

**MEETING MEMO**

Subject: **East Bank Nashville Plan  
Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting #1 (kick-off)**

Location: Virtual

Date: 5/10/2021

Participants: Anna Grider, Metro Planning  
Joni Williams, Metro Planning  
Harriett Brooks, Metro Planning  
Shawn Shepard, Metro Planning  
Eric Fang, PE  
Vaughan Davies, PE  
Sunghwan Yoon, PE  
Anders Bjerregaard-Andersen, PE  
Deborah Varallo, Varallo PR  
Elizabeth Howe, Varallo PR  
Edward Henley, Pillars  
Malina Springer, Pillars  
Brett Withers, District 6 Councilman  
Ann Butterworth, Urban Residents Association  
Dr. Sabrina L. Jones, First Church of the Nazarene  
Jason Garrett, Neighborhood Rep.  
Justin Jackson, Neighborhood Rep.  
Matthew Warren, Cross point Church  
Pricilla Eaton, Neighborhood Rep.  
Rebecca Ratz, Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms  
Kim Demetrio, Homelessness Support Org.  
Ingrid Campbell, Neighborhood Rep.

Perkins Eastman  
Architects DPC

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**Roles and Responsibilities**

- Reference 1994 'River East Plan' that wasn't adopted – former Councilman Aukerman still lives in east Nashville, could be a resource to lean on

- Consultant team intent on hearing from everyone – and early in the process
- River north has seen lots of planning – now we are looking at the rest. For the purpose of the rezoning plan, it would be good to look beyond the study area
- Area along 5<sup>th</sup> and Davidson already has a T5 neighborhood plan. All current efforts need to be known, as well as retired plans that could deliver ideas for the EBN project
- City's role is not only to run the project but also to reach out and provide access to the plan and ideas, keeping the process open to all groups city wide

### **Neighborhood Priorities and Concerns**

- Catholic charities understand that Nashville is growing – development will happen, but it comes with some dangers at drawbacks. Nashville is not very affordable and we don't want it to get worse. Affordable housing needs to be carefully considered
- Affordable housing is important but also being mindful of vulnerable residents such as seniors and disabled people. Safe and easy access to transit, as well as walkable streets should be prioritized.
- Public space that engages the children of the community – more greenspace and more trees, but always inclusive and accessible
- Being able to walk and bike and alternative forms of transportation
- Downtown should be considered a real neighborhood – one that connects to its surrounding areas
- Explosion was on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave – and not 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Broadway is the dividing line on the west bank)
- Active transportation important – anything but cars is considered welcome
- Nashville has potential in a very young population. There is a wish to see mingling of the generations in a built environment that nurtures it
- Awareness of the river and water preservation needs to be built into this effort
- Recent downtown developments raises questions among Nashvillians what these new projects are actually contributing with – what do they give back to the people who live there

- There is a large group of silent residents that can't afford to buy, who won't engage with the community inclusion process. Considering this demographic is key to building support for an EBN that works for everyone
- There is a need to focus on driving values behind these outcome-oriented 'key goals'. The public needs to understand the 'Why?' question, to explain the goals and why those specifically were identified

### **Brainstorming Public Input**

- Valuing the spontaneous in (East) Nashville, such as food truck corral and other pop-up style businesses
- East Nashville is known for being artistic. It is important to display/incorporate art throughout the project
- Decision making in Nashville has been slow and touch (committees couched in committees). Broad consensus and public participation is key. Know the history and know the players.
- Inclusive public spaces are important – the future of Nashville cannot be isolation in pockets
- Conflicts happen when public spaces are too frequently closed for private events – connectivity needs to be maintained
- Remember to involve the young demographic – if we just build for today, and create something they can't use, we are wasting money

### **Future Meetings**

- First Church of The Nazarene would be happy to host in-person meetings in the future
- Need to set up systems for getting inputs from schools – a way to get to the needs of the younger Nashvillians
- Kacey Neighborhood association is learning from their current development implementation effort. They needs to be heard in this process.

- In the future, PE should show younger leaders project examples that touch on implementations of new technologies or innovative practices in public space and mobility
- Project schedule and meeting recordings posted on Nashville Metro website: [eastbankstudy.nashville.gov](http://eastbankstudy.nashville.gov)