

1975

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ANNUAL REPORT 1975



ANNUAL MEETING
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
JULY 24, 1975

WELCOME

Mr. George Barnes, Jr.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. George M. Siler

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

*Mayor Kyle Testerman, City of Knoxville
Commissioner John Beeler, Knox County Board of Commissioners*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Lynn Weigel, Chairman, Nominating Committee

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ADMINISTRATION

CODE ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITY

Processed applications, advised applicants by mail of date of MPC Meeting and MPC action on request. Also reports to City Council, County Commission and Building Inspectors as appropriate on the following requests:

- REZONINGS - 149
- USE ON REVIEWS - 33
- VARIANCES - 49
- STREET NAME CHANGES - 13
- STREET & ALLEY CLOSURES - 24

SUBDIVISION PLATS PROCESSED

- Preliminary - 58 plats
- Final - 125 plats, 744 lots
- One Lot Subdivisions - 178

TOTAL LOTS - 922

- Zoning Ordinance Amendments Processed - 9
- Subdivision Regulation Amendments Processed - 2
- House Numbers Issued - 2,043
- Rechecking house numbers previously issued upon request and picked up - 1,580
- Signs posted for MPC - Board of Commissioners Hearings - 305
- Telephone calls (Zoning, use on review, variance, house numbers, misc. information)----- - 8,840

YEARLY REPORT OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

<u>Type of Petition or Matter</u>	<u>Number Approved</u>	<u>Number Denied</u>	<u>Number Postponed</u>
Rezoning petitions - City	41	25	15
Rezoning petitions - County	50	13	5
Use on Review petitions - City	17	5	6
Use on Review petitions - County	4	-0-	1
Variance petitions - City (only)	34	9	6
Request for Street Name changes - City	7	1	3
Request for Street Name changes - County	1	1	-0-
Request for Street-Alley closures-City	18	3	3
Request for Street-Alley closures-County	-0-	-0-	-0-
Subdivisions - Preliminary - City	5	1	-0-
Subdivisions - Preliminary - County	51	1	-0-
Subdivisions - Final - City	66	-0-	-0-
Subdivisions - Final - County	57	2	-0-
Number of lots - Final Subdivision - City	65	-0-	-0-
Number of lots - Final Subdivision-County	673	6	-0-
One Lot Subdivisions - City	35	-0-	-0-
One Lot Subdivisions - County	143	-0-	-0-
Amount of fees collected			\$21,770.70

PLANNING

GENERAL PLAN REVISION

During FY 1975 MPC completed the first phase of an overall revision of the county-wide General Plan. This revision, covering the western area of the county, established basic policy regarding development areas, industrial location, retention of open space, and the areas to which urban services should be provided. In addition to the Development Guidance Plan, twenty-two small area studies were prepared for the same area. These studies served the purpose of taking the general outlines of policy as delineated in the Development Guidance Plan and focusing very specifically on their implications for individual parcels of land. During this period input from citizens was requested and received in a variety of forums and formats.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (208)

One of the fundamental necessities identified by the General Plan is a need to thoroughly understand the inner workings and relationships which make up the support systems of an urban area. The Federal Government established the 1972 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address the national goals of: (1) elimination of discharge of pollutants into navigable waters by 1985; and (2) attainment by 1983 of water quality sufficient to protect fish and wildlife, and provide for recreation in and on the water.

Among the several provisions in the Act is Section 208, concerning Areawide Waste Treatment Management Planning. Local areas with significant urban-industrial water quality control problems are eligible to receive federal funding for performing areawide planning concerning water quality. The 208 planning process is directed toward:

- (a) Identifying point and non-point sources of pollution in the planning area (Knox County);
- (b) Assessing the impact upon water quality of all sources of pollution;
- (c) Identifying existing management/institutional systems which directly and indirectly affect water quality;
- (d) Identifying the effects of land use on water quality;
- (e) Formulating technical and non-technical alternatives which provide the most cost-effective means of attaining the water quality goals for Knox County;
- (f) Providing opportunities for participation in the planning process by all persons affected by the water quality management plan.

MPC was designated in mid-1974 as the 208 planning agency. Formal grant authority was given by EPA in November, 1974.

Since that time several members have been added to the MPC staff and three private consulting firms have been retained to carry out work in the areas of: water quality analysis, land capability studies, land use impacts, computer modeling of stormwater runoff, public participation, and management/institutional analysis.

WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLAN (201)

During the past year MPC served as a sub-contractor to the City of Knoxville on the 201 project. The Commission's area of responsibility was the projecting of population figures for the county and its sub-districts through the planning period. In addition, MPC was charged with the task of structuring the generalized land use plan for the planning period.

This project gave MPC the opportunity to establish closer working relations with many of the governmental and private organizations which were also involved in the broader 208 (Water Quality Management Plan).

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Planning the transportation system concerns all forms of passenger travel and freight movement. The objective of "multi-modal" transportation planning is to provide a total movement system with easy access between all forms of travel.

MPC is responsible for coordinating transportation planning for the Knoxville-Knox County area. MPC insures that the regulations and guidelines of the U.S. Department of Transportation are followed as a necessary requirement for receiving federal funds for transportation planning and construction. MPC administers the Technical Coordinating Committee which is structured to aid in achieving these objectives through its functions as a continuous review mechanism for transportation planning, by insuring that the various phases of the process are comprehensive in scope and by providing a forum which fosters greater cooperation among transportation planning agencies.

MPC prepared the annual Unified Work Program which identified and described all transportation related planning activities that are to be carried out over the upcoming year by all involved agencies. This document serves as a mechanism for greater coordination of planning activities and is a requirement for state and federal transportation funds.

MPC was involved in several specific programs in transportation planning. The surveillance program involved collecting and maintaining information on socio-economic data, travel activity and data on all transportation facilities to identify changes in the community which affect planning for the movement of people and goods. MPC has been involved in a cooperative

planning effort with the Tennessee Department of Transportation in preparing an update of the major thoroughfare plan for Knoxville-Knox County. A county-wide bikeways study was recently completed with recommended route locations and construction priorities. A study area boundary evaluation was completed recommending changes in the organizational structure for transportation planning. Work has also begun on a mass transit study for the area which is being funded by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

During the past year significant progress was established in understanding the county's recreational needs. This was evident in two principal areas: (1) plans and proposals completed by MPC, and (2) advice and assistance to community groups and other agencies involved in providing park and recreation services.

KNOX COUNTY PLAN FOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

The completion of this report marked the first time since 1961 that a comprehensive plan for this system was completed. The Recreation and Open Space Plan included a thorough description of recreation services in Knox County, a complete inventory of public and private recreation facilities, 15 year projection of needs and deficiencies, recommendations for park acquisition and development, and a capital improvement program and priority schedule.

As a result of the recommendations of the County Recreation Plan, a grant application was prepared and submitted to the state for a federal grant of \$256,000. This grant, to be used for acquisition and development of three parks in Knox County, represents the first application by Knox County for Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Funds.

KNOXVILLE PLAN FOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Approximately 50% completed during the last year, this plan will represent the same comprehensive evaluation of Knoxville's park and recreation system as was completed for Knox County.

ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

MPC has worked with a variety of city and county community groups, assisting them in understanding the park and recreation systems available to them and providing technical assistance as they develop plans and programs of their own.

MPC also participated and provided input on the following committees relative to park and recreation services:

Tennessee Bikeways Policy Advisory Committee - assisted in the preparation of the policy plan for the Bikeway Plan for Tennessee;

Knoxville Bikeway Advisory Committee - provided input relative to park and recreation services to the Knoxville Bikeway Study;

Knox County Community School Recreation Committee - provided advisory assistance in the development of recreation proposals for inclusion in the new Farragut High School development;

E.T.D.D. Recreation Advisory Committee - provided input and assistance to the development of the E.T.D.D. Recreation Plan - still in progress;

Tennessee Valley Authority Valley Recreation Plan - provided advice and assistance to the Recreation Planning Section in their development of a Recreation Planning Section in their development of a Recreation Capability Classification and a general Recreation Plan for Knox County.

HEALTH PLANNING

Health planning should be an integral part of comprehensive planning for a community. Health care plans must be coordinated with plans to meet other community goals and objectives in order to assure orderly growth and development.

Several agencies and organizations in Knox County and East Tennessee are involved in health care planning: Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Knox County Public Health Department, Knox County Health Planning Council, East Tennessee Health Planning Council. These agencies are cooperating in the development of an areawide comprehensive health plan.

The Knox County Health Planning Council was asked to submit priority health problems in Knox County to be incorporated into an areawide comprehensive plan. MPC, in cooperation with the University of Tennessee's Department of Public Health Administration, has been conducting a study to assess the health care needs and priorities for the community by obtaining input from health care providers--hospital administrators, nursing home administrators, community service agency personnel.

Preliminary findings from surveying the health care providers and from small group discussions involving providers and consumers indicate that adequate health care is a high priority community goal for the residents of Knox County.

Health agencies, health planners and consumers require more information about the whole range of health problems, needs, services and possibilities in order to plan effectively for Knox County health programs and facilities. With the assistance of an intern from the University of Tennessee, MPC and the Knox County Health Planning Council have conducted a survey to inventory and evaluate the information being collected by various agencies.

Health planning is a continuous process with an overall objective of planning to serve the health needs of the people in our area.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Capital Improvements Programs were prepared for both the city and county during the past year. In both the city and county CIP's the Transportation Program received increased emphasis which reflects the expanded attention being given this support system. Some format changes were incorporated into the city's program in order to facilitate their budgetary process.

In the county CIP the Park and Recreation Plan was used to expand and define the recreation priorities.

Detailed and summary reports of both CIP's were made available to governmental and private organizations, the press, and individuals.

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation qualifies as a basic tool for realistic plans and as a specific requirement for many programs. Building on the experience of developing the General Plan revision and in all small area studies, MPC is seeking through the forum of the Continuing Community Conference to structure a comprehensive participation process.

The purpose of the Continuing Community Conference is to provide an ongoing, open forum where citizens, community organizations, agencies and public officials can communicate by exchanging information, ideas, and concerns.

As a community institution, the Conference can become a major way to bring the various community groups and individual citizens together with the agencies and elected officials who serve them. It is envisioned that Conference sessions, such as the one held in June at the University Center, will be convened on a regular basis several times a year.

The Conference sessions can focus on current issues, proposals, and ongoing projects of interest to the various groups and individuals in Knoxville and Knox County. These might include proposed street plans, health care facilities, housing, air and water pollution problems, land use, future area development and many other topics.

CONSULTATION

Substantial activity occurred during the year consulting with individuals, development companies and other agencies on matters relative to development of the community. These activities included interpreting the general plan and pointing out the relationship between specific proposals and the objectives of the plan for the community.