

## **Lexington Downtown Enhancement Plan**

Public Forum #1 on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Meeting Notes (\*\* denotes a Top Five Idea)

### **Historic Preservation**

\*\*Promote historical aspect

\*\*Stay true to historical identity (no cookie cutter design)Protect the historical buildings and see that they are treasured

Create entity which helps property owners maintain/improve their facades

Remember that most folks visiting Lexington come because of the history (therefore protect historical footprint)

Expand use of Lexington bricks on selected downtown streets to create an appearance of more historical center

Would like to be more tourist and visitor friendly, keeping historical sense

### **Landscaping**

\*\*More shade trees and foliage

\*\*Greening and Cleaning spaces

Add more greenery downtown for beauty and protection

More green

More trees (shade) and plants

Street trees - limited

Green spaces with seating

Trees and plants in parking lot

Green spaces

Not enough trees downtown

Trees on main

### **Economy**

\*\*Define a clear identity and underscore economic impact on downtown business

\*\*More cooperation from businesses to work together for events and evening hours

\*\*College buys in to viability of downtown

\*\*Keeping businesses open, attracting new business and financial entity to help owners maintain and improve facade

\*\*Focus on tourism

Make city a local food destination

Focus on tourists

Visitors board to find more opportunities to advertise Lexington

Why? What compelling issue requires attention at time of economic instability?

Concentrate on saving downtown businesses, other towns around have done this

Create more foot traffic south of Nelson

Bring people from outskirts of town into town (ex. horse center)  
A way to bring more small business into town, less vacancies  
Address vacancy downtown  
More people downtown  
Fill empty storefronts  
More retail spaces in downtown  
Business - availability, access  
Fully occupied ground level storefronts  
24 hr 7 day vitality  
Service service service  
Make real estate accessible for small businesses

### **Pedestrian Improvements**

\*\*Explore pedestrian mall on Washington Street  
\*\*Pedestrian friendly, sidewalks / atmosphere, more welcoming, utilities  
underground  
\*\*Wider sidewalks  
\*\*Mid-block street crossing  
Pedestrian friendly  
Pedestrian precinct within study area with exceptions of deliveries  
Improve pedestrian crosswalks  
Mid-street crosswalk  
Create vehicle / pedestrian compatibility  
More sidewalk activity  
Make sidewalks more pedestrian friendly  
Wider sidewalk  
Sidewalk wider - middle of main  
Put lines underground on Jefferson  
Create ways to soften walkways (VMI corridor)  
Block main from Nelson to Henry to create pedestrian way  
Encourage walking

### **Wayfinding**

\*\*Better Signage and Wayfinding  
\*\*Connectivity to adjacent attractions (natural and business)  
\*\*Improve the north entrance (hook 'em)  
\*\*Improved / updated signage  
Improve signage  
Update signage to reflect current  
Eliminate the sign posts and utility poles on the right side of Main Street  
Use wayfinding to connect downtown to countryside  
Better/cleaner signage  
Improved signage

Less sign posts  
Signage in keeping with historic city  
Improve clarify access to city

### **Enforcement**

\*\*Keep deliveries off Main Street  
\*\*Delivery trucks - better access  
\*\*Pride of ownership: care of facades  
Try to find alternatives to the delivery trucks parking on Main Street and blocking traffic  
Ordinance enforcement - noise, trash, weeds  
Maintenance of buildings, parks, landscaping  
Building facades to be more attractive and well kept  
Flags, law enforcement, student housing, private use of public space  
Owners of buildings who don't live in Lexington need pressure put on them to lower rent and/or fix up buildings to make more attractive  
Trash that is placed out on the sidewalks after usual 9-5 business hours. The city picks up the trash every morning, but can be nuisance for evening visitors.

### **Activities/Programming**

\*\*Live music downtown  
\*\*Evening hours/nightlife  
\*\*Visitor friendly activities events, attractions  
Night time activities downtown  
Outside entertainment space  
Opportunity for the performing arts  
Good mix of business activities for visitors / residents

### **Parking**

\*\*Relieve parking pressure critical commercial parking zones business owners and employees  
\*\*Downtown Employee and owner education on parking  
\*\*Centralized parking garage  
\*\*Plan must include VMI VC SJC Garage  
More convenient off street parking  
Good/convenient parking  
Procure McCrum's lot and convert to multi-story parking deck  
Promote and signage for parking  
Diagonal parking infeasible?

## **People Spaces**

- \*\*More space and attractions (movie in Hopkins, street performers)
- \*\*Abundant seating - everywhere
- \*\*Parklets (small, park like spaces)
- \*\*Outdoor business environment
- \*\*Include Davidson park culture
- \*\*Friendlier Environment (daylight and dark) for youth and older lingering
- Outside seating
- Outdoor dining
- More outdoor dining
- Inviting atmosphere to linger
- Street furniture and dining areas - awnings
- Places to sit
- Usage of green spaces between old courthouse and old bank
- Make attractive and/or informational use of triangle at main and Jefferson
- Usage of rooftops - nest

## **Streets**

- \*\*Trolley? To bring visitors from hotels or horse center to downtown
- \*\*Maintain 2 lanes traffic - Main and Jefferson
- \*\*2 lanes of traffic on Main Street
- \*\*Bike lanes on Randolph St.
- \*\*Improve interior blocks
- Improve traffic flow especially delivery trucks
- Two way street
- One lane of cars
- Embellish improve alleyway

## **Housing**

- \*\*More full time residents above stores
- More Residential
- Increase residential downtown

## **Other**

- Everyone in community a cheerleader
- City building is ugly
- What is on the table?
- What the concern about bicycles?
- Don't change
- More activity from colleges to help beautify and upgrade downtown