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Will NC-1 solve the Parkridge preservation dilemma?

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

In what seems to be a compromise the Mayor Madeline Rogers and her administration are suggesting a possible solution to the Parkridge neighborhood. The idea of declaring the entire area as a neighborhood conservation zone (NC-1) rather than a historic district (H-1) was presented Wednesday evening

to a sizable crowd of local property owners and renters.

Prior public meetings on the matter became shouting matches and even produced some personal threats. Last week's public session, called by the city, was less contentious and fairly constructive.

The original idea of expanding the historic zone from part of the

neighborhood to include the entire Eastern Knoxville neighborhood was basically killed with a six-month delay by Mayor Rogers. She told Wednesday's meeting at the O'Connor Center, "I was uncomfortable with the level of discussion. It made all of us uneasy."

She said the push to expand the H-1 designation saw neighbors turn against each other and

added there is "still work to be done" and promised to change the process. She suggested moving the preservation process forward with mediation between the two sides.

Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie said she "totally agrees" and said the six-month delay gave everyone an opportunity to step back and "take a breath." McKenzie noted that she

and city officials have been meeting with individual homeowners and renters and found some common agreements.

Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons spoke of the temporary 90-day prohibition of demolition and said that adopting an NC-1 designation for the entire area would prevent demolition and would permit using the H-1 zoning to smaller portions with

local approval.

He said that NC-1 would allow repairs and alterations to non-historic homes without approval of the Historic Zoning Commission and suggested immediately moving to adopt the NC-1 zoning.

Lyons said the NC-1 designation would involve 400 homes and permit a future H-1 zoning on

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Festival on the Fourth welcomes all to World's Fair Park

World's Fair Park is the place to be for family fun and patriotic music during this Fourth of July holiday.

From 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4, the City of Knoxville's Festival on the Fourth presents live music, food vendors, activities and other summertime diversions. The festivities lead up to the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's 34th Annual Free Pilot Flying J Independence Day Concert, beginning at 8 p.m. and culminating with City's largest annual fireworks display.

The free event, sponsored by the City of Knoxville, has developed over the years into a festival with a diverse array of entertainment for all ages.

"Traditionally, the Fourth of July holiday is a chance for families to spend time together," says Special Events Director Judith Fortz. "We like to offer some surprising and different ways to do that and make the most of a mid-week holiday."

New activities this year in the Regal Kids Zone is a climbing wall and a Eurobungee trampoline, which uses giant rubber bands to vault participants into the sky and right back to Earth. Families can also enjoy face painting, balloon animals, mini-golf, a water balloon game, Legs by Bricks 4 Kids, and more. Plus, take a paddle boat ride in the "lazy river" that flows around the park. Live entertainment begins at 4 p.m. at the Home Federal Bank Family Fun Stage inside the Tennessee Amphitheater.

- Asian Festival Lion Dancers, 4-4:45 p.m.
- Zoo Knoxville presents Einstein and Friends, 5:15-5:35 p.m.
- Children's musician Dre Helton, 6-6:45 p.m.
- Tim Presley and The Amazing Magic Show, 7-7:45 p.m.

Over on the north end of the park's Festival Lawn Stage, Bary

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BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT



PHOTO BY KEVIN WELLS

Look Rock is located along the western portion of the Smoky Mountain Foothills Parkway and there are also several pull off places along the route so visitors can view north and south of the peak. By the end of this year it is promised you can take the now-closed eastern arm of the parkway from Walland to Wears Valley. For more nearby peaks to check out, please read this week's A Day Away column by Mike Steely on page B2.

Marathon session for county commission

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Considering that the Knox County Commission sat down at 4 p.m. as the Beer Commission and remained in their seats until well after 11 p.m., Monday's marathon session lasted more than seven hours. As the long meeting dealt with numerous issues from wrestling with a dump cleanup along Twin Creek Road to hearing a subdivision request on Beverly Road, the commission seemed appropriately exhausted and confused by the end of the session.

Adding to the long session was a large demonstration against President Trump's immigration policy going on just outside the City-County Building

with sounds of the crowd waiting in occasionally over the discussions going on inside.

Almost unnoticed were the commission's consent votes on various proposals including approving Mayor Tim Burchett's \$365,000 funding of Project GRAD.

The commission voted down an approval of a memorandum of understanding for the operation of a Jungle Float at Rocky Point Park. The floating attraction, 17-feet tall and 35-feet long, has been operating there as a commercial attraction in a park that doesn't allow swimming. The 9-2 vote to turn down use of it from the parking lot there passed after much discussion.

A large warehouse proposed for East Governor John Sevier Highway north of Hammer Road was approved unanimously after Commissioner Dave Wright changed his "pass" vote to a "yes." The vote on the facility, a proposed 600,000-square-foot building, would store medical dialysis products made by Fresenius Manufacturing, saw lots of discussion and some opposition from nearby property owners.

Also approved was \$538,000 from the state to restore teaching positions at Green Elementary and Sarah Moore Green elementary schools for gifted and talented positions.

The mayor's selection to the Metropolitan Planning

Commission came under some discussion but was eventually approved. Commissioners Wright, Carson Dailey and Charles Busler pushed for someone from East Knox County to be named and complained that area is not being represented on the MPC.

Law Director Richard Armstrong told the commissioners that selection of MPC members are "outside our jurisdiction" and are selected by the county mayor. Mayor Burchett's selection of Louis Browning III to replace Herbert Anders, who resigned, passed 7-4.

Dozens of people showed up for the zoning request part of the meeting, especially for

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Dee Canizales
Realtor/Broker
Tel: 865-637-9118 x 100
Cell: 865-686-8335
Fax: 865-637-9119
deecanizales@tenantschoice.com
701 N Central St
Knoxville TN 37917



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