

2nd Avenue Listening Session: Group 5

2/17 Session Notes

Moderator: Eric Hammer

Note Taker: Taylor Young

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

- Eric Hammer, Metro Planning – moderator for this group
- Taylor Young, Civic Design Center – Research Associate, also on as a constituent since we are affected by the bomb, as well as a residential perspective since I used to live on 2nd Ave.
- Lee Davis – Esa
- Janet Kurtz – Resident, 3rd and Church, Husband used to live in the Quarters...this is her neighborhood, very special place for her and household
- Carol Pedigo – American Institute of Architects, Mid TN chapter, 176 building...on 2nd, 2nd ave was in resurgence in 90s, urban design and urban planning and what Nashville can be. Very personal. CDC, Planning can come together and make it more vibrant than it ever has be
- Laura Beene – Esa, Architect, Historic projects and Nashville native (is personal), seeing what we can do is important. Tourism – not just for the tourists but also for the locals, invested
- Kim Carpenter Drake – Mid TN donors forum. Role of philanthropy and connectivity moving forward
- Lucy Kempf – Metro Planning (Executive Director), here to listen ☺
- Bryard Huggins – Music Professional, Producer/Recorder (smooth jazz??) in Nash, native, devastating...personal, architecture and civic design and city planning.
- Geert D...- Nashville Post, spent plenty of time on 2nd ave
- Mark Robin – couldn't join
- Eben Cathey - ????
- A number joined – 615-678-6899 – Mark Robbin called in!!!!

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

- Lee Davis – 1st memory of 2nd ave, staying downtown at Bennie Dillon, went to 2nd because Broadway was for tourists. Fun place to spend his 20s in...also got an offer from Esa shortly after
- Carol Pedigo – Live musicians, Barge launch, the Southern Book Fair and FanFare (concerts), community bringing forward to celebrate
- Janet Kurtz – Having wonderful memories of dinner at friends on 2nd ave, fun fellowship on 2nd ave
- Bryard Huggins – As a younger person who doesn't like to go out as much, we would go to 2nd ave, is quaint, going to Spaghetti Factory, going to Lazor Quest, adult BDAY go to BB Kings, **heart**

of nashville, as a local – means a lot to be on this panel to get it back to where it needs to be. Its where you get your bearings, it is important.

- Lucy Kempf – Walking on 1st and 2nd, was so special, I'd like to plan here.

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

- Lee Davis – lots of people understand that 2nd ave is the only true historic block that Nashville has done a good job of maintaining and upkeeping. The history, and keeping what we have represented down there.
- Eric Hammer – Historic Architecture
- Laura Beene – The architectural character helped establish and enhance the character of the street. Enhanced the activity. Pedestrian activity. Critical to that zone and enhancement of that character. Scale of the buildings relative to the street – felt comfortable.
- Bryard Huggins – did undergrad in Cincinnati – Nashville does not have a lot of older districts still intact. Nods to historical charm. Founders of our city made the bones in that area. Making sure that is preserved and kept.
- Janet Kurtz – For a downtown area and attached to a Broadway entertainment district, even though it is its own entertainment district, it has great walkability. The lighting is great, feels great when you are outside and has a great flow to it. Great for walking your dog. In the mornings you would see people running, and there was a lively hood of visibility. Residents and tourists would both use.
- Lucy – Question to Janet – do you feel like 2nd ave had more residents earlier on for downtown than other areas??? Yes. Condos there in the mid 70s. The quarters were in the 80s. Janet joined in 2006, had about 6k residents in downtown area. More dogs than residents!!!!!!
- Lucy would like to probe on the proportion question – when visioning...need to have the element of the physical environment to protect. Want to make sure we protect that.
- Carol Pedigo – The walkability is one thing, but sunshine and daylight!!! You are a part of the fabric of the city, the connectivity, lunch on the park. To walk down on the riverfront. It is a major connector, the heart of the city. The historic buildings give you a sense of place and time of where we started.
- Laura Beene – on west side of 2nd is AT&T, otherwise the east side is more to scale. Does bring historic character. Anything new that is brought in...will not mimic and rebuild the old...but any new build will bring in the now not try and mimic the then. Bringing in light to that zone. Would love to see just a pedestrian street. Would also love for Broadway but those are larger bigger questions. The pedestrian experience and walkability is one of the more important things for this zone.
- Lucy – I think you've raised important questions on the scale versus how things are constructed.
- Eric – if productive side conversations that is super helpful, otherwise the rest of comments can also be added at the end during survey section

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

- Lee Davis – thought that trees took away from the buildings which he likes the most..how to fix? Ample space to give back to the pedestrians. Successful streets need to be able to accommodate some flexibility: allow cars down, allow service vehicles down, allow pedestrians.
- Janet Kurtz – Less activity coming from union to broad, not as much street activity. It would be great to truly activate the full part of 2nd ave, broad to union. Reimagining the front of At&T...it is a dead zone. No identity to it. Reimagining the sidewalk width is key. Really making those more engaging for visitors and residents alike.
- Bryard Huggins – Utilizing broadway to union, such a big area...all of it is historic. Picturesque with the canopy of trees and the courthouse in the back...the christmas tree in the background, defining memory of 2nd ave. Extending sidewalk to accommodate more pedestrian traffic. Reducing the trees that are big and gawky that hide the architecture. Median of the street – tree islands!!!! Would cut off the parking issue and would give us trees and light and expanded sidewalk.
- Lucy – planning is about community engagement.
- Carol Pedigo – One city that she has visited, can't remember, and music comes up from the sidewalk grid...why doesn't nashville do that?? Other ways to make the AT&T building beautiful besides visual. Activated in a manner in which art exhibit, project movies along the side!!!

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.)

- Janet Kurtz – To not exclude the other streets...front facing 1st ave businesses!!!! River facing, activating that riverfront. Would be great to see in the next vision of this.
- Laura Beene – The river is a huge opportunity to activate!!! Opportunity to reinvision what the riverfront can really do between broad and union. Connectivity between broad and union. Extending that pedestrian experience a little further north. When you think of the heart of activity in downtown as far as pedestrian experience...it is this district.
- Bryard Huggins – more of a question. Love the idea of utilizing the riverfronts and going back to our roots as a city...The Fort Nashboro historic area that takes a lot of space...the middle part is so dense / and museum old city kind of vibe. What would that look like to work around that...that is so fragile and takes up so much space. The railway section could be engaged and activated too!
- Eric – There is an amphitheater that connects as well too...how can we better connect, not as sure of master plan to add to that comment.
- Laura Beene – sorry – my daughter interrupted this part...missed it....came in on that the river is ignored and that 1st ave is loading dock

- Mark Robin – we are a river city but why are we not seen that way. We need visual connections!!! How to make 4th and 5th ave connections – pedestrian, visual connections to the river. Ideal – no cars, all pedestrian.
- Lee Davis – will settle for superbowl parade on 2nd ave

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

- Lee Davis – AT&T building, largest offending element on 2nd ave. no pedestrian street level activity. It's a mass of a building with no activity..such a hindrance
- Laura Beene – there are struggles for height and density for new construction. Challenge since land cost is so high. No payoff for new development. Still need the appropriate scale for the district but can't box out any opp for good smart development
- Mark Robin – Did a project that let us know that AT&T building is important part of our country. How do we enhance??
- Carol Pedigo – 2nd ave was made up of small businesses, also a payoff for how quickly a small business can get tax dollars versus high payoff for high development. Those numbers are having to be thought through...to lose that history is immeasurable
- Bryard Huggins – that we revitalize the area to reflect on the style of businesses that would want to come back, the charm of the places...it may not look the same in a 21st century glass structure along a historic district. Being true to those businesses. We cater to what they want and would need for their vibes of the street. Would preserve the charm and antiquated look.
- Janet Kurtz – 2nd Ave strong fund...working with the district for immediate needs for business owners to safely secure the walls, facades, etc. Insurance will not restore to its authentic history. Conservation salvage company to come and get bricks from these buildings. With social media...faces of 2nd ave – is talking to the business owners to hear about the ones that were heavily damaged want to come back and back to this same atmosphere and small niche.
- Lucy – know we've talked a little about the river already...want to know if the idea of creating a more pedestrian oriented 2nd ave – how much of an obstacle do you think that is?
 - Laura – Would love to see it. I think this is a great opportunity for it, reference times square and is now pedestrian plaza, it's a good example. Keeping the walkability and character – remove the cars.
 - Janet – 2nd ave is a pretty heavy artery to access interstates...needs education on how that can happen?
 - Lee – does not support 2nd ave being total pedestrian, maybe it goes down to 1 lane? Slow traffic...? Bringing it back to 1st ave, the back door, there's no reason for it to be a pedestrian area right now
 - Carol – Nashville was so hot with entertainment, and was already being closed for pedestrian only street! Maybe this is the evolution.
 - Mark – say we put it back like it was beforehand – that is the easy, least resistance. This is an opportunity to go to the next level...affects the street – cars, pedestrians, activity, we weren't allowed to add colors to outside of building due to historic issues...we really need to readdress this.

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

- We peppered these in earlier.
- Eric – reminding people we are recording these responses for survey

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

- Same as above
- TY Notes and would like to add as a constituent
 - Green space and pocket parks
 - Activating the riverfront
 - Public art!!!!