

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes February 4, 2014  
City Council Work Room, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor, City Hall, October 1, 2013, 7:00 pm.  
Members Present: Jim Kern, Sue Kern, Hugh Sonk, John Chamberlin, Ray Deter  
Members Absent: Marsha Chamberlin, Joan French, Herb Kaufer, Kathleen Nolan  
Guests: Will Hathaway, Mary Hathaway, Christine Crockett, Steve Kaplan

At last night's meeting of the CAC, members asked me to express our group's continued support for public art in downtown Ann Arbor and throughout the city. Long before there was any city program for supporting public art (Percent for Art program or otherwise), it was one of our major goals. We played an active part in establishing the Downtown Public Arts Committee and the difficult process of setting up a Public Arts Commission that followed. It was not easy.

We realize that some of the recent decisions of City Council may stall Art Commission projects in the works, and will require a reshaping of the program. But we downtown residents wish to say that we appreciate the Art Commission's efforts over the years. Its members have made valuable contributions to Ann Arbor and the arts community. And we will continue to support all efforts of the city, individuals, groups and organizations to make sure that commitment to more public art installations remains an important community goal.

Last night, the CAC heard a presentation by Will and Mary Hathaway in support of a resolution being proposed to City Council to approve the designation of an urban public space on the ground level portion of the Library Lot. Over the last few years, a number of people and groups have come to the CAC to argue in favor of turning a major part of the property above the underground parking structure into a public park. In each case we have refused our support. We strongly support the development of a significantly sized public plaza on the Fifth Avenue side of that site (as green as possible), as well as the use of a major part of Library Lane for scheduled community activities. We also support pedestrian walkways to Liberty Plaza and an additional Plaza development that is sensitive to the needs of the Public Library and the possible connections to the Blake Transit Center and nearby historical properties and districts.

But we also believe that any planning for that Library site must include the possibility of a new, tax-producing, private development on the major part of the property. We also believe that any future private development should be encouraged to work cooperatively to integrate itself with, and complement, the adjoining public plaza and spaces.

We all know that there are some in our community who would still like to turn the entire Library Lot site into a public park. We don't! And we were very pleased last night to learn that Will and Mary Hathaway, no longer think so either. Their proposed resolution, we believe, is moving in a direction that significantly agrees with that of the CAC and, we hope, the DDA. Some of us made suggestions last night that we hope will improve their resolution further.

Of course, we believe it will have to include public art.

