

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes May 6, 2014  
DDA Office 150 S Fifth Av. Suite 301 Ann Arbor MI

Members Present: Jim Kern, Sue Kern, Hugh Sonk, Ray Detter

Members Absent: Marsha Chamberlin, John Chamberlin, Kathleen Nolan, Herb Kaufer,  
Joan French, Felicia Flores

Visitors: Steve Kaplan, Christine Crockett, Susan Pollay

I wish to invite all members of the Downtown Development Authority to the Annual  
Downtown Neighbors Spring Party, Thursday, June 5, 2014, starting at 6:30 p.m.

This is a great party. Both historic houses are open. We supply the beer, wine and soft  
drinks. It is a potluck. If you wish, bring a dish to pass. Don't miss it.

As you know, the members of the Downtown Area CAC are very committed to careful  
and consistent downtown planning. We want our adopted city plans to be implemented.  
We believe in consistency. Last night we asked Susan Pollay to fill us in on the  
organization and development of the Ann Arbor Downtown Streetscape Framework Plan.  
As we now understand it, this is a comprehensive effort to coordinate all City planning by  
City Government and the DDA in the right-of-way--building face to building face, in the  
67 downtown blocks that all of us share. What happens in street design, pedestrian and  
auto right of way, sustainability of streetscapes, and stewardship of downtown spaces  
affects all of us. We downtown residents look forward to being a part of this developing  
plan.

Those present at last night's Downtown Area CAC meeting left early, some to vote in  
favor of the transportation millage and others to attend a Planning Commission meeting  
to approve D2 zoning for both the Baker Commons and Main and William sites. You can  
read about that in the Chronicle. I now wish to report on another matter.

The Downtown Area CAC, with early support of the DDA, made possible the  
development of the Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program. We have  
always believed that it was important to bring young people, along with adults and  
visitors, to the downtown and to make them aware of the historical identity of this  
community. For the last four years, the program has been bringing hundreds of high  
school students to the center of our city to share that experience. Next Monday we will  
be guiding 160 Community High School students on 13 historical tours of the downtown  
area. They will be accompanied by thirty 4<sup>th</sup> grade "little buddies," hand in hand.

Every year, we try to increase the number of what we call "resource people" on our  
guided tours. Rosemarion Blake will be there to tell them about growing up black in the  
Kerrytown area. Allen Haber will be on the corner of S. University and East University  
to talk about his role in the social change of the 1960's and 1970's (Karl Pohrt had done  
that before him). Ingrid Sheldon, Janis Borbrin, and Larry Kestenbaum will help guide  
students on the tours that deal with County and City government and talk about their  
experiences. Elaine Selo will meet them at the former Selo/Shelvel store to talk about  
what was formerly her building and the downtown shopping experience. Mark Hodesh

will meet the students to talk about the German-American background of Hertler's (now Downtown Home and Garden) as well as to proudly discuss the 19<sup>th</sup> century Walker Carriage that hangs from the ceiling in his store. Over a hundred years ago, that cart was constructed across Liberty street at German-owned Walker's Carriage factory, now the Ann Arbor Art Center.

We are looking forward to Monday. If you spot one of our 26 tours during the morning and afternoon on Monday, you are welcome to tag along.