

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – January 31, 2017
City Council Workroom / City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. 7:00 pm

Members Present: Ray Detter, Nate Stevens Don Duquette, Peter Honeyman, Chaz Stucken

Visitors Present: Steve Kaplan, Jeff Crockett, Susan Pollay, Chuck Bultman, Nick Pachera, Daniel Heidor, Christine Crockett

Members Absent: Kathleen Nolan, Joan French, Hugh Sonk, John Chamberlin

The Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council decided last month that this month's meeting would be devoted to a discussion of Downtown Parking, Transportation, and Pedestrian issues. Several of us attended the City Council—DDA Board Joint Working Session on January 9. Last night we supported continuing the dialog between the DDA and City Council on raising parking rates, shifting parking enforcement responsibility to the DDA., and extending parking meter enforcement from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. But these decisions must not be seen as simply a revenue grab but a part of a parking, transportation demand system that might actually make downtown more friendly and comfortable for visitors and at the same time not threaten near-downtown neighborhoods. As an example, at least one of our downtown resident members takes advantage of the affordable evening/overnight monthly parking permit that gives residents and evening workers use of downtown parking garages from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 am. for just \$30 a month. We also encourage looking into a system that would provide late night workers an even cheaper rate in unused portions of downtown structures for more limited time periods.

Last night, members and guests unanimously agreed to support the DDA “Resolution to Adopt the Goals of the Downtown Street Design Manual Which Designs Streets for People.” Also, reflecting the DDA’s Development Plan as well as the principles stated in the City Pedestrian Safety and Access Task Force Report, we also support the “Resolution to Adopt Vision Zero” which recognizes “that the DDA should promote pedestrian and bicycle safety measures in its projects.”

In that regard, we are looking forward to being interviewed by Amber Miller at our February 28 meeting on proposed DDA improvements to streets and crosswalks at the Kerrytown area of Fifth and Detroit.

The last part of our CAC meeting was devoted to a review of any developments in the selection of the future site for a railroad station--Fuller Road or Depot? How does the UM's dropping of the proposed "Connector" relate to that decision? What impact might the City Council's unanimous decision have to approve a large contract for a tunnel under the railroad tracks north of Downtown to allow pedestrians, cyclists and stormwater to more easily reach the Huron River? It could lower the floodplain elevation in the area by as much as 6.5 feet and also directly connect the Allen Creek Greenway and downtown pedestrians and cyclists to the Border to Border Trail and the DTE site. Federal money can come from both flooding amelioration and alternative transportation improvements. Both are environmental pluses.

Final Note: a Citizens Participation Meeting will for be held on Wednesday, February 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. at the Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Road for a mixed residential and retail use in three new buildings varying from one to seven stories on the blighted 6.4 acre site at Broadway and Maiden Lane in Lower Town. All are welcome