

**Downtown Citizens Advisory Council
Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7pm DDA Office**

Attendance: Julia McMorrough, Matthew McMorrough, Peter Honeyman, Carolyn Arcure, Joseph Arcure, John Kotarski, John Splitt, Steve Kaplan

CAC Liaison: Ray Detter (Steve Kaplan reporting for CAC)

Guest: Maura Thomson/DDA

The meeting began with a discussion about City Council's approval of the Standard, a by right development on the corner of Main & William. The role of the Design Review board was discussed in the context of the Standard. The Design Review board was not in favor of the latest design and had recommended changes, given this body can only make recommendations their input is not always incorporated into a project. The group agreed the economic impact of the Standard is a positive for downtown and the community.

It was also mentioned that the U of M Credit Union is making plans to expand its Albert Kahn designed building on Huron Street. The building plays a prominent role in the history of art deco architecture in the community.

The group discussed the need for more affordable housing and the good work being done by the Housing Commission. Last night's discussion focused primarily on the importance of maximizing density while also maintaining a quality design.

The group revisited the Historic Sound District discussion. The proposed ordinance would increase the acceptable noise level and extend the time when loud noise is permitted. Since the last CAC meeting, a sound measuring instrument was used to conduct a study to establish a baseline for ambient sound. In the proposed ordinance, the City established a baseline for ambient sound at 85 decibels. The study concluded the baseline ambient sound in various locations downtown is between 58 and 59 decibels. The impact of sound doubles with every 10-decibel increase. CAC recommends City staff revisit the benchmark level used in the ordinance. Study results are being sent to City staff and City Council.

The group discussed the recommendations from the Center of the City task force report presented to Council on March 2. The group will continue to follow and stay informed as plans for the Library Lot block unfold.

Mr. Detter shared some exciting news. The downtown Historic Marker program will be establishing another exhibit at the Kyer-Whitker Building on the corner Main and Miller.