

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Minutes of July 9, 2019

Liaison: Ray Detter

Members Present: Carolyn Arcure, Peter Honeyman, John Splitt

Members Absent: John Chamberlin, Chaz Stucken, Joan French, Don Duquette, Kathleen Nolan, Hugh Sonk

Guests Present: Norm Tyler, Ilene Tyler, Doug Kelbaugh, Joe Arcure, Chris Crockett, Jeff Crockett, Susan Pollay

Last night's meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council was largely devoted to a discussion about the future of the Library Block. Norm Tyler, architect, former Eastern Michigan planner, and current nearby N. Division Street resident was there. Norm is one of the nine-member Library Block Task Force body created by the City Council. Norm was there to hear some of the views of the CAC on shaping a vision for the city-owned Library Lot. The first meeting of the Task Force will take place at City Hall, 10:00 am. on August 1. The task force is expected to submit a report with recommendations to the City Council by February 2020.

Last month, members of the CAC urged me to accept a recent invitation from Ralph Wilhelm and Will Hathaway for me to join them in discussing the issues related to the Library Block. Ralph and Will were leaders in the citizens group known as the Ann Arbor Committee for the Community Commons. (They put the issue on the ballot.) Last night I reported on that meeting, which was very cordial and wide open to a wide range of possibilities. Norm Tyler had also met separately with Will Hathaway. Norm also found the meeting encouraged a congenial discussion of issues.

Eleven members and visitors to the CAC meeting were also eager to suggest possibilities. DOA maps of the block were passed around and everyone had an opportunity to share their views about What we want and how we should shape and communicate our desires. We all agreed that CAC attendance at regularly scheduled Library Block Task Force meetings beginning on August 1 is essential.

For several years, "connectivity" has been a basic part of CAC thinking on the future not only of the Library Block-the Ann Arbor District Library, the Martin Properties, Liberty Plaza, historic and residential sites, the UM Credit Union site etc. -but also the former YMCA site, the Transit Center, the Allen Creek Greenway, changes on William Street, Ashley, First, West and East Huron. More

recently, Kerrytown, Broadway, the DTE site and even North Main have been a part of our considerations. Our perspective must be expanded. What we do on the Library Lot must take into consideration "connectivity" with all these areas- whether walking, on a bicycle, in a car a bus or a truck, must be a part of our planning.

How will all these changes create a new vision of what we think of as a new Central City?

We welcome the opportunity to be involved in all the discussions that will take place in defining a new concept of our "central city"?