



KNOXVILLE SOUTH WATERFRONT Monthly Newsletter

Website Information:

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www.cityofknoxville.org/southwaterfront

St. Mary's / Baptist Hospital Merger

The merger of St. Mary's and Baptist health systems was finalized on January 1st, 2008, and is currently under the oversight an 18-member board of trustees - 10 members from St. Mary's and eight from Baptist. The president and CEO of the merged board is Debra London, and the board chair is Mintha Roach. On January 22nd, the entity formed by the merger of St. Mary's and Baptist health systems announced that the umbrella organization will now be called Mercy Health Partners. The health system's facilities, including St. Mary's Medical Center and Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, will retain their individual names.

Independent consultant Heath Care Futures (suburban Chicago, IL) has been hired on a six-month contract to develop a strategic plan to guide the merging of the hospital companies' operations and determine how to spend capital dollars at its facilities. By summer 2008, we may have a better idea of how the Baptist Hospital facility on the river will be affected by the merger. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Property Closing

Camden Management Partners recently closed on the purchase of 12 acres of land directly to the west of the Island Home Park Neighborhood columns, between Island Home Avenue and Hillwood Drive. We expect that discussions regarding site design and public improvements support to start in earnest in the next few months.

Newsletter Mailing Options

There are several ways to receive and access the newsletter. Anyone who has e-mail is encouraged to send a request to sbass@cityofknoxville.org to be added to the SW distribution list and receive an e-mail version. It is also posted as a PDF on the website, or you may remain on the mailing list for a paper copy. To remove or modify your information from either the e-mail or the mailing list, call 865-215-4545.

Upcoming Meetings

Councilman Joe Hultquist has scheduled a Quarterly Public Meeting to discuss South Waterfront implementation progress, to be held on **Wednesday, February 20th, at 6:00 PM, at the South Knoxville Elementary School.** Please attend to hear about ongoing projects. We will also field any questions that you may have.

The KCDC Board will meet on **Thursday, February 28th, at 11:30 AM, in the KCDC Board Room, 901 Broadway NE.** Approvals may be requested for two South Waterfront agenda items: (1) the Vaughn & Melton contract for final design of the Lincoln Street / River Road street project, and (2) plans, specifications, and budget for the Cityview public improvements.

The February 2008 South Waterfront Advisory Board meeting is on **Thursday, February 28th, 2008 at 5:30 PM, in the KCDC Board Room, 901 Broadway NE.** All meetings of the advisory board are open to the public.

Sometimes meeting times and places change. Please continue to check the South Waterfront Website for meeting updates between newsletters.

Public Improvements Update:

Vaughn & Melton, a local civil engineering firm, has been selected as the project lead for the Lincoln Street / River Road street improvements. Other team members include Carol R. Johnson Associates (landscape architecture), Vreeland Engineers, Inc. (electrical engineering), and The O'Hanlon Group (lighting). Contract negotiations have started, and we anticipate that a final scope of work and contract will be presented to the KCDC Board for approval on February 28th.

The deadline for submittals by consultants interested in the final design of the River Plain Park Improvements was February 15th. A selection committee will begin evaluating the submittals immediately afterward. We will let you know of a firm has been selected in next month's newsletter.

We are also in the process of amending the current contract with Hargreaves Associates. A cost savings of \$165,000 is anticipated, and we are looking to redirect some of the funding for a bicycle network plan, to develop detailed specifications for elements such as lighting, riverbank stabilization, and plant selections, and to hold some funding in reserve for future consultation.

February Staff Activities

Staff expects to spend a majority of available time getting the street design contract with Vaughn & Melton approved, and to assist in the selection of the River Plain Park final design consultant team. Both design projects will include public meetings as part of the contract, although we expect the park design project to have more extensive public involvement than the street design contract. We are also continuing to work with Hargreaves Associates to obtain property owner approvals in advance of the TVA / US Army Corp of Engineers permit expected to be submitted in March. We also expect to send a memorandum to City Council, informing them that the lack of any significant development activity has prevented any productive review of the South Waterfront Development Code (an annual review is required in February 2008).

Neighborhood Beat

This section of the newsletter provides information concerning ongoing construction work relating to the South Waterfront. Some of these items will be listed here for several consecutive editions.

- KUB is going to be conducting annual vegetation management in South Knox, so you will likely see tree trimming trucks in your neighborhoods.
- Soil borings and environmental surveys for several Public Improvement projects will begin as soon as signed right of entry letters are returned to the City.
- Dredging for the Cityview marina continues, as permitted by TVA and the USACE.
- Survey stakes will begin to appear in the areas around Lincoln Street and north of Langford Avenue in the near future, hopefully during the 1st week of March.

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