

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2017
City Council Workroom / City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. 7:00 pm

Members Present: Ray Detter, Don Duquette, Peter Honeyman, John Chamberlin

Members Absent: Joan French, Kathleen Nolan, Nate Stevens, Hugh Sonk

Visitors Present: Chris Crockett, Chuck Bultman, Jeff Crockett, Mary Hathaway, Susan Pollay

The Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council meeting was devoted to discussion of our future positions and efforts in relation to making the CORE project on the Library Block the best it can possibly be. We fully intend to be actively involved in the public process of a Citizens Participation meeting, at least two Design Review Board meetings, multiple Planning Commission meetings and as many meetings as it takes to win final City Council approval. Those present last night stressed again their desire for more retail space (no national chains), more public activity on the street level, interconnectivity, improved design possibilities (including the possibility of a Planned Project that might allow greater height in one portion in exchange for less negative impacts on historical and residential neighbors, and possibly more facades). Sensitive management by the city and county of integrated affordability requirements, strict enforcement of gold LEED commitments, avoid looking like Southfield, were also mentioned. The final development must show clear benefits to the continued operation of the District Library on the block. We continue to insist that the details of how the 12,000 square foot Plaza is to function as a cooperative public/private space needs to be clearly identified. Once again, CAC members stressed the need to improve and connect to Liberty Plaza in cooperation with First Martin on whatever they hope to develop on their properties.

Members of the CAC still believe that development plans should include a possible connection to the Blake Transit Center and the former YMCA site—even eventually connecting via William Street to emerging plans for development of the nearby Allen Creek Greenway and the multiple residential properties that have been, and will continue to be) erected along that corridor providing “eyes on the future Greenway Park system”.

We believe the Library Block must be developed as a part of an overall vision for the future of downtown. Future DDA Parking plans are an essential part of that vision. Last night, DDA Executive Director Susan Pollay outlined some of the considerations and possibilities that will be a part of the DDA’s Parking Retreat scheduled for the morning of June 23. We believe the downtown area is in good hands. We look forward to being there.

Finally-at your desk is your early invitation to the Annual Downtown Party to be held this year on Wednesday, June 7, starting at 6:30. We hope you will join us at what is accurately described as the “best party of the year”.