

AMHERST DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

Exercise #4: TABLE #3 NOTES

Discussion of the following aspects of downtown life:

What's working, what's not and ideas for the future

LIVING

Housing

- There is no diversity in economics or population of the types of people living downtown
- Too many renters
- Student housing is an issue: new developments seem to be for students
- Can there be regulations for college students?

Stores & restaurants

- Need grocery store
- Current stores are not supporting 'living' in downtown
- Scales of bldgs are excessive

Vehicles, public transit, bikes, walking

- Biking lanes need to be safer for families and need more bike parking

Parking

- Parking study said a parking garage was not needed
- Requirement for no parking provided by new business is bad idea
- 'I don't want to pay for a parking garage with my tax money'
- App showing available parking is preferred
- Remote parking with shuttle was good

Other

- There is a tension between life of downtown for 2p vs. 2am = there needs to be a balance

WORKING

Office space

- Town is too expensive to have smaller businesses find spaces
- Mass Mutual was an unfortunate leaser where one entity consumed the entire first floor of retail in a bldg

Retail space

- Town is too expensive to have smaller businesses find spaces
- With 1 East Pleasant we've lost small shops
- With Carriage shops gone, we've lost small shops

Employment

- Amherst is a 'suburb' of other nearby cities
- No job opportunities in downtown
- Amherst office park (south) is potential place for more businesses and can alleviate pressures off Central Business district

Other

- 'Certain big landowners seem to control entrepreneurs who control most of downtown development, which seem to control BID and PB' (it was then pointed out that Maria was on the PB, which I happily raised my hand and said 'guilty')

- Developers need to be more transparent in endeavors of development = present one scenario and end result is different
- Downtown is too expensive for small business to build new

PLAYING

Shopping, eating, socializing

- Restaurants = good
- Cinema, library, post office = good

Community events

- Block party, taste of amherst, merry maple = all great community events

Parks and open spaces

- More playgrounds both outdoor and indoor = all seasons
- Preserve the open spaces

Culture & entertainment

- A REAL music venue in downtown is needed

Other

- Lower income population are not able to use the downtown (due to inability to get access living further out)

Exercise #4

Human

lack of affordable

Ratio of permits - Student ~~50/50~~ 25/75

need more permits everywhere

Human quantity related to Human at UMass

Some of the needed Permits not needed on Campus

~~Human~~

Where

Kidult Place is truly a mixed clientele

Human for the homeless

Stores + Retail

People do hit eat out

| What kind of Retail can make it.

Specialized stores -

Demographic for Retail Customers

multi age entertainment - performance space

~~the~~

Parking

Some short term spaces 15 min

more function require more parking

Unmanned park districts should be

Amber Woods people are meter people

Collective Parking not delivered

Amits / Pleasant / Main intersection needs improvement

Dedicated bike lanes

Other

Offensive Signs on Street Corners

Working

Office Space

needed Downtown? Could be on outskirts

Buy in other spaces

Peter

Plans

Prof Space

Kendall Park needs development

Flooded risk possible

Comments Events

Don't have seating for Food/Eating in ~~Park~~ Parks

Space for casual conversation after events

Need Common Space for ↑

Exercise #4

Table 1
Living

Working

Not working

Housing

proximity

Could be more pedestrian friendly

Single family houses nice

More Affordable family housing

Owner occupied housing is well maintained

More quality rental housing

Single family houses expensive

The parks, accessibility to

Need condos

Trees in residential areas

Worry about ~~more~~ too much

Neighboring feeling

Student housing

Taxes keep going up - houses not affordable

Tension between owner-occupied and student rentals

Need more supervision over

property management

absentee landlords. More enforcement

Conversion of single family homes to multi housing

More quality senior housing

Too many students

Year round homeless shelter

Street + restaurant

Great!

limited back service (deliveries)

more variety

high rents - high turnover

Working

Transportation + parking

affordable parking

Good bus AVTA

Bike lanes

Playing

Not working

Sidewalks, crosswalks

Need better quality asphalt

Sidewalk snow clearance

parking kiosks confusing -

hard for tourists + newcomers

parking signage

Double parking

Better signage for No bikes

on Sidewalks

Outdoor stage

Exercise #4

Living

Network
• more on campus housing
• might create more affordable
non student body

Sell on site opportunity side
for artists studios?

Working

Playing