

Formalized business owners – A random walk down Main Street (Anna and Jon)

Friday 12/2, 2-4:30pm

Name	Duration	Comments	Observer Comments
Business #1	14 yrs at this location	<p>Very active in community, with youth and cultural matters. Feels that others (business owners?) do not help the community.</p> <p>Has worked to bring things to the neighborhood/community, feels that in many instances efforts have been thwarted or commandeered by the Council/similar.</p> <p>Feels landlord is trying to get him out of his Main St. space. Building used to be owned by a different landlord, felt he was better. Feels landlord is not trustworthy, actively destroying neighborhood.</p> <p>Has not received help from the community, has done everything</p>	<p>anti-BDC (cited many examples, made a good case).</p> <p>Initially unwilling to share feelings.</p> <p>Customers came in asking for advice, demonstrating owner's depth of knowledge/expertise.</p>

		on his own. Could use help (TA), but is distrustful of any help due to previous experiences.	
Business #2	17 years in the North End (split between 2 locations)	<p>Moved to this site from other site as a result of local politicians' efforts to move business type out of the inner neighborhood. Still leases old space, though it is empty.</p> <p>Current landlord owns business across street, feels he is trying to get this business out so that landlord can use the space for storage.</p> <p>Commented that only two similar businesses are left in the North End, probably needs more and that there used to be more before.</p> <p>Has gone to the Council (New North) for help, but he didn't get any. People say they will help, but rarely follow through, follow-up.</p> <p>Would like to move back to the</p>	<p>General sense that the primary neighborhood organization does not give much actual assistance to businesses.</p> <p>Distrustful of neighborhood powers-that-be, sense that people have to make it on their own.</p>

		old space.	
Business #3	20 years (?)	<p>Does well, is the only business of its kind on this side of the North End. Would like to move, there are no lights outside the shop at night. But there is nowhere to build nearby, not sure where to go.</p> <p>Would not be interested in a cart because it would require an additional employee, and owner cannot support one.</p>	<p>Tiny location, very busy, lots of kids (after school time), felt lively and positive—a community gathering spot. Many other folks came in and out.</p>
Business #4	3 yrs at this location	Owner unavailable	<p>Large, clean, bright space. Had areas with sofas, television, toys for young children, tables, video games.</p> <p>Appears to be well-developed business.</p>
Business #5	3 months	<p>First shop, had start-up help from family. Likes location, lives in neighborhood.</p> <p>Would be interested in some sort of merchant group that would</p>	<p>Non-Latino owner (Vietnamese). Had one employee, young Latino.</p> <p>When he spoke of break-ins there was no anger or surprise</p>

		<p>work together on safety issues. Says that other owners just aren't interested, don't work that way.</p> <p>Had three break-ins and one hold-up in three months— apparently these were "initiation to the neighborhood" to be expected for an outsider.</p> <p>Speaks of at least 10 other similar shops in the Springfield area, so there is strong competition. But he offers low prices, good selection, and buys old products, so should be competitive in market. Most customers have been local.</p>	<p>in his voice, told them rather as anecdotes. Made no suggestion that they were surprising or a reason to move/close. Only suggested that a merchant group that worked toward safety would be helpful.</p> <p>Busy, youth/teens coming in and out, greeting both owner and employee.</p> <p>Local class contact spoke of how much he liked this store, how it was different than other similar little shops. Had lots of new stock and was charging reasonable/fair prices.</p>
Business #6	Several years	<p>Received permit from city to sell non-food goods at a table near entrance to another business.</p> <p>Also has sold outdoors during neighborhood street fairs.</p> <p>Would be interested in selling</p>	<p>Noted that receiving permit from city was not very difficult.</p> <p>Great example of neighborhood cooperation among entrepreneurs through</p>

		more (pushcarts?)	shared space.
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