

Mannis campaign officially opens East Knoxville office

By Mike Steely
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Knoxville businessman and candidate for mayor Eddie Mannis stepped into Democratic East Knoxville last week to officially open his campaign office at 900 East Hill Avenue where he was welcomed by many of his supporters.

Mannis was introduced by former Commissioner Sam McKenzie who said that Thomas "Tank" Strickland, who is hospitalized, sent his well wishes and endorsement of Mannis.

Mannis said he is committed to the future of East Knoxville and Downtown Knoxville. The HonorAir founder has a history of progressive positions and support of community projects. He said he has served on the Zoo Knoxville board for eight years and added, "There is so much potential in East Knoxville, so much opportunity in Chilhowee Park and East Towne Mall."

"I want to be intentional with our focus on East Knoxville and complete the Magnolia Corridor all the way through," he said.

"But I can't do it all alone. It takes smart decisions and I'll listen to what you say and take it into consideration," Mannis said, adding, "When we decide we'll do it collectively."

"Let's move Knoxville forward, I promise I will do that," he said.

Following the opening of the campaign office the well-wishers dined on a full meal from Jackie's Dream restaurant. Mannis then headed out for a meeting of the Parkridge Community Organization for a discussion with residents there.

dedicated free to the Volunteer Ministry Center, who would then build and run the facility – attendees were free to voice their questions and comments.

The free-wheeling response was, to say the least, vocal and passionate. Some were in favor of the facility; more weren't. The animus of those opposed hinged primarily on developing land that was – and should stay – a part of Caswell Park.

At its monthly meeting on Thur., Oct 10, Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning took up the matter. At issue was whether to change the zoning designation from OS-2 (Park and Open Space) to RP-1 (Planned Residential). The original request was for designation RP-3, which would have allowed a higher density of housing units per acre.

As the Applicant, the City

years ago this site was placed in open space zoning, so we're dealing with a present open-space situation.

"The Community Development Department was approached by VMC as a potential site for permanent supportive housing. These supportive housing projects serve the neediest among us. Mayor Rogers has placed a high priority on both affordable housing and the challenge of homelessness. This project is the intersection of both of those challenges. This site is very well suited for the eventual use of permanent supportive housing. It has a history of residential use and underuse prior to the time of the purchase. It's within a block of a major bus line. The cost of the land won't be an issue (since the city owns it)."

Twenty or so members of the opposition wore matching T-shirts. Their spokes-

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By Steve Williams

Assistant coaches in high



having served as an assistant under eight head coach-