

Urban Residential Association Meeting
Monday, July 17, 2006
Skip and Rhonda Courtney's Home
6:00 to 8:00pm

Chair: Skip Courtney

Guest Speakers: Randy Morton, Mike Pigot & Dick
Total Attendees: 41

Bullets recorded by: Michelle Boucher

Meeting began at 6:00pm

Topics of Discussion:

Skip welcomed the downtown residents, Chris Locke and Andy Garrett of the Metro Police Department and introduced the speakers, Randy Morton on Church Street Park and Mike Pigot with Dick Darr on the new convention center.

Randy Morgan began by showing a presentation from Projects for Public Spaces that details the components of what makes a successful place. In the four categories were Sociability, Usage & Activities, Access & Linkages, and Comfort & Image. For more information about PPS, please visit www.pps.org. Next he introduced statistics from a survey that was taken at the park shortly after the Live It Up Tour, as well as a study that was conducted to monitor and record usability of Church Street Park. For complete survey and study results, please visit the URA website at www.neighborhoodlinks.com/nashville/ura

Issues and comments were made by residents about the homelessness problem. Concerns came forth questioning whether a redesign would solve the issues, attract more traffic, or maintain status quo.

Andy Garrett spoke to answer questions about vagrancy laws.

Randy Morgan spoke to the redesign being an alternative solution. Next step is for Randy to report findings to Metro Parks and MDHA. Randy will provide an update at the next URA.

Mike Pigot and Dick Darr shared a presentation that detailed the plans for the new convention center. Why we need a new one, what Nashville gains, what Nashville has lost, and the new site with why the new site is the most appropriate place. Please visit www.neighborhoodlinks.com/nashville/ura to see the full presentation. For more detailed information on Nashville's hospitality industry, the need to stay competitive, cost and funding, tax impact and more, please visit <http://www.nashvillemusiccitycenter.com/>

Comments and questions arose in the topic of green buildings, open retail spaces, and perception of urban feel.

Skip reminded past members and encouraged new ones to get on our URA website as it is a great source for residents to get to know each other, start discussions, share issues and ideas, get to know local merchants and new businesses as well as each other. Please visit www.neighborhoodlink.com and sign up!

Rhonda Courtney introduced the beginning of a new local merchants sub committee. The idea is to let local merchants know who the local residents are by having a local resident card. This would show our local merchants that we are excited and supportive. Possible discounts from merchants could be had when we show our card. Next step is to contact merchants. First ones to contact will be those that are open after hours and on weekends. Create a laminated card that residents can show to the merchants. Create a URA logo. Rhonda introduced URA logo contest. All interested need to bring their logo to the next URA where all residents will vote. Winner will receive breakfast and lunch from 417 Union, The Standard and dinner is yet to be announced. The winner will also receive an art print.

Rhonda also introduced Josh Smith, local resident and merchant of The Standard at the Smith House. Josh spoke about the history of the home, the dining experience, hours of operation, bookings and more. Skip spoke about 417 Union, new restaurant on Union. Open for breakfast from 630am Monday through Friday and 8am Saturday.

Skip introduced a campaign idea proposed by Ben Bahil, a Bennie Dillon resident, to abolish the unsightly plastic news and publication dispensers in order to beautify the streets of Nashville. All in attendance agreed. Next step is to try and speak to the publication companies to gain sponsorship of new dispensers.

Action items for next meeting:

- Randy Morgan update on presentation to Metro Parks and MDHA
- Rhonda Courtney update on local merchant response
- Logo contest vote
- Ben Bahil on UPD Campaign (Unsightly Plastic Dispenser)
- Bring a new person

Next meeting location: Won Choi's House. Details will follow.

Guest Speakers:

Clifford Hughes, the Director of Metro's 10 Year Plan to eliminate Chronic Homelessness

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm