

NASHVILLE CIVIC DESIGN CENTER

Transcript of Opening Remarks by T.K. Davis, Design Director of the Nashville Civic Design Center for the public meeting on May 19, 2006, at the Downtown Public Library.

Welcome and good afternoon.

My name is TK Davis. I am a faculty member with the University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Design, assigned here in Nashville as Design Director at the Civic Design Center. The Design Center is delighted to host this third public meeting held in the past year with the Nashville Sounds and Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse development teams that are proposing a new ball park and mixed use project for the former Thermal Plant Site. This will be the first public unveiling of three-dimensional studies of the master plan for the site that is now evolving. As we begin, could I ask that all elected members of our political leadership that are present today please rise to be recognized. Thank you all so much for coming, and we recognize by your attendance that you appreciate the importance of the public process in the development and design of our city.

As I kick off this meeting, I won't take more than three to five minutes of your time. You are all very busy people, and we value your time greatly, so we will adhere to our advertised time frame of ninety minutes for today's meeting. The ground rules today are very simple. Please make sure your cell phones are turned off, and when the public discussion portion of the agenda occurs, please try to keep your questions and comments concise and non-repetitive.

The fact that this is the third public meeting that the development team has volunteered to hold, speaks to their commitment to the importance of public participation in the development and design process of civic design. They realize from experience that an open process, incorporating citizen input, makes for a better project, and ultimately adds value to the project in every sense of that word.

At the last public meeting on the former Thermal Plant site, the development teams for the ballpark and the related mixed-use development on the site, and the Civic Design Center, heard strong public sentiment on five important objectives for the site's development. First, the incorporation of a greenway along the river edge of the site was a very high priority. Second, interesting views from the ballpark to the city beyond were desired. Third, view corridors from various locations off the site should be carefully considered in the massing of the site's development. Fourth, the project should incorporate a mix of uses to promote an active pedestrian experience as a destination. And fifth, access to the river's edges and the greenway, from the city, should be encouraged in the design.

Let me now convey to you the format for the meeting today, which the development teams have designed to maximize the benefit of your input in their on-going work.

Following me in a moment will be development team executives Glenn Yaeger of the Nashville Sounds and Priscilla Carroll from Struever Bros, Eccles & Rouse, who will speak to you for three to five minutes.

After that, Michael Hayes with the Struever Bros. team and Jason Thompson of Brailsford & Dunlavey, who is working with the Sounds, will present the project master plan as it has evolved to date, which will take approximately 45 minutes.

They will then be happy to entertain clarification questions from the audience for about ten minutes, followed by questions and comments from the floor for roughly another 15 minutes.

After that, the last ten minutes of the meeting will be devoted to having the audience write down, anonymously, responses to a handful of questions which the development team feels would help them elicit a wide range of input, and also help them to gauge the depth of feeling from the entire audience on whatever comments arise. A participation form will be provided for that purpose. This is a very important part of the meeting in compiling, across the board, all of the ideas individuals in the room may have, and I urge you to take the few minutes necessary to complete and turn in your forms as you leave.

So, with all that said, let me turn the floor over to Glenn and Patricia...