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Outline

SHORT TERM

1. Education and vision

1.1 What is the commons?

1.2 Who are we?

1.3 Orientation to the commons

1.4 Artists visions

2, Doing what was already directed

2.1 Block group

2.2 Cars off, memorandum of understanding

2.3 Amenities

2.4 City funds

2.5 Private funds

2.6 Open library lot

2.7. City master plan

3. Working groups

3.1 Liberty plaza

3.2 Children's play

3.3. Food and cafe

3.4. Gardens

3.5. Civic Center building

3.6. Economic development

- 3.7. Appropriate technology
- 3.8 Performance space
- 3.9 Public art
- 3.10 Special features
- 4. Community engagement and outreach
 - 4.1 Letter of information and invitation
 - 4.1.1 Text elements
 - 4.1.2 Potawatomi invitation
 - 4.2 Press release
 - 4.2.1 Local press list
 - 4.2.2 Commons press list
 - 4.2.3 Text elements
 - 4.3 Community assembly
 - 4.4 Increase Council of Commons membership
 - 4.5 Equitable Engagement Program
 - 4.6 Informal advisors
 - 4.7 Government agency liaison group
 - 4.8 Community partners liaison group
 - 4.8.1 Provide information
 - 4.8.2 Invite to Celebratory Opening
 - 4.9 Celebratory Opening
- 5. Management and fundraising
 - 5.1 Ad Hoc continuation

5.2 Culture of the Commons/ Code of Conduct

5.2.1 CTN

5.2.2 Partner organizations

5.2.3 Signage for commons

5.2.4 Provisional summary

5.3 Volunteer staffing pool

5.3.1 Public notice of opportunity

5.3.2 Time banking

5.3.3 Staff training

5.4 Job description of full time equivalent staff

5.5 Private fundraising

5.5.1 Individual solicitations

5.5.2 Online crowdfunding

5.5.3 Market stands

5.5.4 Flea markets and book sales

5.5 Common Good currency

Block Group members

Government agency liaison members

Community partners liaison members, beginning list

Informal advisors group, beginning list

Elements of culture of commons code of conduct

MEDIUM TERM

1. Gather information
2. Charette
3. Professional design term
 - 3.1 Liberty Plaza development
 - 3.2 Library Lane Park
 - 3.3 Civic Center Building
 - 3.4 Bridges
 - 3.5 Interface with Downtown Library
 - 3.6 Interface with First Martin Building
4. Commons Management Conservancy
5. Community Land Trust
6. Noble House Acquisition
7. Eco-Village
 - 7.1 Educate
 - 7.2 Accomplish
8. Major fundraising
 - 8.1 Local philanthropy
 - 8.2 National foundations
 - 8.3 Government grants
9. Full-Time equivalent staff

LONG TERM

Site Plan approval and begin constructions

Bicentennial celebration

Choose a name

LONGER TERM

Continue to finish what isn't finished

Write a book of the story

Details:

SHORT TERM. now into the Fall 2021, and continuing

1. Education and visions

1.1 "What is the commons?" Story: When a Community High School student interviewed me for her journalism class on how the campaign for the commons was organized, 2009-2018 I told the long story and asked her at the end, did she know what "the commons" was. She said "no...they don't teach that." So it is. Afterwards I spoke at the Board of Education, saying "You would not want every student graduating from the Ann Arbor School system to be able to read and understand every word of the Ann Arbor City Charter, including the new word "Commons" in Chapter 1, section 4. I noted that among the "Founding Fathers," when the Constitution was being drafted, it was said (James Wilson) "The purpose of this Constitution is to privatize the commons." I learned first about the Commons in my long ago history studies of the Magna Carta and Charter of the Forests, and more recently from the Ann Arbor resident historian Peter Linebaugh who opened to me a whole literature and the world movement of reclaiming the commons. This knowledge was the stimulus for Proposal A , which the voters passed and which is our charge to make real.

All of us in the City Council appointed Council of the Commons need to go through a self education process of "what is the commons," and to extend that education into the community and to incorporate it into the Ann Arbor School K-12 curriculum. Short term we need to educate ourselves. Reading the book by David Bollier, "Thinking Like a Commoner" would be a good start. Beyond that, short term, we should all begin to become familiar with the wider literature of commoning in other cities around the world, and to provide an acquisition list for the Public Library to have on its shelves.

As the Center of the City Task Force studied the question for 7 months, its members came to a much deeper understanding of what was possible and potential in the center of the city commons. Please read pages 7, 10, 16-17 and appendices C and F of the Task Force Report, incorporated in the October 5, 2020 City Council "Accelerating Development" Resolution recognizing the Community Commons Initiating Committee as a community partner in the development of the commons.

1.2 Education: "Who are we?" The formal meeting structure is too fragmented to feel the beauty in our collectivity. We need some kind of facilitated process to better learn who we are, the interests, talents, experiences and passions we each bring from our different lives to better appreciate a potentials among us, exceeding expectations

1.3 "Orientation to the commons" teaching seminar/webinar . on how the commons works, various models and emerging aspirations, explaining communication, decision making, financing. Invite some web designers and cyber geniuses to design a proposal that we can consider, to release to the public and publicize as widely as we can,with the aim that everyone in Ann Arbor visit the :commons orientation" in cyberspace.

1.4 Invite artists to express visions of what the commons might become, helping people to see

2. Doing what was already directed to be done.

2.1 Convene a first and subsequent regular meetings of the "Block Group" including all organizations on the Center of the City block, especially First Martin Corporation, the District Library, the University of Michigan Credit Union and Inter-Cooperative Council, and inviting also all the businesses,

tenants, residents and residence owners on the block, and bridging across 5th Avenue to the Blake Terminal Transit Authority, and the Y-Lot design team. (List of suggested Block members suggested below) No ideal long term plan can be developed until there is cooperative communication with the Library and the First Martin Corporation.

2.2 Press the Downtown Development Authority and Republic Parking to finalize a Memorandum Of Understanding to terminate surface parking from the Library Lane Lot.

2.3 Facilitate location of public toilets, drinking water, electric access, internet wi-fi connectivity, staging and performance facilities and storage space, as directed in the October 5, 2020 City Council "Accelerating Development" Resolution.

2.4 Consult with the City Administrator to determine what City Funds, Park funds, special Fund Funds and non-monetary resources are available for such City Council mandated amenities

2.5 Join with the Community Commons Initiating Committee and the Library Green Conservancy as a City Partner in a cooperative fundraising program to help provide resources for activation of the commons spaces.

2.6 Open the Library Lane surface lot space to public use.

2.6.1. Establish a volunteer commons office and information point, using the donated "DecaDome"

2.6.2. invite interested people to "sign-up" as volunteer park rangers, commons ambassadors to keep eyes on the park and to be helpful

2.6.3. Invite outdoor chairs, tables and benches and play equipment to be donated

2.6.4. secure a storage space in the Parking Structure for equipment not in use

2.7 Develop a timeline plan to include the Community Commons in the City Master Plan

2.7.1 Modify official Downtown Ann Arbor Maps and public signage to identify and direct to the Commons

2.7.2. Establish an on site Commons Mailbox and 5th Avenue street address

3. Establish Working Groups on on-going program development such as were raised during the work of the Center of the City Task Force

3.1. Liberty Plaza Working Group: engage the users of Liberty Plaza and others involved in designing a users group to improve the governance and attractiveness and activities of the plaza, seeking to include the First Martin staff, Lions Club gardeners, the shelter, and all past users, Sonic Lunch, Pizza serving Church, Art Center, and City Police

3.2 Children's play areas Working Group: look at all the feed back on Children and play areas and adult play, look at previous playground and

skating rink applications, improvise short term play areas and imagine long term play attractions

3.3. Food and Cafe development Working Group: See the Commons as a focal point for the Washtenaw County and local food system,

providing short term food options with food carts and envisioning food and health education and a "Conscious Cafe" as part of a

prospective Civic Center Building

3.4. Gardeners, greening and permaculture Working Group: look at all the feedback on greening the commons, consider plantings on Liberty

Plaza, maintaining the sensory Garden, Kempf House and creating a pollinator friendly "green roof" for the Library Lane parking structure

3.5. Civic Center Building exploratory functions and design Working Group: gather and review all indoor activities suggested as part of the

public outreach of Task Force, seek coordination with the District Library, First Martin Corporation and Credit Union, and invite artists to

envision designs

3.6. Economic development Working Group, mutual aid, common good and complementary currency, time banks, and social service and

child care and elder support activities

3.7. Appropriate Technology Working Group, in cooperation with A2Zero, the Office of Sustainability and Innovation, and the University

School of Environment and Sustainability explore possibilities of solar, wind, geo-thermo, heat pumps, hydrogen and magnetic energy

generation, water purification, and composting ...for both practical utility and as a community teaching place for appropriate technology

3.8. Performance Space Working Group: invite musicians, dancers, poets, et al, and liaison people from existing venues, (the Ark, Michigan

Theater, University Musical Society, Neutral Zone, Sonic Lunch, et al) to consider how to program performance spaces, respectful of

neighbors sound-wise, and establish a "Calendaring Committee" to coordinate calendaring.

3.9. Public art working group. invite muralists, miniaturists, artists of all sorts and associations (including Ann Arbor Art Center and Public

Art Commission, Treetown muralists) to a weekend brainstorming and self empowered creative agreement on how to paint up the

places, walls, cement ground surfaces, paths, curbs. with nothing presumed permanent and then inviting the public to comment,

criticize, suggest changes and next iterations.

3.10 Special Features Working Group, attending especially to the design and location of a focal Fountain, also considering a memorial

and special remembrance place

4, Community Engagement and Outreach.

4.1 Letter of information and invitation to participate to all Ann Arbor Resident and business addresses. (72,144 at last count)

4.1.1 Suggested Text Elements: "Hear ye, hear ye, after many years, much debate, discussion, acrimony and love, the City of Ann

Arbor commences the beginning of our community commons on the public lands including Liberty Plaza gardens, greening the

Library Lane parking Lot and establishing a community self-management process inviting and relying on the love and creativity of

our city to make a downtown destination of which we all will be proud in the years to come, and looking back happily at the travails

of gestation...."

4.1.2 send special notice to the Potawatomi Nation inviting their counsel in the development of a community commons and to consider

a "coming home" Potawatomie gathering in Ann Arbor

4.2 Press release to all local media and media in other communities where commoning s part of local policy

4.2.1. develop a press list of all relevant local media and social media

4.2.2. develop a press and contact list in cities where the commons and commoning are recognized as part of municipal policy

including Amsterdam, Ghent, Bologna, Barcelona and other global initiators

4.2.3. Suggested press release elements: "Ann Arbor, Michigan USA, takes a leap into the future designation the Center of its City as

a community commons intending to learn from and increase the experience of the municipal movements world wide to develop

local resiliency and self management of commonly pooled resources...This public land including two park areas and a

prospective Civic Center Building is scheduled for completion by the time of the Ann Arbor Bicentennial in 2024....Ann Arbor is

world renowned as a center of innovation and home of the University of Michigan"

4.3. Host a regular monthly "Community Assembly" first on Zoom in June and, when appropriate, on the Commons land to invite public

discussion and ideas

4.4. Request and Advise the City Council to amend the Council of Commons membership definition to include a Tribal Member and a member of the African American Community..and allowing the Council of the Commons to further increase its membership

as it sees appropriate, pending approval of the individual additions by the City Council.

4.5. Seek to participate in the City of Ann Arbor "Equitable Engagement Program"

4.6 Send an invitation to esteemed scholars and practitioners of commons design inviting them to help us as "informal advisors"

4.7. Ask the City Administrator to convene a "Government Agency Liaison Group", to identify a Liaison Staff Person in each

agency to receive information on commons development and be thoughtful on how their agency can be a

beneficial collaborative partner in the commons. (Suggested List below)

4.8. Work with the Community Commons Initiating Committee to convene a "Community Partners Liaison Group"

(Suggested List Below)

4.8.1 to provide information on how the commons is developing and opportunities to participate

4.8.2 to invite to a Celebratory Opening

4.9. Celebratory Opening, when public gatherings are again safe and approved, host a celebratory opening exhibiting ideas for

future development working group work and invitations to participate, music and poetry from those who have encouraged

the commons efforts. At least by Peace Day 2021, accentuating the mission of the commons "to foster a culture of peace and

non-violence."

5 Management and Fundraising

5.1. short term continue the ad hoc cooperation between the Community Services, DDA, and Parks Department in scheduling

activities with community groups that wish to organize formal programs on common spaces

5.2 begin "The Conversation" on the culture of the commons, the culture of peace and non-violence, the rapprochement of

cultures, the code of conduct and terms of mutual respect, mutual benefit and mutual responsibility, getting along with each

other and interpersonal relations

5.2.1. begin on CTN

5.2.2 encourage prospective partner organization to host roundtables for discussion

5.2.3 include elements of the discussion on signage at the entrances of the commons

5.2.4 Aim for a provisional summary by Earth Day 2022

Elements of Culture of the Commons written below

5.3 establish a volunteer staffing pool

5.3.1 Put out a public notice to seek interested people

5.3.2 establish a "time-banking" system to recognize volunteer work

5.3.3 begin staff training in non-violent communication, culture of the commons, knowledge of City services and help

options when needed

5.4 Establish a job description for Full-Time Equivalent Staff, "Commons Ambassador" and "Park Ranger"

5.5 Continue private fundraising through the Initiating Committee and Library Green Conservancy to finance temporary

improvements

5.5.1 individual solicitations

5.5.2 online crowdfunding, with donate button on A2C2 web site

5.5.3 establish dates for market stands for small and start up businesses,with a share of money sales going to the commons

5.5.4 establish dates a community flea markets and book sales and exchanges, with a share going to the commons

5.5.5 develop "Common Good" complementary currency with benefits helping support the commons

Block Group. prospective members to invite. 2.1

Downtown Library Branch

First Martin Corporation

University of Michigan Credit Union

Inter Cooperative Council

Danali Resident Owners

Jerusalem Garden

Chelas

Earthen Jar

Guitar Studio

Christian Science Reading Room

SPARK

Center for the Continuing Education of Women

Kempf House historic maintenance group

Owners and tenants of residential buildings on Division and Liberty Streets

Community Commons Initiating Committee

Blake Terminal liaison

YLot Site development liaison

Government Agency Liaison Group: suggested invitees. 4.7

Ann Arbor District Library

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Downtown Development Authority

Downtown Citizens Advisory Commission

Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority

City Parks Department

Parks Advisory Commission,

City Energy Commission

City Office of Sustainability and Innovation

Historic District Commission

Leslie Science Center

Hands on Museum

365 City volunteer program

Community Television Network

University of Michigan School of Environment and Sustainability

University Taubman School of Design

University of Michigan School of Social Work

University of Michigan Ginsberg Center

Washtenaw Community College

Ann Arbor Police Department

Community Partners Liaison partial List. 4.8 (including members of the Block Group 2.1 above)

TreeLine Conservancy

Ecology Center

Sierra Club

Neutral Zone

Ann Arbor Art Center

Art Fair Committee

Summer Festival Committee

Washtenaw Bikers and Walkers Coalition

Center for Independent Living

Huron River Watershed Council

New Center

SPARK

Delonis Center

Washtenaw Literacy Project

Rotary International

Kiwanis

Habitat for Humanity

United Fund

826 All Hand Active

Women's Farm and Garden Club

THRIVE Collaborative

Common Good

Ground Cover

Greenhills School

People's Food Coop

Washtenaw Land Trust

....consider an initial list of 50

informal advisors suggestions. 5.6

Peter Linebaugh

David Bollier

Sylvia Federici

Project for Public Spaces

Xavier de Chirac, Paris gardener

Kirk Hoffman, Andrew Weil Gardener

Amanda Burden, New York City

Ronald Fleming

...others

Elements suggested for the Culture of the Commons and Code of Conduct 5.2

Everyone should benefit by their presence and participation, each concerned with the wellbeing and benefit of others

Everyone responsible for the wellbeing of the whole and each other and themselves

Everyone is respectful of the others, We are one human family

Respect for one another's space; don't get in my space and face and lay your trip on me

Consider how your actions affect others...like the sign: "humankind, be both"

A place to be free; forever, in perpetuity; creating memories, making history

Know you are located in the history of long struggles to liberate commonly held resources from the enclosing grips of privatizing corporations and top down government

Bring conflicts to the peace table, practice a culture of peace and non-violence

Learning how to work together to evolve the use of place, things and knowledge shared in common

Encourage and support others to speak; listen to what others have to say

Practice commoning

A sacred place

We the people

Touch the woman, touch the rock

Commoners all

Circle unbroken'

All things in common

MEDIUM TERM. Peace Day 2021 ideally through beginning of fiscal year 2022-2023

1. Gather all the information and reports from working groups and

2. Begin a Calthrope-like "charette" program to gather and evaluate public experience in the short term initiation of the commons.

3. Consider hiring a professional architecture and design team to provide design and cost guidance on the principal elements of the Long term commons development.
 - 3.1. Liberty Plaza development
 - 3.2. Library Lane Park development
 - 3.3. Civic Center Building development
 - 3.4. Bridges, elevated terraces, connectors between the several elements
 - 3.5. Interface with Downtown Library
 - 3.6. Interface with First Martin Corporation.

4. On basis of short term experience, develop a "Commons Management Conservancy" to assume and integrate management functions previously divided between the City Community Services, DDA, Parks Department and Historic District, Library Green Conservancy and Community Initiating Committee.

5. Explore the form of a multi-site Community Land Trust to assume "ownership" responsibility of all areas of the commons, and other properties that may become acquired by the commons.

6. Endeavor acquisition of the Nobel House and Carriage House historic buildings from the First Martin Corporation, and undertake conversion of ground floor of Nobel House into a social service center

7. Formalize a model of an "Eco-Village" integrating all properties on the Center of the City Library and Commons Block..

7.1 Educate as to what is an "Eco-Village"

7.2 work with each property owner to identify and accomplish needed beneficial Eco-Village adaptations

8. Begin a major fundraising program to establish a "Commons Endowment Fund" for on-going maintenance and a "Commons Capital Fund" for construction costs of Long Term plan.

8.1 Seek support from Ann Arbor Philanthropic Community, for example

Taubman Foundation

Towsley Foundation

Power Foundation

Heyden Foundation

Dahlmann Foundation

Harburg Foundation

Bank of Ann Arbor

University Bank

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

8.2 Seek Support from National Foundations with interest in Commons related Activities

Mott Foundation

Cummins Foundation

Annenberg Foundations

Wilson Foundation

Kellogg Foundation

Ford Foundation

Home Depot Foundation

8.3 Identify Federal and State Government funds and apply where appropriate

9. Hire Full Time Equivalent Commons Staff

9.1. volunteers coordinator

9.2 responsible for calendaring and communications and clean up

9.3. likely divided among several part time components of full time equivalent

LONG TERM PLAN. July 2022 -July 2024.

Formalize and seek Planning Commission and City Council approval of site plan and begin construction of Civic Center Building, Elevated areas and connectors, and final design improvements of Library Lane Lot and Liberty Plaza

Participate in planning of Ann Arbor BiCentennial Celebration, 1824-2024

Give the place a name

Longer term plan...

Continue working on what isn't yet completed

Write a book on the whole process