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### **Green Ribbon Committee**

**Meeting of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 1pm – 4:30 pm**

A Committee of the City of Nashville, Mayor Karl Dean

Dr. Randy Lowry, Mr. John Ingram, Co-Chairs

Key Note Speaker: Jim Hartzfeld, InterfaceRaise

Metro Department Heads, Mayor's Youth Council

**08/20/08: Group Discussion Comments and Questions**

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#### ■ **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- How can the Green Ribbon Committee to be a resource to the community.
- How can the Green Ribbon Committee be more involved with the public school system.
- We need to think boldly. We need to focus on systemic issues and not get mired in details.
- We need to promote the positive.
- Definition of sustainability.
- What will move the bar? How do we move Nashville and residents towards sustainability?
- How are corporations in Davidson County doing on environmental initiatives?
- What do Metro departments expect from the Green Ribbon Committee?
- We should survey Metro departments and find out where they want to go, how we can help and what the issues are.
- It would be good to have more information on how Metro departments interact and resolve problems.
- When we begin process of studying and researching how to change Nashville talk about what we agree on. We all agree 95% of the time and that is where we should start. Set aside those issues we disagree on and focus first on the positive. Get something done and get moving!
- Seek multiple benefits for one action and whatever you can do or dream you can do...DO IT.
- The US Green building Council and Green Building is one of the most effective environmental movements of our time.
- There are a lot of good things going on and we often don't tell people about them. You have an amazing collection of stuff. You also need a compelling unified action to pull it all together and you need to focus on Nashville's story. Look for more stories and less spreadsheets!
- There are 100 doors to sustainability and every one is different. Everyone takes a slightly different path but they are all positive. Youth involvement is important in making this shift towards sustainability.

#### ■ **EDUCATION**

- Education is about grassroots. Get youth and the population as a whole involved.

- Youth involvement in Green Ribbon Process. The Green Ribbon Committee having a representative from the Mayor's Youth Council is very important.
- **ENERGY and BUILDING**
  - How do we incentivise people to conserve?
  - How do we look at costs and equalize them so that programs are cost effective and sustainable?
  - How do we use less concrete?
- **MOBILITY**
  - **MASS TRANSPORTATION**
    - Many who use mass transit are environmentalists. We really need to focus on integrating mass transit as way of life.
    - MTA should continue to expand business partnerships.
    - MTA's move to a more regional system is important for surrounding communities.
    - Can we work to create developments around MTA bus stops? We need to make mass transit successful.
    - Mass transit is an important issue. What incentives would make mass transit work with developments?
- **NATURAL RESOURCES:**
  - **WASTE REDUCTION/RECYCLING**
    - School recycling is important and needs to be available at all Metro schools.
    - Nashville should have a higher waste diversion goal than the State's mandated 25%.
    - Why not eliminate construction and demolition waste as part of the diversion equation.
    - Discuss the glass recycling and composting limitations in Nashville.
    - More information is needed on how composting works and what Metro programs with Public Works and the Farmer's Market are.
  - **WATER and WATER QUALITY**
    - We are all concerned about water quality and we also need to focus our efforts on water conservation.
    - We need education and outreach about storm water and costs
  - **LOCALLY GROWN FOOD**
    - Buying local is important. We need to look at potential rules and policies that prevent Metro from buying locally.
  - **OPEN SPACES AND TREES**
    - Trees and open spaces save money. We need to discuss how to utilize our green infrastructure to prevent problems before they are created.