



New Bern Redevelopment Commission  
Community Listening Session  
June 26, 2019

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# AGENDA

- Welcome/Call to Order- Chairman, Tharesa Lee (3 minutes)
- Purpose - Jeff Ruggieri, Director of Development Services (4 minutes)
- Introductions - Chairman Lee (10 minutes)
- Introduce the Session Facilitator (2 minutes)
  - Michelle Eley, PhD, Community and Economic Development Specialist, Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T
- Discussion Outline
  - Establish guidelines for community meeting
  - Assess needs & assets in the community (20 minutes)
  - Prioritizing issues (30 minutes)
  - How does existing neighborhood plans mirror this current conversation (15 minutes)
- Closing/Remarks, etc.

# Guidelines

- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Share “airtime”
- Speak your truth in ways that respect other people’s truth
- We share responsibility for making the conversation productive
- One person speaks at a time
- Assume good intentions
- It’s okay to disagree, but don’t personalize it; stick to the issue
- It is not okay to blame, shame or attack – self or others
- Expect/accept discomfort and unfinished business

# STEP 1:

## ASSESS ASSETS & NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Share your thoughts concerning the following questions:
  1. What do you value most living in New Bern?
  2. What aspects of this community you feel needs to be retained and preserved?
  3. What concerns do you have about your community?

## STEP 2:

# PRIORITIZING ISSUES

- We will:
  - In your individual table, you will take a moment to fill out the handout. Together, you will discuss the pros and cons of each idea and try to narrow the list
  - Report back to the larger group
  - Sort ideas by category.
    - Grouping similar ideas together and removing any duplicates
  - You will have a chance to vote for their top ideas

# STEP 2: PRIORITIZING ISSUES

## *(A Summary of Listening Session Comments)*

- Preserve Stanley White Rec. Center & other community symbols
- Make proper infrastructure investments (e.g., drainage)
- Address the downside of gentrification
  - Protect/insulate residents from possible displacement
  - Rising rents/higher property taxes/foreclosures
  - Fading of one's cultural/historical connection to a place
- Affordable, decent, and safe housing
  - Battling poor housing and home conditions (mold, asbestos, etc.)
  - How can potential homeowners obtain housing lots owned by the city
  - Additional housing for mixed income household and single parent households
  - High housing costs
- Disaster/mitigation planning
  - Dealing with home buyouts
  - Infrastructure support to show
  - Understanding insurance requirements
  - Equitable distribution of resources for impacted families/households
- Capturing & preserving cultural/historical heritage of Five Points area
  - How do we document that history (oral & written)
  - Erect cultural markers (identifying places in community that document a cultural or history significance)
- Services for seniors (housing, transportation, and other amenities)
- Economic Development in Five Points Area (in support of Small Business/Entrepreneurs)
  - Instituting vocational and trade school programs (if they are not already available)
- Sustained commitment by local government
- Address food scarcity issues
- Satellite campus/site for medical and/or community gov't services in Five Points area
- Public transportation
  - Improving access to services
  - How do we make provisions for people with special needs (e.g., disability, obese, pregnant, etc.)
- Safety (community/neighborhood)
- Generational empowerment through education
- Youth services (literacy, recreational activities, leadership training)
  - Incorporating 'scared-straight' invention for at risk youth (as an alternative to traditional methods)
  - Allocating space to host youth activities
  - Need more activities that are at low or no cost

## **STEP 3:**

# **HOW DOES EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS MIRROR THIS CURRENT CONVERSATION**

### Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan

- Addressing poor existing housing conditions in the neighborhood
- Making the community safer
- Improving the transportation network
- Improving the retail options and commercial corridors in the neighborhood
- Increasing recreational programs and activities for youths and seniors
- Improving educational outcomes for all ages
- Increasing opportunities for employment and earning a living wage
- Providing better access to health care

# STEP 3:

## HOW DOES EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS MIRROR THIS CURRENT CONVERSATION

### New Bern Gateway Renaissance Plan

- Support Residential Street Improvement
- Land Use
  - Extend the Riverfront Promenade
  - Improve/Expand Pedestrian and Bicycle
- Public Transportation
- Flooding Issues
- Housing

# A CROSS-COMPARISON OF ISSUES

## Tonight's Session

- Preserve Stanley White Rec. Center & other community symbols
- Make proper infrastructure investments (e.g., drainage)
- Address the downside of gentrification
- Affordable, decent, safe housing
- Disaster/mitigation planning
- Capturing & preserving cultural/historical heritage of Five Points area
- Services for seniors (housing, transportation, and amenities)
- Targeted Economic Development in the Five Point Area
- Sustained commitment by local government
- Food scarcity issues
- Satellite campus/site for medical and/or or community gov't services in the Five Points area
- Public transportation concerns
- Safety (community/neighborhood)
- Generational empowerment through education
- Youth services (literacy, recreational activities, leadership training)

## New Bern Gateway Renaissance Plan

- Support Residential Street Improvement
- Land Use
  - Extend the Riverfront Promenade
  - Improve/Expand Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure
- Public Transportation
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## Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan

- Addressing poor existing housing conditions in the neighborhood
- Making the community safer
- Improving the transportation network
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- Improving educational outcomes for all ages
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# **Closing Remarks & Questions**