

## **Island Home Park Neighborhood Association**

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Home of Matt Park

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by President Matthew Park.

### **Present:**

**Officers:** President-Matt Park, Vice President-Nancy Campbell, Secretary-Jeanne Fair; Treasurer-Mary Wiginton.

**Board Members:** Jeannette Bouchard, Katie Graham, Bill Hahnemann, Katie Hannah, Lisa Horn, Ally Ketron, Robyn McAdoo, Stewart Smith, Windsor Wall

**Unable to attend:** Rob Borsari, Tommy Smith-City Council.

### **New Board Member – Matt**

Due to the death of Ed Dildine, Matt suggested we vote to have Katie Graham fill his place on the board. The motion was made/seconded- BH/JB and passed. Katie will now be a member of the IHPNA Board.

### **Minutes – Jeanne Fair**

The September minutes were distributed.

Motion to Approve the Minutes – BH/JB - Approved

### **Treasurer's Report –Mary Wiginton**

Mary gave out a copy of the Treasurer's Report.

Discussion:

A motion was made to raise the money allocation for the Easter activities to \$200.

KH/LH. Passed.

SKNBC dues – Lisa Horn needs the check for \$25.00 to pay our dues.

Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve the report – LH/NC. Passed

**Carol Evans** – Executive Director of Legacy Parks came to talk with us about the upcoming additions to South Knoxville.

***Below is the statement released by the City of Knoxville which covers most of what Carol talked with us about.***

Gulf & Ohio Railways announced that it has applied for abandonment of its 3.8-mile rail line in South Knoxville with the intent of offering the rail line property to the City of Knoxville and Legacy Parks Foundation for a unique greenway project that will run from Chapman Highway to Ijams Nature Center.

This rail-to-trail conversion will also feature a 1.5-mile Art Walk created by Legacy Parks Foundation.

“As the area has changed, rail traffic has declined, we saw this unique opportunity for a rail-to-trail project within sight of the City County Building, extending all the way to Meade’s Quarry at Ijams Nature Center. Gulf & Ohio is contributing the property to help Knoxville continue to be one of best places to live in America,” said Pete Claussen, Gulf & Ohio Railways chairman.

Legacy Parks has been coordinating with Gulf & Ohio Railways for the past nine years on a trail that would parallel the tracks, a “rail with trail.” This “rail to trail” option now offered by Gulf & Ohio will allow the tracks to be removed and a hard surface trail to be constructed. The trail will be uniquely urban and wilderness – bordering the restaurants and breweries along Sevier Avenue, traveling through a captivating tunnel and gorgeous canyon and over two elevated bridges.

Gulf & Ohio began the process by filing for abandonment of the rail line in mid-December. Following approval by the Surface Transportation Board (STB), they will remove the track and railroad ties and donate the property to the City of Knoxville to construct the trail. The STB allows a year for the development of a rail-to-trail plan.

“We are so excited to be able to take this project to the next level,” said Mayor Indya Kincannon. “Creating this trail and making this a part of our expansive greenway system will help increase connectivity in our City and truly make this another must-see destination in South Knoxville.

“The trail’s proximity to restaurants, businesses and Ijams Nature Center will also help increase foot traffic and boost business in the area. This unique trail is a great complement to all the City’s investments in South Knoxville and is a win-win for residents and visitors, alike.”

South Knoxville businesses and residents echo this observation.

"We are delighted that South Knoxville is leading the way with the first art trail in Knoxville thanks to the vision of Legacy Parks and others. This is sure to be a well-used trail and will bring visitors to experience our lovely area south of the river. This announcement is particularly exciting because the trail will be more accessible for all to enjoy," stated Janice Tocher, Co-Chair of South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition.

Earlier this year, Legacy Parks announced a \$1 million gift from the Lawson Family Foundation for an Art Walk on the trail, concentrated between Kerns Food Hall and Island Home Park neighborhood. The Art Walk will showcase unique, diverse and engaging art installations, creating a world-class cultural and recreational destination.

"This Art Walk will promote the power of art as integral to – and not separate from – other experiences. It will celebrate both the incredible creative talent we have in this community as well as the exceptional outdoor amenities," Carol Evans, Executive Director of Legacy Parks, explained.

***Here is another bit of information from the City Website:***

The planned trail promises a balanced mixture of urban and wilderness elements, cozying up against eateries and breweries along Sevier Avenue, while also snaking through an impressive tunnel and a stunning canyon, supported by two elevated bridges. This transformation has been baking for nine years, where initially, Legacy Parks planned to develop a trail running alongside the rail line.

According to Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, making such infrastructural strides signifies the city's commitment to enhancing connectivity and creating a vibrant south Knoxville. "The trail's proximity to restaurants, businesses and Ijams Nature Center will also help increase foot traffic and boost business in the area," [Kincannon told the City of Knoxville](#). Local businesses and community members welcomed the development, with Janice Tocher, Co-Chair of South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition, expressing excitement about the trail becoming a new conduit for visitors to experience the charm south of the river.

Carol did add that some of the Art Walk would be on private property so Legacy Parks will be working with those landowners to get permission to use their land. Legacy Parks will work with the communities near the trail to get input for the Art Walk and to take input on ideas of how to best cross Fisher Avenue. The greenway will be maintained by the City of Knoxville.

**City Council** – Tommy Smith was unable to attend but Karyn Adams came to talk to us about her candidacy for City Council District 1 which Tommy will be ending due to term limits.

Karyn is running for City Council to put her extensive experience in planning, transportation, housing, and neighborhood advocacy to work for the people of South Knoxville and Fort Sanders.

A native Tennessean, Karyn attended Agnes Scott College before moving to Knoxville in 1992 to complete her studies at the University of Tennessee.

She met her husband, Bruce Cole, at the Tomato Head when she worked there and were both living in Fort Sanders. Through the years, Karyn and Bruce have both contributed to downtown's reactivation by sharing their vision of an alive and vibrant downtown. After getting married, they moved south of the river to Lindbergh Forest where they raised their two sons. They soak up every chance to bike, walk, and enjoy the recreational activities Knoxville has to offer. Karyn is a small business owner, specializing in marketing and communications. Pursuing her passion for public service over the past two decades, Karyn has tackled some of Knoxville's biggest challenges while also being a steward of our city's growth and transformation.

As a 22-year South Knoxville resident, Karyn cherishes our community's history, spirit, and diversity. She knows South Knoxville isn't special just by accident. Karyn will be a progressive voice for consensus and smart growth, steering our community through transition with compassion and thoughtful planning.

As a neighborhood organizer and nonprofit leader, Karyn has come to love the active and unique neighborhoods in the 1st District. She's never stood on the sidelines in the fight for positive change in our community: Karyn is a former president of the Ijams Nature Center Board and serves as the Lindbergh Forest neighborhood representative on the South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition (SKNBC). South Knoxville has some of the most engaged neighborhoods in the city, and Karyn will be a leader who listens and responds diligently to each of their specific needs.

Serving as a Planning Commissioner, Karyn has been a voice for affordability, strong neighborhoods, community input, and better bike/walk connectivity options. She also guided the inaugural Missing Middle Plan (ensuring milestones for ongoing review and improvements) to diversify our housing stock while preserving the unique character of each neighborhood. On City Council, Karyn will fight to make housing more affordable, create safer streets for all commuters, and balance our city's growth with the needs of Knoxville's current residents.

Karyn is running to contribute to Knoxville's progress – to preserve its unique spirit while guiding its growth toward a more vibrant and sustainable future for all of us.

### **Social Committee – Jeannette**

Natasha Schwinn will again be our **Marathon Chairperson**. The marathon is on **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers are needed so please sign up to help when you get Natasha's ema

**Egg Hunt** – Christy Kennedy will again be in charge of the Annual Egg Hunt at the park on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Volunteers will be needed to help hide the eggs.

**Porch Hops** – Updated by Lisa Horn's email 3/18/25. Please note the time is back to 6pm-9pm.

Lisa Horn will continue to be the Chairperson of the Porch Hop events. (affectionately known as the Pork Chops). There was some discussion about changing to name to give it a "fresh, new look", but Lisa has decided to leave it as Porch Hops.

The Porch Hops are from 6pm – 9pm. They are BYOB.

The Porch Hops are adult only except for the Martin's Porch Hop which will be family friendly.

There is a \$150 stipend for our Porch Hop Hosts to help defray the costs.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** will be the first Porch Hop will be hosted by Krista & Michael Jordon's - 2134 Island Home Boulevard from 6pm –9pm.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Porch Hop hosted by Katie & Po Hannah – 2218 Fisher Place

**July 25<sup>th</sup>** – Porch Hop hosted by Megan & Mike Martin – 2247 Maplewood Drive – **Family Friendly.**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Porch Hop hosted by Annabel & Don Henley – 2009 Willis Place

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** –The final Porch Hop hosted by Kathy & Joey Brown – 2129 Spence Place

### **Membership Drive – Matt**

It is time for the annual membership drive. Windsor Wall and Katie Graham have agreed to head up the committee. Nancy Campbell will send them copies of what was distributed in the past membership drives. A flyer will be developed, printed and distributed by the Governors for each section of the neighborhood.

### **Directory – Matt**

Jeanne and Mary have most of the information for the new directory and Claire has made the rough draft. We still need updated information from some people and new information on people new to Island Home Park. Matt will send out a "last call" for information to be put in the directory. We need to have it printed and ready to distribute to dues paying members at the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic.

### **Airport Committee – Matt**

Matt talked with Senator Massey about the relocation of the Sheriff's Department from the Downtown Island Airport. She said she would look into it.

As stated previously, the airport committee met with the airport managers with a list of two main things to discuss: changing the flight pattern and noise abatement. Both suggestions were met with a resounding no. Stewart suggested trying to come up with events that might change the mindset of the pilots - something to help them have a better connection with our neighborhood.

Currently the Airport Authority is focused on McGhee Tyson airport with all the expansion and renovation. Currently, the Downtown Island Airport is not a priority **to the MKAA**. Matt will talk with Tommy Smith to see if the City Council can legally make any changes to the airport.

**Update** – Bill Hahnemann

### **Graffiti – Nancy Campbell**

Nancy suggested we consider sending a letter to the Sevier Avenue Merchants Association asking them to use less graffiti on the buildings and change to some other genres of art. No action was taken.

### **Memorial Plaques - Jeannette**

Jeannette suggested we think about doing something special in memory of Ed Dildine – a board member who passed away while serving on the board. One suggestion was putting small plaques at the top of the park or by the trees on the boulevard like they do in Sequoyah Hills. Windsor's mom lives in Sequoyah Hills so she will get more information about their procedures for buying/placing the plaques. Currently we donate to Ijam Nature Center each year in memory of neighbors who have died during the year.

**Update** – Nancy found out the tree plaque program at Sequoyah Hills is currently suspended because it was so successful and there are too many plaques.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15pm

