



Observer Reporting Form

Table with 4 columns: Feature Evaluated, Yes, No, Comments. Rows include: Meeting started on time?, All members present?, Members attentive?, Did members appear to have done their "homework?", Were members courteous to each other and the public?, Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?, Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?, Adequate opportunity for public input?, Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?, Was background information available to the public?, Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? LWVKKC has taken a position supporting the adoption of this plan which is relevant to our Landuse position. LWVKKC has joined a coalition of other organizations supporting the plan; Jamey Dobbs read a statement of support during the public forum. MPC gave a presentation on goals and merits of the plan emphasizing use of current, more accurate technology practices (GIS) to determine slopes and watershed areas and incentives/density bonuses for developers. MPC also addressed some misconceptions regarding how the plan would affect property rights stating that the plan does not change owner use or zoning of any property. An alternative plan was presented by Mike Edwards of the Knoxville Chamber. The Chamber is in opposition to the plan. The Chamber agrees with the goals of the plan but does not agree with the way the plan wants to accomplish the goals. The Chamber recommends a comprehensive review of existing regulations to determine new regulations & codes for ridgetop development. Council member Palmer asked Mr. Edwards why the Chamber not attend any of the 9 public forums after the development of this plan to express their concerns. Mr. Edwards did not answer her question but did say that the Chamber was not on the task force. During public forum, 3 spoke in opposition to the plan, primarily stating that the plan would increase property values and discourage development. 3 spoke in support of the plan, representatives from the Sierra Club, LWVKKC & the Knoxville Tree Board. Mr. Vandergriff of the Tree Board, in response to the plan discouraging development of lower income housing said while serving on the task force, he clearly remembers that two of the developers on the task force saying that they did not feel lower income development would be affected by this plan because they do not develop lower income housing on slopes now because it is too expensive to do so.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Appeal to League Members to attend the May 17th City Council meeting and read statement of support of the plan before the vote to adopt the plan.

Observer: Barbara Nicodemus Meeting: Hillside & Ridgetop Protection Plan City Workshop Date: 04/28/11