park Extension, 6-9 p.m.

Wild Things will perform live music

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