

ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 2, 2013
DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Place: DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, 48104
Time: Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Bob Guenzel, Roger Hewitt, John Hieftje, Joan Lowenstein, Al McWilliams, John Mouat, Rishi Narayan, Keith Orr, Sandi Smith, John Splitt

Absent: Russ Collins

Staff Present: Susan Pollay, Executive Director
Joseph Morehouse, Deputy Director
Amber Miller, Planning & Research Specialist
Jada Hahlbrock, Management Assistant

Audience: Art Low, Republic Parking
Dave Askins, *Ann Arbor Chronicle*
Matt Nahan, The Arts Alliance
Deb Polich, The Arts Alliance
Eli Neiburger, AADL
Andrew Selinger, Oxford Companies
Joe Miller, Oxford Companies
Andrew Cluley, WEMU
Kathy Griswold
Nancy Shore, getDowntown
Don Salberg
Ray Detter, Downtown Area CAC

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kathy Griswold said that pedestrian crashes are up from years past. Utility boxes are in the sight line for many drivers and she was concerned that adding art to the boxes could further distract drivers.

Deb Polich stated the Arts Alliance mission and briefly described the Power Art project. She shared stories of success with similar projects in other communities, the benefits the project might have in Ann Arbor, and directed people to the proposal for specific funding and timing details.

3. REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Detter reaffirmed that the CAC highly values the importance of DDA's vision, strong leadership and strategic planning in shaping the future of downtown. At their last meeting CAC members reviewed copies of the DDA's draft Five Year Project Plan. CAC members have strong support for the projects and strategies outlined in the draft plan. In particular members wanted to voice their support for the Power Art proposal. The art would be a continuation of efforts that began many years ago and hopefully provide a sustainable program for graffiti-free public art in the downtown and beyond.

Mr. Detter also shared what he had learned about Police Sergeant Thomas Hickey's work with area youth accused of tagging. Supervised by Sergeant Hickey, they are required to clean up what they and others have done to downtown buildings, and public spaces. The hope is that they will learn an important lesson and will spread the message to others who are involved in this destructive behavior. Members of the CAC want to commend Sergeant Hickey and the Ann Arbor Police Department for this program.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DDA MEMBERS

Ms. Smith introduced the newest addition to the DDA Board, Mr. Al McWilliams . Mr. McWilliams shared a little about himself and his business. All welcomed him.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mouat moved and Mr. Splitt seconded approval of the September 2013 DDA Board meeting minutes.

A vote on the motion showed:

AYES: Guenzel, Hewitt, Hieftje, Lowenstein, Mc Williams, Mouat, Narayan, Orr, Smith, Split

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: none

The motion carried.

6. A. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Resolution to Fund a Pilot Traffic Signal Box Art Project. Mr. Hewitt moved and Mr. Splitt supported the following resolution.

RESOLUTION TO FUND A PILOT TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX ARTS PROJECT

Whereas, The DDA's Development Plan includes strategies to encourage walkability and to support downtown identity by working to bring art into the public realm;

Whereas, The DDA has financially supported anti-graffiti initiatives for several years, including providing funds to create murals on downtown walls as a way of dissuading tagging even as it enlivens the public right of way;

Whereas, Downtown traffic signal boxes are a regular graffiti target because they provide large, highly-visible “canvases” at nearly intersection;

Whereas, Representatives of the Arts Alliance, Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC), and DDA have developed a proposal that would install vinyl printed art replicas on downtown signal boxes, both as a way to bring high quality art images into the public sphere and to help dissuade graffiti;

Whereas, This project would be piloted on 14 of the 42 boxes in downtown Ann Arbor, and the Arts Alliance will work with AAPAC and the AADDA to oversee the artist selection process, as well as the location of the specific boxes in high pedestrian traffic areas within the four downtown commercial districts;

Whereas, If this project is deemed to be successful, it is anticipated that this project will be repeated two additional times until all 42 downtown signal boxes are wrapped in vinyl;

Whereas, The cost for the initial phase of this project will be \$41,000, and the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission has indicated a willingness to provide half this cost (\$20,500) in anticipation of a partnership with the DDA providing the other half (\$20,500);

Whereas, The DDA Operations Committee reviewed this proposal at its September meeting and recommends DDA funding approval of \$20,500;

RESOLVED, The DDA approves a \$20,500 grant from its (003) TIF funds to match funds from the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission to install vinyl art wraps on 14 traffic signal boxes throughout the four downtown commercial areas in 2013/14.

Mr. Hewitt said that the resolution would cover the first of possibly 3 phases of the project, and the first phase is being pursued as a pilot project with the cost of \$41,000 split between the DDA and the City’s Public Arts Commission. Mr. Hieftje said he thought it would be a great next step in combating downtown graffiti and would also enhance the pedestrian experience. Mr. Hewitt reminded everyone that similar efforts to put art on these boxes began many years ago. Those initial installations are now in need of refreshing. He did not see how art could be any more of a distraction to drivers than the graffiti and postings that now cover the boxes. Mr. Mouat said he appreciated the thoughtfulness of the proposed selection process.

A vote on the resolution showed:

AYES: Guenzel, Hewitt, Hieftje, Lowenstein, Mc Williams, Mouat, Narayan, Orr, Smith, Split

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Collins

The resolution passed.

Bike Share Update. Mr. Orr said that the project has secured funding from the City, UM and grants and a request to the DDA for in-kind assistance is anticipated to be presented next month. This request may include the seasonal use of 5 on-street parking spaces and perhaps storage. Mr. Mouat asked about the program promotion; Mr. Orr said that once a program name has been selected the promotion would follow. Mr. Orr said that coordination is in place at the City to pursue the removal of abandoned bikes.

Street Framework Update. Mr. Orr said that four teams submitted responses to the RFQ, and are being reviewed, with the goal of selecting a sub-pool of firms to submit a RFP.

Connector Update. Mr. Hewitt said that a technical subcommittee and a communications subcommittee have been formed. The latter committee is working to prepare a video that will help to explain why the Connector is being planned for. The technical committee is working to develop possible routes. Additional public meetings will take place in November.

Parking Structure Repairs Update. Mr. Hewitt said that planned repairs are underway, or complete, in many public parking structures. Work includes concrete repairs, new deck coating, painting and stairway repairs. DDA staff has worked with nearby building owners and tenants to coordinate work schedules that provide the least disruption to both parking and neighbors.

Winter Classic. Ms. Pollay said that she had attended a meeting at which preliminary information about the NHL's Winter Classic at the UM stadium, and New Year's Eve activities had been shared. Both events are expected to draw significant crowds. Plans for parking and transportation are being developed.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be October 30th at 11:00am.

6. B. PARTNERSHIPS/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ann Arbor Economic Collaborative Taskforce. Ms. Lowenstein said that the Taskforce asked the City and DDA to look for potential projects to work on that are part of the SPARK Strategic Plan. At the Partnerships meeting members reviewed the Plan and found a particular interest in pursuing economic development studies in collaboration with SPARK and the City.

D1/D2 Zoning Update. Ms. Lowenstein said that Wendy Rampson provided the committee with an update on the review process set forward by City Council. Surveys and public meetings have taken place and the consultant may have a set of draft recommendations soon. Final recommendations are expected to be presented to the City later this month.

AAATA Update. Ms. Lowenstein reported that work continues on the Blake Transit Center and it is slated to open in December. AAATA has completed its Urban Core Service Plan and will hold public meetings to present suggested service changes in hopes of getting feedback. Ypsilanti Township is anticipated to be the next community to join the AAATA.

The next Partnerships/ Economic Development and Communications Committee meeting will be October 23rd at 9am.

7. OTHER DDA BUSINESS

Mr. Mouat said that as the Streetscape Framework is developed, the economic impact and activity of streetscapes will be assessed. This information will be pertinent to the discussions the Economic Collaborative Taskforce is having.

8. OTHER AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
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None

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Guenzel moved and Mr. Orr supported a motion to adjourn. Ms. Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2013**

Place: DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, 48104

Time: 11 a.m.

Present: Robert Guenzel, Al McWilliams, Rishi Nayaran, John Mouat, Sandi Smith, John Split, Keith Orr, Joan Lowenstein

Absent: Russ Collins, Roger Hewitt, John Hieftje

Staff: Susan Pollay, Joe Morehouse, Amber Miller, Jada Hahlbrock

Public: Ray Detter, Downtown CAC

1. Review of August 2013 financial statements
2. Parking operations updates, including impact of the road resurfacing outside the Forest structure
3. Transportation updates, including bike share, Streetscape Framework Plan update, abandoned bike removals, Connector Study, and getDowntown update.
4. Construction updates included structure repairs and DDA staff efforts to integrate DDA projects into the City CIP.
5. New business was a presentation on a proposed project in partnership with Arts Alliance to put art on traffic signal boxes over 3 years as a way of discouraging graffiti and enlivening the pedestrian experience with public art. Committee recommendation to put forward a resolution to the DDA to fund a grant for the first year's project.
6. Old business was an update on the joint City/DDA committee discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.
Susan Pollay, Executive Director

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 30, 2013**

Place: DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, 48104
Time: 11 a.m.
Present: Robert Guenzel, Al McWilliams, John Mouat, John Split, Keith Orr, Joan Lowenstein, Roger Hewitt
Absent: Russ Collins, John Hieftje, Sandi Smith, Rishi Narayan
Staff: Susan Pollay, Joe Morehouse, Amber Miller, Jada Hahlbrock
Public: Ray Detter, Brad Moore, Dennis Tice, Nancy Shore, Art Low, Megan Doolittle, Bill DeGroot

1. Transportation

- a. Bike Share Status- still on schedule for launch in spring 2014
- b. AATA request for a go!Pass MOU – DDA & AATA staff will work together on this.
- c. Abandoned bike update- RPS, DDA & City staff worked to tag & remove 50 bikes
- d. Running Fit Project - possibility of developer contributing dollars to be used for a new bike house in 4th/Wm.

2. New Business

- a. 624 Church St. request for 6 additional spaces. Committee recommendation DDA approval of this request.
- b. Main St Light Poles- City staff re-inspecting the poles, DDA will provide \$300K to replace most damaged poles
- c. EV Units: should DDA charge for EV use? Research was shared. Recommendation to wait because current technology is not customer-friendly, too cumbersome.
- d. Street Framework Consultant recommendation- Ops Committee to put forward resolution to the full board to accept the recommendation of the Selection Committee

3. Financial Statements

- a. 1st Quarter Financial Statements- statements and parking data was reviewed
- b. FY 13 Income Statement - reviewed

4. Parking Operations- Megan Doolittle, RPS Operations Manager was introduced, wash downs underway

5. Construction

- a. Update on Parking Structure Maintenance Work- on schedule to be completed in November
- b. Tree Planting 2013- tree planting taking place in the next few weeks

6. Old Business

- a. NHL Update. Council will be asked to vote to approve plan including charging for parking on New Years Day at their Nov 18th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

Susan Pollay, Executive Director

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 23, 2013**

Place: DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, 48104

Time: 9:00a.m.

Present: Robert Guenzel, Al McWilliams, Rishi Nayaran, John Mouat, Sandi Smith, John Split, Keith Orr, Joan Lowenstein

Absent: Russ Collins, Roger Hewitt, John Hieftje

Staff Susan Pollay, Executive Director

Present: Amber Miller, Planning & Research Specialist
Jada Hahlbrock, Management Assistant

Public: Sabra Briere, Maura Thomson, Ray Detter

1. IDA Conference Debriefing
2. Discussion regarding possible creation of a Communications Subcommittee
3. Partner Updates
 - a. Planning Commission
 - b. City Council
4. Audience Participation- none

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director