



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	y		
All members present?		n	Absent: Ownby
Members attentive?	y		
Did members appear to have done their "homework"?	y		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	y		
Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?	y		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	y		
Adequate opportunity for public input?	y		
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		n	
Was background information available to the public?		n	Donaldson's suggested revisions were posted on the MPC website a few days after his presentation.
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	y		

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?

MPC director Mark Donaldson presented his staff's analysis of the Chamber's Plan B during a County Commission work session. He said it was "fatally flawed" because of conflicts with the Knoxville-Farragut-Knox Co Growth Policy Plan. He said it would require amendments to that plan, which is an "odious" process that includes the state legislature. He also noted that it contained features the Chamber had criticized in the original plan, including regulatory language, and "provides authority to agencies that do not currently have that authority." That last criticism was something the League mentioned at the prior meeting.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?

Donaldson laid out a plan for moving forward, and the Chamber endorsed his suggestions. He has incorporated compromises to clearing guidelines that Commissioner Norman proposed during the facilitated sessions, added an appendix enumerating Councilman Della Volpe's suggestions, and added a third section outlining the process for incorporating the plan into city and county ordinances. None of the Chamber's changes were incorporated, but this third section addresses their concerns about perceived uncertainties, and Chamber attorney Tom McAdams said, "The MPC plan is far better. We are very pleased."

Public notice has been given for Commission to endorse these changes at its November 21 meeting and Council at its November 29 meeting, with a final joint session before then to make sure both bodies are in agreement. MPC would be able to approve the amended plan at its December 8 meeting, and Council and Commission could adopt the plan in January. League presence at all these meetings will be necessary.

Other Concerns:

Commissioners Norman, McKenzie and Broyles all expressed concerns about the Chamber disrupting the process and presenting a deeply flawed plan. Norman said the intrusion was “an affront to everybody who worked on this.”

Observer: Rikki Hall Meeting: MPC report to County Commission on Chamber's Plan B Date: 10/17/11