

2nd Avenue Listening Session (ROOM 10)

2/17 Session Notes

Moderator: Michelle Scopel

Note Taker: Jhennifer A. Amundson and Miranda Clements

Introductions of each participant and what brings them to meeting (5 mins.)

- CM Burkley Allen
- Miranda Clements
- Kim Hawkins
- Clay Petrey
- John Archer
- Blythe Semmer

Do you have a favorite memory/experience from the 2nd Avenue area? (10 mins.)

- Birthday parties at the Melting Pot
- Family events
- Food
- Fantastic bookstore (back in the 80s); felt like a neighborhood; everyone knew each other
- Windows on the Cumberland
- Welcome-to-Nashville walking tour
- Work: visiting CDC

What makes the 2nd Avenue area unique? What are key characteristics to keep in mind as we move forward (12 mins.)

- Scale and character of historic architecture
- Brick sidewalks
- Facades
- ATT building never fit in; blessing in disguise to replace it?
- Detail on east side—older side of the street (west side, “cut off” buildings)
- West side lacks detail; not as much to save over there.

What changes could make the 2nd Avenue area a better place? (12 mins.)

- Sidewalk dining
- Replace ATT & parking garage
- Get rid of on-street parking. Benefit pedestrians. Get rid of traffic all together?
- Promote pedestrian activity

- Vendors on sidewalks in front of ATT (if we can't make it go away). Buskers?
- Shallow liner in front of ATT—making shallow storefronts
- Link to 1st ave. somehow; 1st ave. feels like a different world
- Add a plaque to explain what Nashville went through in the last year

What would you like to be able to experience in the 2nd Avenue area? Do you have any thoughts on opportunities or aspirations to consider? (12 mins.)

- More activity
- Banker's alley: make it more useable. Break up the long block.
- Similar traditional architecture, trees, etc.; basically rebuilding the historic part
- Build something like San Antonio Riverwalk: a "refuge" from lower Broadway: a place for residents, not tourists
- Variety to meet daily needs—serve the people who live/work there
- Shade!!!

What do you think are the biggest obstacles to overcome? (12 mins.)

- Making sure out-of-town owners feel as connected to rebuilding effort
- Our own imaginations—or lack thereof.
- Physical obstacles: the "big boxes" that really don't belong there in the first place
- Zoning issues—are the historic protections strong enough?
- So much value per SF: huge demand to go tall; break character of the street—actually \$ incentives to demolish?

How should this area feel in relation to the river? (10 mins.)

- Make more connections
- Backs of buildings shouldn't face the river
- Dining right on the river would be great—less traffic, overlooks the water

What did we not ask you that you would like to discuss more or learn more about? (8 mins.)

- 2nd ave. lacked "vibrancy". Loss of business already before the terror attack.
- We need to focus on activity that will draw people on a daily basis.

Group 10 Notes – Miranda and Michelle

Mirandas notes:

"* Special family events at restaurants (prom, birthday parties, etc.) at Mere Bull, Windows on the Cumberland, Melting Pot, etc.

- * 1980s- Used to be more of a neighborhood where everyone knew each other; book store, hardware store, plant store, local restaurants, etc.
- * Working at Civic Design Center when it first located to Butler's Run;
- * New Year's Eve 1999 at Mere Bull's;
- * Not a favorite memory but remembered the controversial high rise proposal in the 1980s that followed with the building on the proposed site burning down and replaced with a parking lot - resulted in acknowledgement of the architectural/historical significance of 2nd Avenue & efforts to preserve.

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- "* Old buildings, brick sidewalks, fine grain scale and character, trees, scale of buildings; 3 story brick turn of the century Victorian commercial buildings; pedestrian activity & space
- * Local brick work unique to Nashville; vernacular architecture and detailing that distinguishes us from other cities; we need to be overt about this history, tell the story of the city not only for tourists but for all of us; make it vibrant for locals
- * Bring in businesses that understand the character of Nashville"

- "* Vendors on sidewalks in front of AT&T building to activate what is a dead zone
- * The blank, bland walls of the ""big box"" buildings on the west side of the street need to be activated on the street level through shallow liners (15-18' deep);
- * Think of small tapas type restaurants - rows of little shops & restaurants (like in Spain, India)
- * Plaque or memorial commemorating what Nashville has been through
- * Less space devoted to storage of cars & more to people, but allow cars to drive along 2nd Avenue to keep it activated."

- "* Diversity of uses - not all the same type of restaurants but more diversity - make it a destination for locals - quieter, healthier food, somewhere locals can go & enjoy as opposed to the more touristy, honky tonk type atmosphere of Broadway.
- * Outdoor restaurants on both 2nd and 1st Avenues
- * More services for people living there
- * Locally owned restaurants and shops rather than chains"

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- "* Needs to be connected visually and functionally
- * Buildings along First Avenue need to be activated
- * Very long bock from Commerce to Church - how to get passageways that could connect

people to the river (like Butler's Run); Banker's Alley?

* Two fronted buildings - attractive entrances on 2nd and 1st (while respecting historical character & function of working aspect of rear facades on 1st)

* Trash collection strategy for First Avenue

* Park on riverfront needs to more activation - great opportunity

* Celebrate interesting history of riverfront/wharf/working character of buildings on 1st & connection to river

* Outdoor restaurants "

"* Silver lining in tragedy – sadness/loss – something has been lost – this may be a way to recapture that with guidance and leadership to set parameters for memories to be enlivened again.

* Development rights - property owners restricted by historic district guidelines can sell development rights to help offset (height).

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GROUP 10 - Michelle Scopel (GHP), Miranda (Planning)

- Introductions of each participant and what brings them to meeting (5 mins.)
- Do you have a favorite memory/experience from the 2nd Avenue area? (10 mins.)
 - *Memories :Family Events, Windows on Cumberland, Bookstore, Neighborhood feel, historic district to preserve, Work*
 - *Melting Pot, Spaghetti Factory, Mere Bull, Lorel – not chain restaurants*
- What makes the 2nd Avenue area unique? What are key characteristics to keep in mind as we move forward (12 mins.)
 - *Favorites & Characteristics: 3 story buildings, bricks, opportunity to change ATT bldg, East side of street detail, trees, pedestrian activity*
- What changes could make the 2nd Avenue area a better place? (12 mins.)
 - *Changes: add sidewalk dining, more pedestrian spaces, vendors in front of ATT?, activate the block with liners, add (small) storefronts to the deadspace, do something to better 1st Av (gang trash collection) like a living alley with a passageway (Butlers)*
 - *Memorial to commemorate*
 - *Brick, trees, greenery*
 - **Diversity of Uses** - *Keep it local, shops, sitting, more for the locals*
 - *Like Riverwalk in San Antonio*
 - **Destination for Locals**
- What would you like to be able to experience in the 2nd Avenue area? Do you have any thoughts on opportunities or aspirations to consider? (12 mins.)

- Diversity of Uses, Shade Trees, Brick/Detailed Sidewalks, **Historic Charm**, Brick detail and resilience,
- A way to recapture the old memories
- What do you think are the biggest obstacles to overcome? (12 mins.)
 - *Obstacles: Our own imaginations, lots of building owners, costs, historic restrictions, Economic Development*
- How should this area feel in relation to the river? (10 mins.)
 - *River: create pathways to 1st to connect to the river like Butler's run, 2 faces to the buildings instead of*
- What did we not ask you that you would like to discuss more or learn more about? (8 mins.)
 - *Other:*