



Memorandum

TO Dennis Madsen, Chad Emerson **DATE** 14 March 2017
COMPANY City of Huntsville, Downtown Huntsville Inc. **COPIES TO**
FROM Urban Design Associates
PROJECT 2280 Huntsville Downtown
PURPOSE Public Meeting Input – March 8, 2017

REMARKS

CLINTON CORRIDOR:

- Hotel over development at Pinhook Creek by Coca Cola site
- Consider redeveloping public housing into mixed-income (with 30% “affordable”) and higher density, (maintaining or increasing number low-income units)
- Remove “high-speed” turn lanes at intersections
- How does the Constellation Area and City Centre play into these Downtown cores
- Heated/cooled/shaded outdoor rooftop development/restaurants
- Outline the contour of the Big Spring lagoon with a LED color changing theme
- Bring back on-street parking where it’s been removed. One-side only.
- Any stadium plans need to include restaurants and bars that can utilize year round for all VBC events
- Extend Clinton Row colorwalk to connect Clinton Ave W and Holmes Ave NW and Washington Park
- Hotel over parking for VBC facing creek with outdoor creek front café
- Narrow streets with on-street parking and bike lanes
- Narrow street/alley with “hidden” café and “surprise” attractions that people feel they have discovered
- Downtown storefront police department. Have a happy/friendly police presence
- Foot patrol downtown for police
- Baseball stadium
- Mixed-use/residential/commercial
- Active uses in parking garage to create a great people space
- More active uses in the park—kayaks, etc.
- Micro brew house—glass/see production
- More hotel space, walking distance VBC
- Redevelop existing housing adjacent to Memorial Park
- More “entertainment” uses theater, dance, etc.
- More “bike friendly” parking, riding
- “Slow down” roads
- Light rail

URBAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES, LTD.

Urban Designers Planners Architects

URBANDESIGNASSOCIATES.COM

3 PPG PLACE / 3RD FLOOR / PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

T 412.263.5200 F 844.270.8374

PRINCIPALS & ASSOCIATES

Gail Armstrong, SDA

Steve Auterman, AIA, AICP, LEED AP

David Csont, ASAI

Barry Long, AIA, LEED AP

Megan O’Hara, AICP, LEED AP

Paul Ostergaard, FAIA, AoU

Eric Osth, AIA, LEED AP

Rob Robinson, AIA

Terry Welsh, AIA, LEED AP

- Should be large event area
- “Green” the garage across from VBC
- “Space needle” restaurant
- Townhouses “Brownstones” cottages
- Pedestrian connectivity at Big Spring Park
- “Signature Tower”
- European square with international shops/residential. 4 different countries

HOLMES AVE NORTH:

- More work on getting retail stores downtown. 301 Holmes has been sitting vacant for years as an example
- Where are the displaced going, ex. Russel Erskine, Searcy Homes
- Holmes two-way. Bicycle. Ice cream shop.
- Is there opportunity for a hotel in the Holmes Ave North? Holmes Ave North: 1. Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church 2. Cumberland Presbyterian Denominational Center
- Bike lane connecting UAH to Downtown via Holmes
- Church Street CPCA partner with Huntsville City Parking Garage for the Church and City
- Make Railroad Crossing silent (see Anchorage, Alaska). Federal Funds available. Will help attract more hotel/living
- Ensure historic buildings remain. Ensure new building represent Huntsville, not “just anywhere”
- One-way streets concern → two-way?
- Bike paths/lanes
- Resident parking
- Parking lot at 301
- Lighting behind Avenues/Church
- Better sidewalks
- Slow traffic
- Maintain religious presence (1&2)
- Make it more self-sustaining—grocery
- Fill in vacant stores
- Good residential
- Better use ground floor
- Make it historical and look like the neighborhoods
- Metered parking/2-hours?
- Retired and assisted living
- Multi-generational
- Upscale shopping
- Mix in some national retailers (pharmacy, diner)
- Accessible, for family
- Lincoln and Greene—two-way, fix intersections at Clinton and Holmes
- Don’t put same restaurants next to each other
- Gateway signage, wayfinding historical
- Bicycle and pedestrian friendly

- Reuse vacant spaces—incentives
- Consolidate parking with shops
- Church parking demand
- Something unexpected (volleyball, playground)
- Music venues—indoor
- Movie theater—screening room
- Exercise stations
- Events on Big Spring pond
- Outdoor dining
- Rooftop dining
- Pinhook Creek—kayaking?
- Make use of train track
- Reuse storefront for retail (Urban Outfitters)
- Help minority businesses to get established
- Diversity
- Equitable process to decide how to use the resources
- A.M. Booth's Lumberyard—varied entertainment
- Micro mall, mini movie theater
- LED-themed lighting of Big Spring Park
- Entertainment/recreation coordinator
- City's relationship w/Grelier is too intimate. Be more transparent please
- Disc golf park! Even a mini version (9 holes) would be an easy affordable and family friendly downtown activity

FOUNTAIN CIRCLE:

- Move courthouse and use space for businesses and apartments
- Any extension of the space program would be exciting and unique to Huntsville. Space specific museum area in City Hall?
- Renovate courthouse and add mixed-use rental spaces on bottom floor with exterior facing store fronts. City makes money renting out the mixed-use space
- Rebuild parking deck with street facing shops under and hotel over
- Local artist hand drawn maps, art maps
- Park facing cafes and restaurants with shaded outdoor seating for summer use
- Keep City Hall downtown, but elevate over street level retail/restaurant/services
- If you move the Courthouse, last person to leave downtown turn off the lights. It will die.
- Preserve and improve parking opportunities. Do NOT reduce it! The Courthouse is ugly as sin. Expedite its replacement FIRST
- Move courthouse city/county to N HSV
- Move courthouse to free up space and get lawyer out to free up more space. Won't close at 5pm.
- Make City Hall fun/artistic and a community destination. Keep downtown
- Make it easy to walk between Early Works and Big Spring Park and library with a stroller! (Continuous sidewalk coverage and ramps, not circuitous!)

- Keep City Hall downtown and encourage mixed-use so people visit other things
- Stop gentrification. Preserve character of older neighborhoods
- Green space. MORE!
- Parking. We need it close to VBC
- Coke site. Hotel?
- Move City Hall. Where? Constellation?
- Open up access to park
- Preserve historic resources
- Move courthouse out of downtown square
- Don't make it sterile
- Less concrete, more trees
- More natural looks
- More historic architecture
- Watch for caves! (geo. Tech)
- Moderate traffic in residential neighborhoods
- Neighborhood "branding" and gateways
- Alternate transportation. Transit, bike, pedestrians...
- Big Spring Park.
 - Playing fields (bocce, soccer, croquet, etc.)
 - Have "Artists' Colony" (like Jackson Square in New Orleans)
- Move City Hall
 - Replace with hotel
 - Could be gorgeous site
 - Near VBC, downtown restaurants
 - Historic districts
- With Fountain Circle so close to Constitution Village it would be great to capture the animated quality of other cities with historic areas to invite people in/through the village to experience history, art, culture
- Key to businesses moving downtown:
 - Low-friction rapid without parking, with automated payment/access control.
 - Dick Reeves 2563377931
- Tourist attractions around park...pedal trolleys? Brewery tours
- Could existing caves/caverns be used/occupied?
- Welcome to HSV signage, even beyond downtown
- Outdoor rock climbing wall
- Turn canals into a quality of life resource
- Leave City Hall where it is and expand it
 - Jackie Reed and Ryan Sellers

THE REST OF DOWNTOWN:

- Complete expansion of the Indian Creek Greenway
- Turn the concrete creeks/canals into greenspaces

- Planned locations for bus/transit/Uber pick-up within downtown
- Plan for outside park and ride to downtown with dedicated transportation for work day and special events
- Segway rental stations
- Change zoning to protect existing homes and character. No more overbuilds and McMansions. Care about people and not just developers
- Connections to local residential areas, walk and bike
- I'd like to see the walkway bridge to Lowe Mill built. I think it will help tie downtown to the out complex
- Smooth out jumbly sidewalks and other falling hazards for older people and strollers
- Keep in mind the emergence of self-driving cars, may need less parking
- Develop more public transportation
- Please build a movie theater/small concert hall for dancing/etc.
- Would like to see a distinct "circle" around downtown—within more pedestrian—outside more open/car friendly. Outside ring complete the greenbelt from Governors to the Northeast
- Encourage more vendors around Big Spring Park
- Encourage buildings around Square to have street retail with lawyers upstairs
- Make Railroad Crossings silent. FRA grants available. Will help with attracting hotel/apartments/condos
- Add walking path along Lowe, slightly lower by creek
- Please keep all new construction historical-looking to match neighborhood
- Occasional daytime police presence in BSP—security
- More public art—a la Tucson, AZ! Check it out!
- Make Holmes Ave two-way
- Provide shaded seating/gathering areas
- (Not downtown) University near public housing NEEDS human activated crosswalks x 1½ mile
- City's relationship with Grelier is too intimate
- Connect entertainment districts along Meridian
- Public transportation from Five Points
- Outdoor amphitheater
- In front of art museum, do climbable sculptures for kids, and/or other play area (ex. temporary artistic mini golf exhibit)
- Two-way street w/o a turn lane creates bottleneck
- Make Holmes two-way NOW! This month!
- No more parking decks in these valuable core areas
- Greenways—check out Boise, ID Greenway. Emulate this! (Greater HSV area)
- Disc golf! Fast growing in Europe! Park in Downtown Huntsville—its family friendly and one of the most affordable sports for the public. All you need is one disc golf Frisbee
- Return Clinton to One-way at Jefferson-Washington. Entering and exiting the parking deck is a mess with two-way traffic on Clinton
- "Hide" parking behind storefronts, access to lots via small entrance or alley. Build up over them.
- "European style" playground
- Small movie theater downtown

- Try to draw more large government contractions downtown→have their main offices there→requires easy access to Arsenal
- Add “You are here” maps/locations with walking time to close by attractions/locations
- Redevelop area around downtown library. More parking at library. Add more businesses to Constellation site
- Affordable housing in/near downtown that doesn’t require millionaire status or destitution
- Greenway through the city connecting businesses. Perhaps, connection the mountain to downtown
- Please maintain and protect the outdoor sense and feel of Big Spring Park and for the “stage” for the local arts community
- Add an outdoor amphitheater
- Consider design guidelines throughout downtown
- Make downtown look less like a parking lot or a small town with a highway cutting through it
- Greenways connecting downtown to major neighborhood areas (NE HSV, South HSV, NW HSV, etc). Greenway = walk and bike and electric rail car
- Movie theater and theater for local plays
- Coffee cart with tables and chairs seating at head of Big Spring Park just below courthouse under gazebo
- We’ll take a Trader Joe’s anywhere we can get it, except for in a mall
- Contract local artist to create more murals and art throughout
- New Public Library closer to the Square
- Can we incorporate public art pieces through the downtown improvements? Examples—the fish mural, the lighting fixtures at the Avenue—Great!
- Bike and walk is key
- Concerned about removing parking before bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is in place
- Protected! Bike lanes, not just green paint for arrows
- Outdoor eating areas that are not on a street (like Pane E Vino at Art Museum)
- Add greenways
- Bike lanes
- How has gentrification played into the redevelopment of downtown Huntsville?
- Add a gateway to Big Spring Park
- Create greenway along old L&N Railway
- Add outdoor fountains
- Add outdoor sculptures
- Add outdoor art
- Condo versus apartment—focus has been on apartments versus longer term residents. Would like to see more condos and city permits that supports this
- The creeks, use them to connect all the parks and development with greenways, etc.
- Long-term purchase multi-family residences—“missing middle housing”
- Preserve/repurpose historic buildings
- Have more retail: pharmacy, dry cleaning, grocery, clothing
- Bike paths
- Don’t over develop—keep and build more green space
- Encourage local businesses to come downtown

- Have trolleys run more often
- Must have additional police to support the growth
- Extend the canal between embassy suites and civic center through city to Brahan Spring and develop on both sides along parkway like where the rock is and office depot
- Make sure there is good bike-friendly infrastructure in place before removing lots of parking lots
- Trader Joe's
- Scale property around historic sites (like Visitation) so as not to overwhelm them
- Cover the substation creatively
- Greenways that are wildlife (birds, pollinators) friendly, please!
- Alternate entry and exit routes for drivers for large events downtown; wayfinding signage=alt. route
- Small greenspace amphitheater—with mixed use stores, etc. close stagger events with VBC to even out traffic flow
- Dog-friendly and pedestrian friendly and stroller friendly
- Exit routes; ex: Meridian St to exit downtown
- Permanent public restrooms city maintained
- "Welcome to Huntsville" sign on N+S Pkwy and E+W Governors and/or on 565 prior to USSRC
- Continue Public Art Master Plan and encourage Art on publicly owned property
- Connect VBC area to Downtown Center; connectivity between nodes