

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes March , 2014  
City Council Work Room, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor, City Hall, October 1, 2013, 7:00 pm.

Members present: Hugh Sonk, Ray Detter

Members absent: Marsha Chamberlin, John Chamberlin, Joan French, Herb Kaufer,  
James Kern, Sue Kern, Kathleen Nolan

Visitors: Cy Hufano, Christine Crockett

A major part of the last night's Citizens Advisory Council meeting was devoted to a discussion of a recently filed lawsuit in the County's 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court challenging the legal foundation of the city of Ann Arbor's footing drain disconnection ordinance.-- (FDD-footing drain disconnection) .

The ordinance was enacted in 2001. It established a program under which property owners can be required to disconnect their footing drains from the sanitary system. It's intent is to diminish the risk of sanitary overflows into the Huron River and of sanitary sewage backups in home owner's basements. But it does more than that.

As pointed out in a February 28 edition of the Ann Arbor Chronicle a motion for a preliminary injunction has also been filed, asking that the court order the city to stop enforcement of its ordinance immediately. Among the lawsuit's many claims is that it violates the U.S. constitution prohibition against taking private property—it is unconstitutional.

This suit is very serious. It is scheduled to be heard in Judge Shelton's court by March 26. The details are complex. I suggest going to Dave Askin's excellent article for further information and clarity. If the lawsuit wins, and an injunction is granted, it will have an immediate impact upon downtown development—public, private, or by the UM.

A few other items:

The CAC will support and will urge others to support May 6 voter approval of the AATA request for an increased millage to improve our community's public transit service. It will provide 90,000 additional service hours for the Greater Ann Arbor Area.

We support age diversity in downtown Ann Arbor. As you know, Courthouse Square senior citizen housing, has been sold to Wickfield Properties. We want to urge Wickfield Properties, the DDA, City Council, major developers, and the entire community to support housing projects that can help further age diversity in central Ann Arbor.

In spite of recent City Council decisions, we want to state again our continued support of efforts of the city, individuals, groups and organizations to make sure that commitment to more public art installations remains an important community goal.

We also want to reaffirm our support for a public plaza, and public walkways to Liberty Plaza as a part of a plan for a new, tax-producing, private development

on the major part of the Library Lot. We also continue to believe that any future private development should be encouraged to work cooperatively to integrate itself with, and complement, the adjoining public plaza, the Library, the AATA, and all nearby public and private spaces.

And finally, we want to welcome new UM President Mark Schlissel and his family to downtown Ann Arbor. For the next 9 months they will be the inhabitants of Sloan Plaza while the President's historic home on South University is being renovated.