

Project	The Arts District and Flora Street	Meeting Date	August 23, 2006
Subject	Meeting with business owners/retailers	Meeting Location	216 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA
Attendees	Teri Bryant, Black Drop Gerston's, Backcountry Essentials Bob Libolt, 110 Grand Building Erica, KCLT Mt. Baker Apartments Kirsten Shelton, DRN Doddi Ross, Christian Reading Room Tara Sundin, COB Travis Cary, COB Kenichi Nakano, Nakano Associates Ida Ottesen, Nakano Associates	Distribution	

Prepared By	Ida Ottesen	Date Prepared	August 24, 2006
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1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Tara welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room.
2. Tara presented a summary of the public comments from the workshops.
 - a. The city promotes awnings as a way to create better pedestrian environments. There is no funding since it is illegal to use public funds to improve private property. There are possibilities to get tax relief for multifamily housing or if the building qualifies for a historical designation.
 - b. Parking for businesses are a problem, business owners lose money and time by having to feed a parking meter all day.
3. The Downtown Renaissance Network maintains sidewalks and maintains plants. This year the boundaries were extended to Bay Street for the maintenance. Next year, planters on Holly will be improved.
4. Erica, Kulshan Community Land Trust
 - a. Covered bike racks needed. All employees ride their bikes.
 - b. Bay/Holly dangerous intersection/crosswalk. Would like to remove slip lane.
 - c. Pedestrian signage needed. Note: on one-way streets – streets signs are only for cars so not readable from sidewalk if going 'wrong' way.
 - d. Brick courtyard by Parkade is opportunity for public space. Crepery is excellent. Needs tables and chairs.
5. Teri, The Black Drop
 - a. Streamline the permitting process for sidewalk permits and make zoning variances easier. Adding a coffee roaster to a coffee shop requires rezoning to industrial. It is time consuming and the wait is long for a fairly simple improvement
 - b. The Grand/ Champion intersection is dangerous, the owner of the black drop has seen at least three accidents there within the last year.
 - c. Would like to see more bike racks at Champion and Bay Street.
 - d. Owns a bench outside the store and puts out chairs and a table. The bench is causing some problems, panhandlers and homeless people use it and sometime harass customers.
 - e. Employee parking limits customer parking.
 - f. Need public bathrooms, must be safe and clean.
6. Bob Libolt
 - a. Make all of downtown more pedestrian friendly with less cars. Make it feel like you're driving on the sidewalk versus walking in the street. Narrow streets down by using bulb outs and texture the streets like the sidewalks to make it more plaza like.
 - b. Reduce cars on Champion street near the Pacific bank- could the drive up window be redesigned.

These notes represent our summary of discussions and conclusions and will become part of the official project file. Nakano Associates must be notified within 10 days of any additions or corrections.

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- c. The alleys are great connectors, remove some of the paving and add some landscaping.
 - d. The midblock crossing near Brown & Cole building is dangerous to pedestrians and joggers. Need more enforcement.
 - e. Need better pedestrian signage.
 - f. Temporary street closures would promote feeling of town square.
7. Backcountry Essentials
- a. Parking for business is difficult downtown.
 - b. There needs to be a unified element in the district maybe through lighting. More pedestrian scale lighting would be nice and more planters and street trees on Holly.
 - c. Will be adding a bike rack in front of the store that the city paid for.
 - d. Eliminate the hard right turn on Bay Street and create wider sidewalk.
 - e. What will be the main connections to the waterfront? Bay Street is likely one of them?
 - f. Improve the space in front of the mural.
 - g. Would like to see bolts outside store to be able to exhibit larger merchandise like a kayak or other equipment without being worried of thefts.
 - h. Traffic on Holly is too fast.
 - i. Support closing slip lane onto Bay Street.
 - j. Interested in alley connection/improvement ideas.
 - k. Wants help with awning, what funding is available?
8. Mt Baker apartments
- a. Would like wider sidewalks in front of the Building
 - b. Is hesitant to tables and chairs in alley as they are important for businesses and residents to load/unload. Already a problem with people abandoning furniture.
 - c. Two corners at Champion Street are a priority.
 - d. Need public bathrooms, with key card or tokens?