

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 1, 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. Gunn called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Present: Newcombe Clark, Russ Collins, Robert Guenzel, Leah Gunn, John Hieftje, Joan Lowenstein, Keith Orr, Sandi Smith, John Splitt

Absent: Roger Hewitt, John Mouat, Nader Nassif

Staff Susan Pollay, Executive Director

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

Audience: Art Low, Republic Parking  
Dave Askins, *Ann Arbor Chronicle*  
Frances Todoro, SSAA  
Mary Thiefels, Neutral Zone  
John Weiss, Neutral Zone  
Scott Munzel  
Ray Detter, Downtown Area CAC  
Alan Haber  
Andrew Cluley, 89.1 WEMU  
Amy Biolchini, AA.com  
Nancy Shore, getDowntown  
Veena Kulkarni, shur  
David McNamara, shur

**2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Jon Weiss and Mary Thiefels from the Neutral Zone thanked the DDA for its support over the years, saying that DDA assistance had made many projects possible. This summer, a DDA grant will fund a work-study program in which teens will design, budget, plan and document their work towards a public art installation. They expressed their appreciation for this partnership.

David McNamara from shur explained that their group is made up of young professionals who live in, work in and love Ann Arbor. They are a group dedicated to making the Ann Arbor area a place where young people want to live and more importantly, stay. They are eager to work with the DDA to help promote the brand of downtown Ann Arbor.

Alan Haber said that his group continues to gather information in hopes of creating a temporary artificial skating rink atop the Library Lane lot. They recently met with the City Attorney's office to

explore a change to the City/ DDA parking contract that would establish a “public land non-parking” designation for the site.

### **3. REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Detter said members of the CAC wanted to invite members of the DDA to the Annual Downtown Party that will occur on June 6.

Mr. Detter said the CAC consists of individuals who live in the DDA District who are appointed to by Mayor and City Council. Their downtown address and the desire to make the downtown a better place are the only qualifications for membership. The CAC members meet monthly at City Hall, and there are currently four open spaces. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact the Mayor’s office to apply.

Members of the Education Committee of the Downtown Historical Street Exhibit Program met recently to prepare for the annual high school downtown walking tours. The tours will take place on May 15 and 16. Senior Guides and trained High School Junior guides will lead 600 students from Skyline and Community High Schools on 13 guided tours of downtown exhibit sites. There are now 23 glass frames, almost 60 porcelain enamel wall images, pedestal maps and bronze artifact replicas in downtown Ann Arbor. A new element of the walking tours is the inclusion of a “Resource Person” on each tour. People like Mark Hodesh, Greg Pee and Eunice Burns will share their knowledge of Ann Arbor history. The CAC thanks the DDA for its continued support of the program. Future projects include making the displays and walking tours interactive.

### **4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DDA MEMBERS**

None.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Guenzel moved and Mr. Collins seconded approval of the April 3, 2013 meeting minutes.

**A vote on the motion showed:**

AYES: Collins, Guenzel, Gunn, Hieftje, Lowenstein, Orr, Smith, Split

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Hewitt, Mouat, Nassif

ABSTAIN: Clark

**The motion carried.**

### **6. A. PARTNERSHIPS/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Grant Request. Ms. Smith said that the Partnerships Committee met a second time with Mr. Haber and Mr. Gordon to understand their \$25,000 grant request for an artificial skating rink on the Library Lane structure surface lot. Much information is not yet clear, and it was agreed that Mr. Haber & Mr. Gordon would work with a subcommittee of Partnerships to help them develop their proposal more fully, before coming back to the full Committee.

Ms. Smith said City Council member Sally Peterson attended the committee meeting and presented her proposal that an economic development taskforce be created with representatives from Council, DDA and SPARK. Her resolution will go to City Council later in May.

Ms. Lowenstein said that the primary focus of the May committee meeting will be a presentation from Paul Krutko/SPARK regarding their strategic work plan.

The next Partnerships/Economic Development Committee meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

<b>6. B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE</b>
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Transportation Projects. Mr. Orr said that May is Commuter Challenge month. So far over 1400 people, representing 232 organizations have signed up to participate. A grand opening party will be held for the Maynard Structure Bike House on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

Ms. Smith asked if March parking data was available yet; Mr. Orr said that the Committee meeting had been canceled but the parking report had been emailed to DDA members for their review.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.

<b>7. OTHER DDA BUSINESS</b>
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None.

<b>8. OTHER AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION</b>
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None.

<b>9. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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There being no other business, Mr. Guenzel moved and Mr. Splitt seconded a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gunn declared the meeting adjourned at 12:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Pollay, Executive Director

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11am-1:30pm  
DDA Office, 150 S. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Committee Present: Leah Gunn, Keith Orr, John Splitt, Newcombe Clark, Robert Guenzel, Joan Lowenstein, Roger Hewitt, John Mouat

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

Others: Mary Sell, getDowntown; Art Low; Republic Parking

Audience: Dave Askins, *Ann Arbor Chronicle*

**1. Financials**

Committee members reviewed 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial statements. The group reviewed the City Council approved 2013/14 DDA budget, and will present a resolution to approve this budget at the June DDA meeting. Committee members reviewed a revised 2012/13 DDA budget, and resolved to put this forward at the June DDA meeting, as well.

**2. Parking Operations**

The Varsity development requested to increase the number of parking permits it would receive under the City's Contribution in Lieu parking policy from 2 to 7. The reason for this change was discussed, and it was resolved to bring forward a resolution to the DDA at its June board meeting.

**3. Transportation**

DDA staff gave a presentation on what a Streetscape Framework Plan would consist of and why this would be a valuable tool for the DDA, City, and downtown developers. Committee members agreed that the effort would be worthwhile and directed staff to prepare a more detailed process plan and budget proposal for the next meeting. The GetDowntown representative reported that the Bike House in the Maynard Structure has 27 spaces rented. Response and feedback have been positive.

**4. Construction**

Work on the First & Washington structure continues. Republic Parking is ready to begin operations when the City takes possession of the garage. DDA staff and board members have walked the downtown to identify sidewalk elements in need of maintenance.

**5. Adjournment**

**The next Operations Committee meeting will be on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 11am.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Pollay, Executive Director