

Imagine Nashua Topic Discussions – Economic Growth *and* Arts & Culture

June 3, 2021 @ 6pm via Zoom

Attendees (peak = 30):

Staff & Consultants	Steering Committee Members	Public
Sarah Marchant	Bob James	Carol Eyman
Julie Chizmas	Paul Shea	Lindsey Rinaldi
Matt Sullivan	Gloria McCarthy	Judith Carlson
Tim Cummings	Gene Porter	Sue Newman
Amy DeRoche	Peter Schaefer	Betsy Houde
Jill Stansfield	Mary Ann Melizzi Golja	Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu
Cecilia Ulibarri		Margaret Loret
Linda McGhee		Beth Topham
Noah Telerski		Chetan Nataraja
		Susan Slane
Tim Love		Lilianan Vornehm
Taskina Tareen		Jennifer Annand
		Betsy Gamrat

Main St.

- Need to go all the way up to Hunt it should be Hunt
 - Concerns about heavy traffic btwn Franklin/Canal & Hunt
- Where do you anchor the start and stop of Main St public realm? - Yes, to Concord St
- Higher quality, smaller area than spread money over larger area with less quality
- Balance Concord intersection, Franklin and Canal and Railroad square
- Critical on bypass to Main St without overwhelming neighborhoods

Master Plan Meeting (29 people)

- Great triangle rotary with orange and canal etc.
- Gloria McCarthy → better signage and wayfinding
- PAC where they going to park
- Beth Topham→ it's not summer year round, can we plan for winter
- Larger circulation analysis for downtown
- Parking capacity is key to understand
- S. Newman→ Library Hill area circulation→ learning curve
- MAMG→ Lots of abutting parking which can be used for after hours ~ Is there a way to encourage public parking after 5 PM?→ Licensing agreement to take liability
- Betsy→ Is there a way to reduce cars and parking with walk bike and bus;
- Gene→ Love this and data with garage

To do:

- Gene → parking data
- Pete- Deeper area than Main St of downtown; cities of certain size can support

- MAMG→ Growing side and back streets, active spaces making people feel safer walking down streets

Master Plan Meeting

- Betsy→ Commercial kitchen space needed to support immigrant communities

TC

- Action #1: Mobility ~ not expand current employers and retention
 - Move the tax base action down
 - Not necessarily focused on attracting new employers so maybe "expand" tax base rather than "broaden"
- AAS District ~ Using it to designate area for art specific area with live/work and extending throughout downtown
- Paul S→ True creative placemaking~ Cultivating vibrancy plan→ Funding is really important for City Budgeting
- SN→ Homeless population downtown
 - Especially around Library Plaza
 - many youth with housing issues, too – what options are there for them?
- Lindsay ~ How city capitalize on use of existing arts commission to implement some of the actions
- Marketing on larger scale not just on arts (city pay money)→ live work and play
- Ensure artists have an AFFORDABLE place to live, work,...
- Include chamber
- Advertise city as a "whole package"
 - Riverfront
 - Hiking and trails
 - Walkable Downtown
- Leader and convenor to partner business and nonprofits together to pay for marketing
- PS ~ GAD ~ Trying to pull all of together for meeting
- MAMG→ Diverse communities via food, via arts, and workforce
- Betsy→ Tourism better to focus on vibrant communities let's be selfish
 - Focus on residents before tourists
- Lindsay→ Nashua arts and culture plan~ direct to that
- Arts communication ~ resources are more reachable ~ communication
- TC ~ Open line of communications BTW arts and other arts organizations would not want to be lumped in with Arts Commission
- MAMG → How do we all come together with arts all over city and outside of downtown
 - Infuse art into neighborhoods as they develop
- Betsy→ 1 in 4 Nashua residents are diverse
- What educational/training/mentoring opportunities are there for those who move here and may not speak English?
- MAMG→ Schools and marketing of community

- TC→ Need to be clear to link housing with economic development
- Exit 36→ Been discussed for over 30 years; need still there, but location in Mass makes it difficult