



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Community Workshop Scheduled to Discuss Oakwood Design Guidelines

Knoxville, Tennessee – January 21, 2020 - A meeting to discuss a historic overlay district for a portion of the Oakwood Neighborhood has been scheduled for January 30, 2020. The meeting will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Emerald Youth Foundation at 1718 N. Central St. The meeting location can be accessed on the side of the building fronting E. Oak Hill Avenue. The area in question is defined by the boundaries of E. Morelia Avenue, Harvey Street, E. Oldham Avenue, and N. Central Street.

The Oakwood-Lincoln Park Neighborhood added an Infill Housing Design Guideline Overlay in 2007 in an attempt to help preserve the area, but it does not protect historic structures from being demolished, nor guide exterior rehabilitation on existing houses. In the fall of 2016, Knoxville City Council requested that Knoxville-Knox County Planning make a recommendation for an overlay for the neighborhood in an effort to help preserve and protect it. Additional public meetings have been held by both Planning staff and the Oakwood Design Overlay Committee since the spring of 2018.

The Oakwood Design Overlay Committee has been working with Planning staff to draft design guidelines that are intentionally flexible and were written specifically to fit the range of architectural styles and construction materials used in the neighborhood. For the past two months, the committee has hosted four open house meetings to include more people from the neighborhood in the process. This workshop will build off those efforts, providing residents with an opportunity to learn more about the design guidelines and offer input.

Under a Historic Overlay, a Certificate of Appropriateness would be required to obtain building permits for new construction, additions, demolition, and exterior rehabilitation work. The proposed overlay will be reviewed by the Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council in the coming months.

For more information, contact Lindsay Crockett at lindsay.crockett@knoxplanning.org or visit the project page on Planning's website at <https://knoxmpc.org/historic/areas/oakwood/>. The draft design guidelines may also be reviewed on the project page.

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Knoxville-Knox County Planning

Knoxville-Knox County Planning (formerly Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission) was established in 1956 by Knoxville and Knox County as the agency responsible for comprehensive county-wide planning and administration of zoning and land subdivision regulations and remains so today (except for the town of Farragut). Funding comes primarily from city and county appropriations and from federal grants for specific studies. The agency

prepares and adopts a general plan, reviews subdivision regulations and site plans, prepares and recommends zoning ordinances and maps to the Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council, reviews proposed zoning amendments, and prepares a capital improvements plan for the City of Knoxville. For more information, visit our website at knoxplanning.org.