

Urban Residential Association Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2006
Past Perfect Restaurant
6:00 to 7:00pm

Chair: Skip Courtney

Guest Speakers: Jim Snyder & Jenna Smith from Metro Nashville Public Works. Joe Barton with Homeless Power Project. Fred York with Salon J

Total Attendees: 43

Secretary: Michelle Boucher

Meeting began at 6:00pm

Topics of Discussion & Guest Speakers:

Jim Snyder & Jenna Smith

Skip introduced Jim Snyder with Metro Nashville Public Works. He was present to update the residents on a few projects.

"Update: 2nd Ave and Church St. direction changes are complete. The change seems to be positive. 8th Ave street lights and paving complete. All ahead of schedule and under budget. Charlotte Ave flow change of traffic under way and Demonbreun viaduct is scheduled to be open October 25th, 5 months ahead of schedule!"

MNPW has put a long range 5 to 7 year plan together to handle the rest of our streets with beautification and maintenance; lighting, benches, repair, etc. "We feel unity is a very powerful tool and when people pool together, TDOT, Public Works, and you the Stakeholders, we will reap the benefits of smoother projects".

Jim Snyder introduced Jenna Smith, also from MNPW, however with the solid waste department. Jenna made herself available for questions regarding recycling.

Jenna responded that they have been doing a great deal of research on the subject and that it is a needed service and a market that they have not taken advantage of. As it is now with trash alone, MNPW picks up trash two times per day, equaling on average 250 tons of garbage per month. This, she reported, was a 10% increase from last year. The issues are small streets making truck access difficult and traffic.

Jenna offered her numbers so that residents can give their input and ideas. At the moment one idea is having a central drop off close to downtown. They want to make this happen and are open to suggestions, so please contact the numbers below.

Direct line 615-862-8610 Office number 615-880-1000

A question was asked concerning the sewer smell and what was being done. This is a question for the Water and Sewer Department. (<http://www.nashville.gov/water/index.htm>)

For more information about Metro Nashville Public Works, their completed and upcoming projects, please visit <http://www.nashville.gov/pw/>

Joe Barton and Carmon Ryles

Skip introduced Joe Barton and Carmon Ryles from the Homeless Power Project. They were present to tell their story along with the current proposal they have to address homelessness.

Both presented their stories as to how they became homeless and the struggles they have faced. The proposal they have is around low income housing availability.

The statistics they presented were 3000 people currently living on the street, which could include people sometimes living at hotels and with family temporarily. They reported that currently there are 1800 people waiting for section 8 housing and there is none available. The major reason they feel is that there are less funds for housing. 52 billion dollars less now than in 1972.

The current plan calls for 1000 units to be provided from now until 2015. They feel that this is not enough. They are calling for 200 units to be built per year in their proposal.

Q&A

How did you get involved in this program?

Carmen responded with praise about the Magdalene program. Please visit <http://www.magdalenehouse.com/emergency%20aid.html> for more information.

Where would all this housing go?

Matt responded that MDHA would propose working together with mixed urban housing solutions so as to share the tax burden.

What are the resources available?

Matt: Campus for Human Development, food stamps, referrals, mental health co-op, Bridges to Care, however need more social workers and case management involved.

Please visit <http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/socialjustice/housing.htm> and <http://btc.nashville.gov/> for more information.

For more information on the Homeless Power Project, please visit <http://www.homelesspower.org/>

URA Logo Winner

Skip formally presented Michael Thompson from The Avenue Magazine a prize for winning the official URA logo design contest. For more information about The Avenue Magazine, please visit <http://www.theavenuemagazine.com/>.

CBID

Next Skip and Tom Turner talked about the CBID by giving an overview: A Central Business Improvement District is designed to provide enhanced improvements such as security, maintenance, development services and marketing that complement those services provided by the local government. The Nashville Downtown Partnership provides such services to enhance the quality of living in the CBID area. The CBID is a property based district that provides for an self assessed tax, whose proceeds benefit the property owners of that specific geographic area.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nashvilledowntown.com/news/Developments083106.htm> and http://www.nashvilledowntown.com/clean_safe/.

New Local Business

Brook Mullen introduced Odysseys End, located in the Arcade. They have specialized artwork and a plethora of gift ideas and something for everyone. Getting ready for the holidays? They have several gift ideas, which they will gift wrap and ship. They have local free delivery. Please visit <http://www.artatthearcade.com/directory/odysseys-end> for more information about our local Nashvillians Brook and Chris Mullen.

Daniel Lai from Dangenart talked about Art at the Arcade. The Arcade is rapidly becoming more than just eateries. Dangenart offers contemporary works from local, national, and international artists. They rotate exhibitions every three weeks. Please visit <http://www.dangenart.com/> for more information and for all art at The Arcade, please visit www.artatthearcade.com.

You can sign up for their mailing list and visit The Arcade every first Saturday of the month for shows from all art galleries. They will also be having receptions every Thursday from 5 to 8pm.

Estel Gallery owned and operated by Cynthia and Chris Bullinger on 8th Avenue is now open. This 1910 building that was once home to a barbershop, grocery, and café, among many things now houses a variety of beautiful art. Please visit <http://www.estelgallery.com/index.html> for more information.

Long time Nashville resident and business owner, Fred York spoke about Salon J located in the Amsouth building. For many years they have offered a wide variety of services to the business residents of downtown Nashville and want to extend these services to living residents by being the first to honor the local URA resident card holder with the same. 10% off all services, point cards, trade ins, 10% off products and referral programs. Please visit <http://www.salonj.com/> for more information.

Station 417 (Formerly 417 Union)

Now open on Sundays from 9am to 230pm! Please visit <http://www.417union.com/> for more information. (Note that the hours have not yet been updated on their website.)

Other Business

Skip introduced a discretionary fund to be used for projects in the 6th district. A meeting is being held to look at ideas and proposals as to how to use these funds. Please submit your ideas through the Discussion Board on the URA website at www.neighborhoodlink.com/nashville/ura. The meeting is to be held on November 13th, so get your ideas in!

Ben Bahil updated on the Media Box issue. Please read <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006610160363> for the current proposed legislature. On October 26th there will be a meeting to address the issues. Please contact Ben Bahil at ben_bahil@gspnet.com for location and other information.

Metro Update

New Lieutenant Nicky Swisher recently promoted has taken over the 3 to 11pm watch. She was raised in Nashville and has served as an officer for 14 years. In all her work in patrol, bike watch, property, beer markets, clean up, and drugs, she has been well versed and trained in helping manage what enables crime. Lieutenant Swisher stated that her goal is to form a partnership and work with what the people feel the issues are and that communication will get the job done.

For more information please visit <http://www.police.nashville.org/>.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Monday, November 20th. Location: TBD

Guest Speakers: TDB

Please visit the URA website for location and guest speaker updates:
www.neighborhoodlink.com/nashville/ura