

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 30, 2013 and
Comments to the DDA May 1, 2013

The Downtown CAC wanted me to invite members of the DDA to our Annual Downtown Party-June 6—invitations our on your desk.

They also wanted me to make an announcement. The CAC is made up of members appointed by Mayor and City Council, all of whom live in the Downtown DDA Area. That is the only qualification other than a desire to make the downtown a better place for present and future downtown residents and to report to City Council and other groups the views of our membership on downtown developments and issues. Our members generally meet every month in City Hall. We now have eleven active members. We are allowed fifteen. I wanted to use this occasion to ask you and anyone out there who hears this message: If you, or someone you know, is a resident in the DDA area and wants to become a member of the Downtown Area CAC, please contact the Mayor's office or me, Rdetter@umich.edu, and we will encourage you to come to one of our meetings so you can check us out and then apply for membership.

One of the many Downtown projects initiated by the CAC over the years was what has become the Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program. Those of us working on that program had a meeting yesterday of our Education Committee and Senior Tour Guides to prepare for our annual high school downtown walking tours on Wednesday and Thursday, May 15-16. This year, Senior Guides and trained High School Junior guides will lead 600 students from Skyline and Community High Schools on 13 guided tours of downtown exhibit sites. There are now 23 glass frames, almost 60 porcelain enamel wall images, pedestal maps and bronze artifact replicas in downtown Ann Arbor. We hope this year to add our last four wall images to the walls of the future Walgreen Drugstore on North University and State (former Michigan Book and Supply-Kresges)—of course, with a grand dedication and celebration party.

One of the elements in our walking tours is the inclusion of what we call a “Resource Person” on each tour. People like Mark Hodesh on our German-American tour—Walker Carriage Work 1890's buggy, Hertlers and Germans on S. Ashley or Greg Pee, former head of the Black Elks—Jones School and busing for integration—Fifth and Detroit.)

At yesterday's meeting a long-time member of our Education Committee, Eunice Burns, agreed to be a resource person on our Walking Tour “County and City Government”. Eunice has a long career in politics and government—former City Council Member. But it was in 1988 that Ingrid was Chair of the Downtown Development Authority when what was then the Citizens Advisory Council for the DDA requested \$20,000 in seed money to add to \$7,000 that we had from the Michigan Council for the Humanities to get the Exhibit Program going. The DDA's contribution was eventually more than that.

The CAC want to take this occasion to thank the DDA for its wisdom in making that important contribution.

Next year we hope to make the entire program and walking tours—interactive. (But I'll tell you more about that on a later occasion.) Check out our website: www.aadl.org/aastreet.)