

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**August 18, 2009**

**5:00 P.M.**

Councilwoman Scott, Chairman, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order with Councilmen Murphy, Benson, Ladd, Robinson, and Gilbert present. Councilmen McGary and Berz joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

### **CIVIL WAR GIS DATABASE**

**Ms. Kay Harris with Friends of the Parks** was present, explaining that Friends of the Parks was a coalition of non-profit organization, including TPL and the Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association. She was present to give a briefing on a Federal Government grant that would add a Civil War map to our GIS System. Some of this endeavor is educational and it is also part of our economics. Our national parks encompass 9,100 acres and one million people come to Chattanooga to experience the Civil War—they eat and sleep here, spending \$40 million dollars a year, so this is good business for Chattanooga and a new layer to help people know more about the Civil War. This grant is very specific and allows places that need to be preserved to be kept and provides a tool that allows our community to be smarter and engage in cost-effective development. She emphasized that we needed to be careful in the area of preservation versus development. She introduced **Josh Boutwell of Alexander Archaeological Consultants, Inc.**, who was going to show a GIS site and layer. Due to a technological problem, Mr. Boutwell was unable to show his video but stated that he would create a disk for each Councilperson to view.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.