



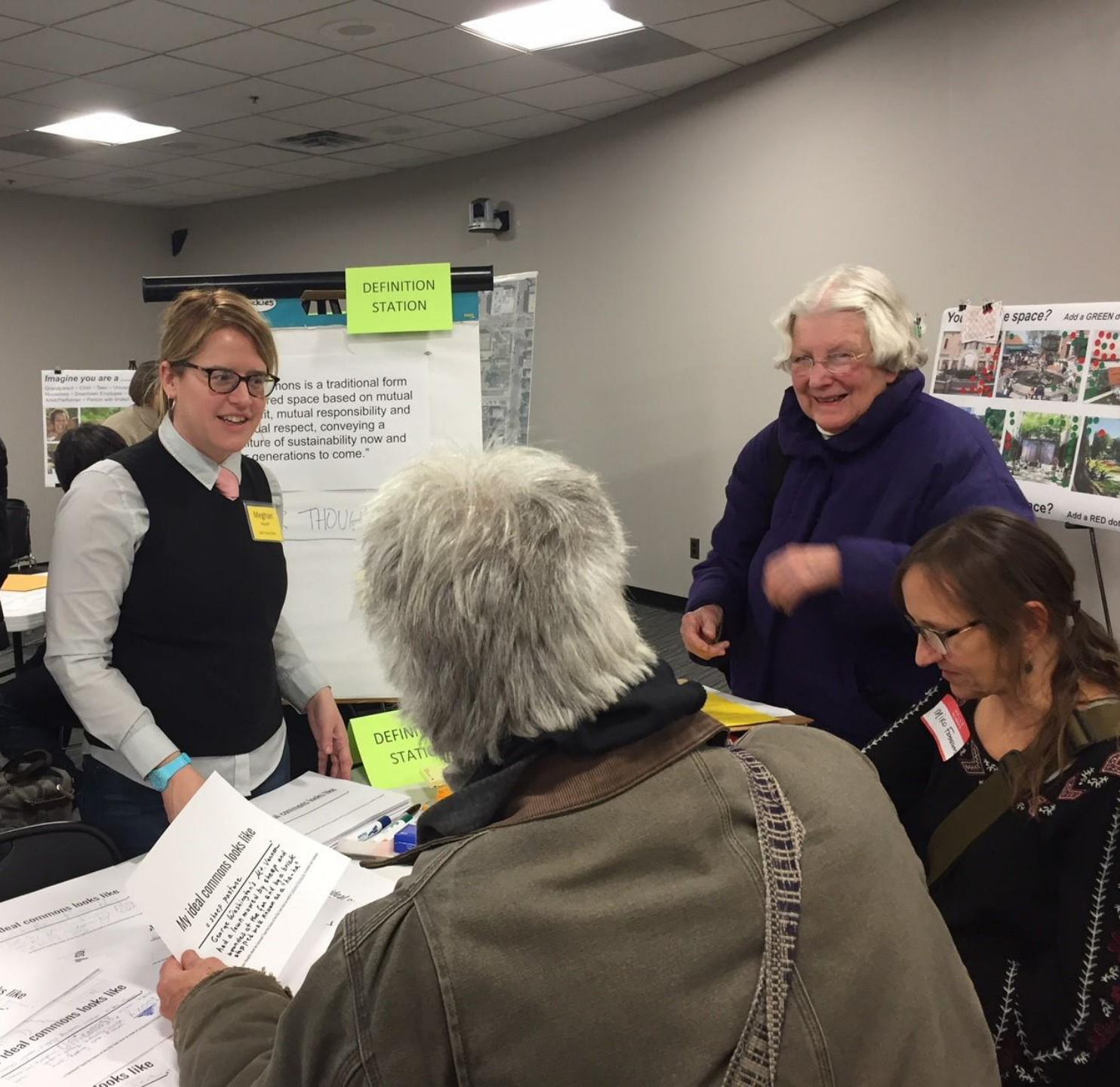
CENTER OF THE CITY

Task Force
Report
Summary



THE TASK FORCE

(L-R) John Haines, Meghan Musolff (Chair), Chip Smith (Council Member) Carolyn Loh, Norman Tyler, Hannah Boettcher, Ann Dilcher, Heather Seyfarth (Staff Liaison), Dean Yang, Alan Haber, Miles Klapthor (Vice Chair), Jeff Hayner (Council Member)



ROLE OF TASK FORCE

Ann Arbor City Council passed resolution R-19-135 to establish the Center of the City Task Force

The charge was:

- “to **engage citizens** in visioning, long term planning, and intermittent uses, building toward the final **vision** for the Center of the City on the Library Block” and
- Develop “**recommendations** to help determine the **next steps** to advance the **development of a central park and civic center commons**.”

THE PROCESS



NOTIFICATION METHODS

Emails to
list of 500+
addresses

Social media:
Twitter,
Next Door &
Facebook

Online City
calendar

Postings at
City Hall

Project
Website

Ann Arbor
Observer
calendar

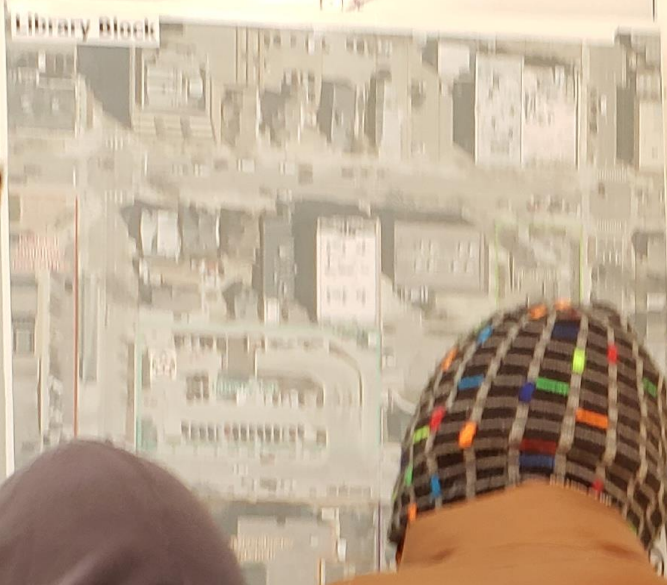
Flyers posted
around town

Mailing
to 6,500
residents

INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

Task Force email	Regular Task Force meetings	Interviews	Library Lot IdeaPod Input Station
November 6, 2019 Open House	Online Survey	Liberty Plaza IdeaPod Input Station	January 15, 2020 Open House

HIGHLIGHTS: THE IDEAPOD



OPEN
IDEA
Stop in to share
thoughts on the
future of the Com

HIGHLIGHTS: THE IDEAPOD



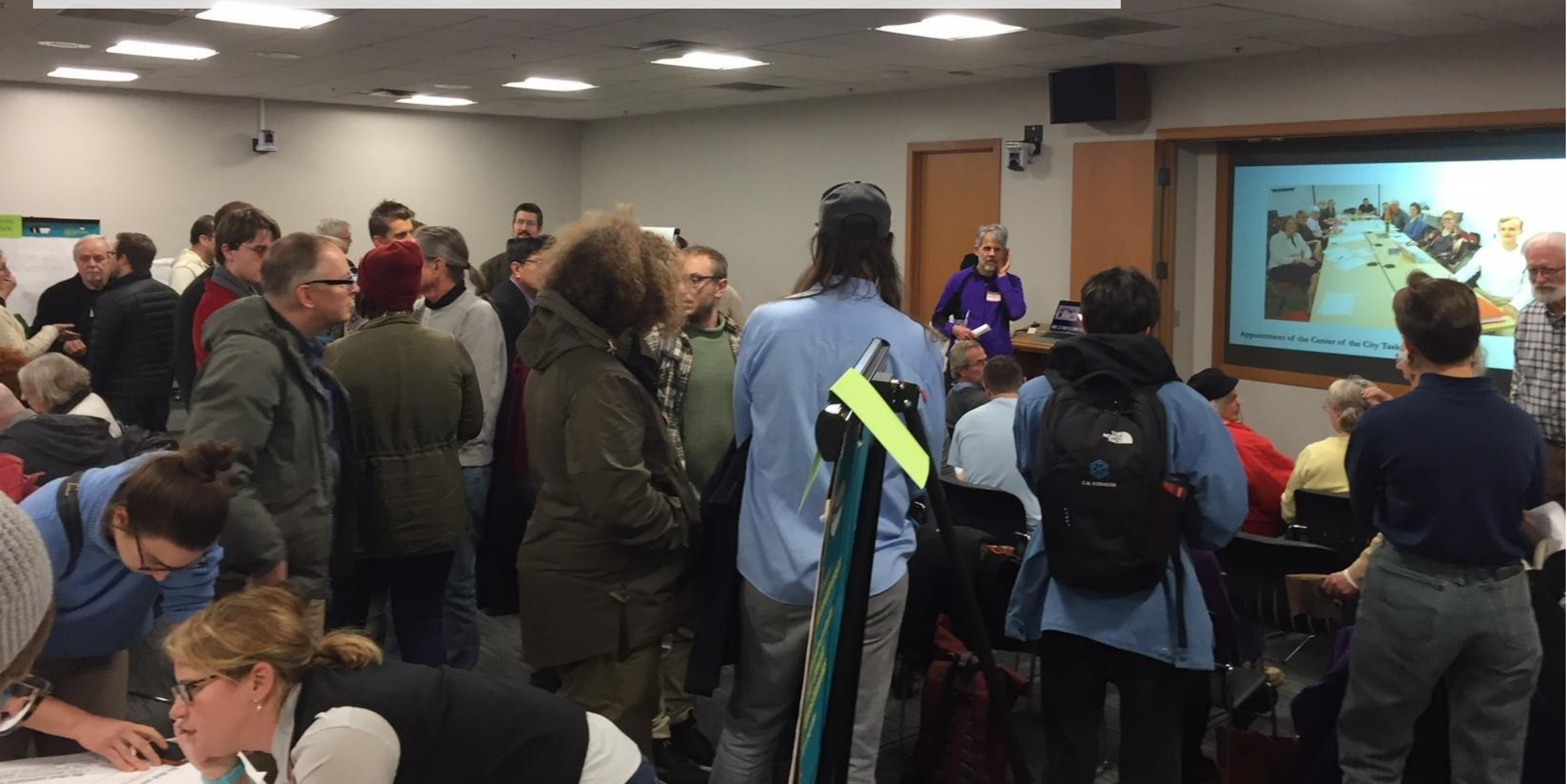
- Centerlines
- Ann Street
- Broadway
- Cabellstone Farm
- Division Street
- East Liberty
- East William Street
- Fourth / Ann
- Liberty Street
- Main Street
- Northern Brewery
- Old Fourth Ward
- Old
- W

DIXON
PENCILS
GOLF PENCILS

STAPLES
Stickies

Park...ing lot
more housing
for homeless
Make it look
"Is This The Ho
tiny ret
Bubble
Prices

HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER 6 OPEN HOUSE



HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER 6 OPEN HOUSE



HIGHLIGHTS: TARGETED MAILING

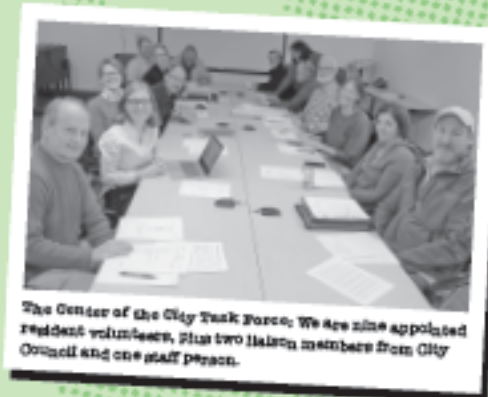
TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR (AND FRIENDS EVERYWHERE):

In November 2018, voters approved PROPOSAL A to amend the City Charter, which states that City-owned land bounded by Fifth Avenue, and William, Division and Liberty Streets, including Liberty Plaza, the surface of the Library Lane parking structure and Library Lane itself, "shall be retained in public ownership, in perpetuity, and developed as an urban central park and civic center commons known as the 'Center of the City'."

An Overview of the Library Block Project

COMMONS is the inclusive term for this assemblage of public lands. The City Council Resolution to Implement Proposal A described the commons as a traditional form of sharing land for mutual benefit, with mutual responsibility and mutual respect.

BY FEBRUARY 28, 2020, the CENTER OF THE CITY TASK FORCE will present recommendations to the Ann Arbor City Council for implementing the City Charter direction to develop these public lands as a Central Park and Civic Center Commons. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!



The Center of the City Task Force. We are nine appointed resident volunteers, plus two liaison members from City Council and one staff person.

What's on the Library Block?



Liberty Plaza

Kempf House



Surface Lot

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS on how the City can connect, improve and better activate all these areas of the Library Block?



You're Invited to Participate!

AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS INVITATION the Task Force has held community engagement meetings with the AAAA, the DCA, the downtown Library, the Old Fourth Ward

Neighborhood Association, Kempf House, the DeBoris Center, a Y Lok consultant and businesses and residents near the Library Block. The Task Force also gathered survey responses in an "Idea Pod" de cadone on the Library block, through an online survey, and at a community-wide open house.



Participants view the Idea Pod in November 2019.

FUTURE PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

GET UPDATES & ALERTS:
www.a2gov.org/citycenter

ATTEND A COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE:
January 15, 6-8 pm
Ann Arbor SPARK, 330 E. Liberty St.

PROVIDE INPUT TO THE TASK FORCE:
CityCenterTF@a2gov.org

ATTEND A TASK FORCE MEETING
(see right)

UP COMING TASK FORCE MEETINGS

January 8, 2020 @ 3 PM

January 22, 2020 @ 4 PM

February 5, 2020 @ 3 PM

February 19, 2020 @ 4 PM

Meetings are held every other Wednesday for two hours—usually at Ann Arbor City Hall. Public comment invited at the beginning and end of each meeting. Other special meetings may be scheduled—subscribe for email alerts:
www.a2gov.org/citycenter

What's Your Vision for the Center of the City Commons?

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE! The Commons is shared by all people acting as equal shareholders. It is a place where creating and living the culture of peaceful sustainability is central as the common mission of humanity. A place distinguished by the highest aspirations of the human family, harmony of cultures and the universal declaration of human rights. A place inviting the love and generosity of Ann Arbor people to think and work and cooperate together to create something beautiful in the physical world, bringing us more together as a community as a whole.

What philanthropists, foundations and advisers might be willing to help?

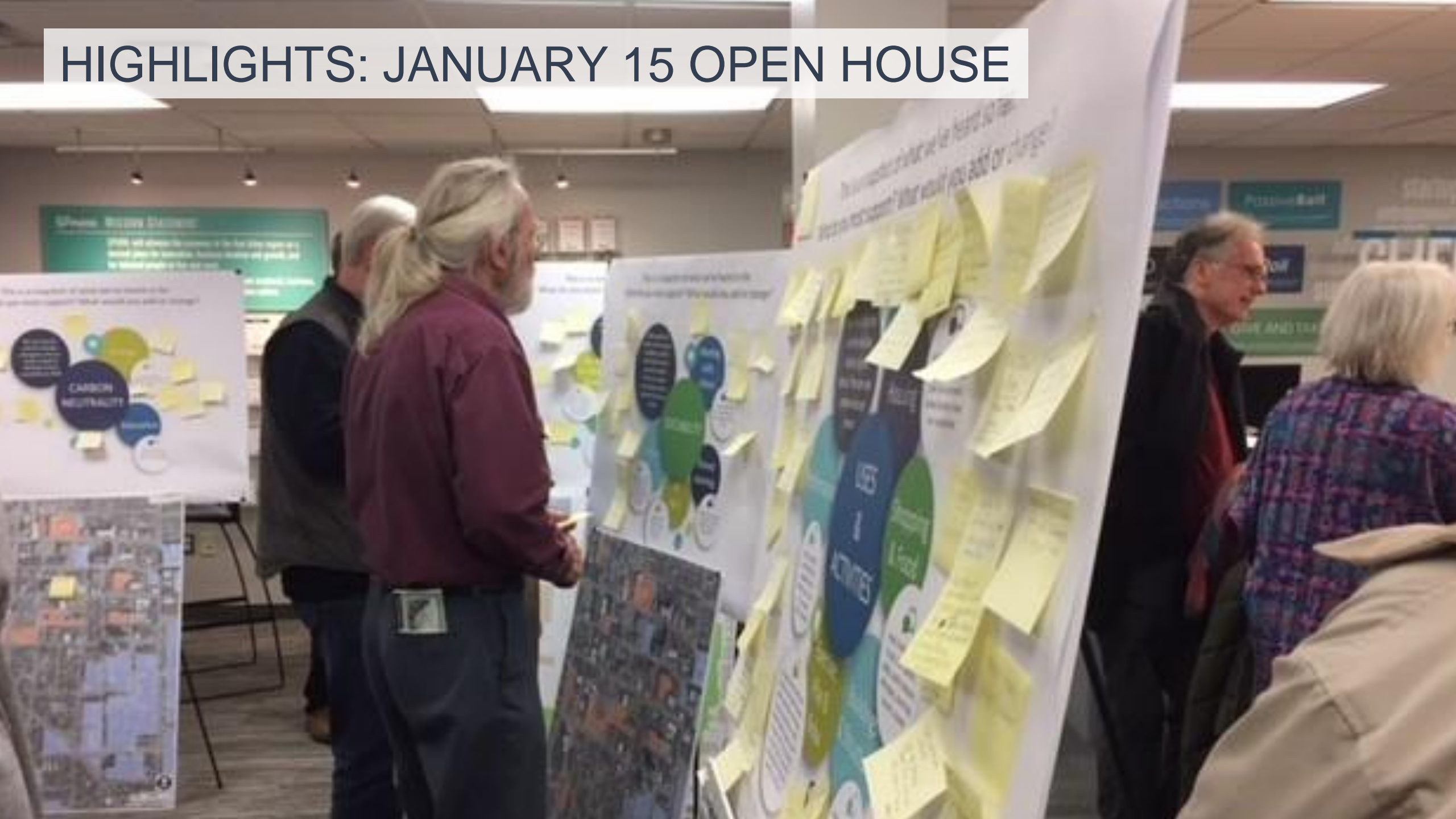
What are your thoughts on financing?
Rely on volunteers, fundraisers and philanthropy?
A new tax?
Let us know your thoughts about this! Email:
CityCenterTF@a2gov.org

If there were a Civic Center Building, what function(s) would you like to see for it?

HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY 15 OPEN HOUSE



HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY 15 OPEN HOUSE



HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY 15 OPEN HOUSE



STATES

Wor

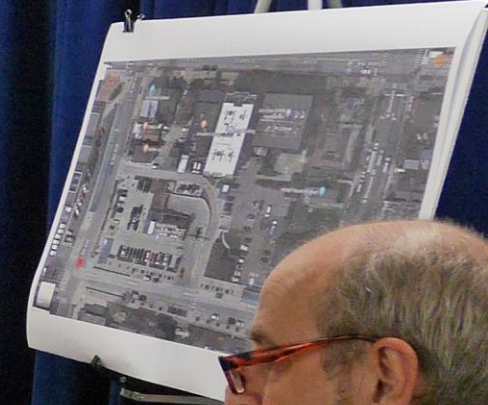
business compassion with high quality
the mortgage recovery, granting private,
clear resistance to those with substance

independent living for seniors by tracking
activities using discreet sensors placed around
that keeps loved ones in the loop with its app.

global pharmaceutical company Allergan in
Seattle is a clinical-stage biotechnology
based on several innovative approaches to



CIVIC COMMONS
BUILDING



THE VISION

Our vision is to create spaces that are:

- Inclusive and welcoming to everyone
- Safe, active, and foster a culture of peace and non-violence
- Easy to see, easy to get to, and easy to get through
- Flexible, adaptable and sustainable
- Inspiring and promote life-long learning

It is important to continue to engage with the community in the co-creation of this vision.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Facilitate the formation of the Ann Arbor Council of the Commons
2. Schedule regular meetings of a Center of the City Block partners group
3. Remove ground-level parking on the Library Lot parking structure and begin efforts to redesign as an active public space
4. Authorize initial planning for the long-term development of the Center of the City Block as a priority under the City's Master Plan
5. Authorize initial planning for the development of the public spaces on the Center of the City Block
6. Negotiate potential agreements/easements that allow for future expansion and connections of the public spaces on the Center of the City Block.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Facilitate the formation of the Ann Arbor Council of the Commons

Responsible party: City Council

Goals:

1. Develop programming, educational opportunities, activities and structures for the spaces that have broad community appeal
2. Define the “Culture of the Commons”
3. Foster partnerships that will create financial sustainability

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Schedule regular meetings of a Center of the City Block partners group

Responsible party: City Staff (City Administrator)

Goals:

1. Create and enhance connections between representatives of all spaces on the Center of the City Block.
2. Foster partnerships that will create financial sustainability.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Remove ground-level parking on the Library Lot parking structure and begin efforts to redesign as an active public space

Responsible parties: City/Downtown Development Authority (physical improvements), Ann Arbor Council of Commons (programming)

Goals:

1. Design and update spaces to be physically accessible.
2. Create and foster flexible, safe, and adaptable spaces that can support various activities and functions.
3. Designate a space for public discourse.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Authorize initial planning for the long-term development of the Center of the City Block as a priority under the City's Master Plan

Responsible party: Planning Commission

Goals:

1. Create and enhance connections between features of the Center of the City Block.
2. Create and enhance transportation connections to and within the Center of the City Block.
3. Look for opportunities to physically expand and maximize the use of the Center of the City Commons.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Authorize initial planning for the development of the public spaces on the Center of the City Block

Responsible party: City/Downtown Development Authority (physical improvements), Ann Arbor Council of Commons (programming)

Goals:

1. Design and update spaces to be physically accessible.
2. Design the public spaces with a variety of transportation options that encourages people to move through them at all times of the day and foster natural “eyes in the park.”
3. Create and foster flexible, adaptable spaces that can support various activities and functions.
4. Create and nurture environmentally sustainable spaces.
5. Create a sustainable, relaxing green space.
6. Create an active play area.
7. Create and enhance connections between all spaces on the Center of the City block.



MORE TREES^{EL.}

OPEN FOR
IDEAS!

Join in to share your
thoughts on the future
of the Commons

INFO K
Web Cast:
Commons Cam
Community
Small Garden

WHAT INFORMED THE RECOMMENDATIONS:
COMMUNITY INPUT

LIBRARY LOT TASK FORCE REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Adopted January 11, 1989

BACKGROUND

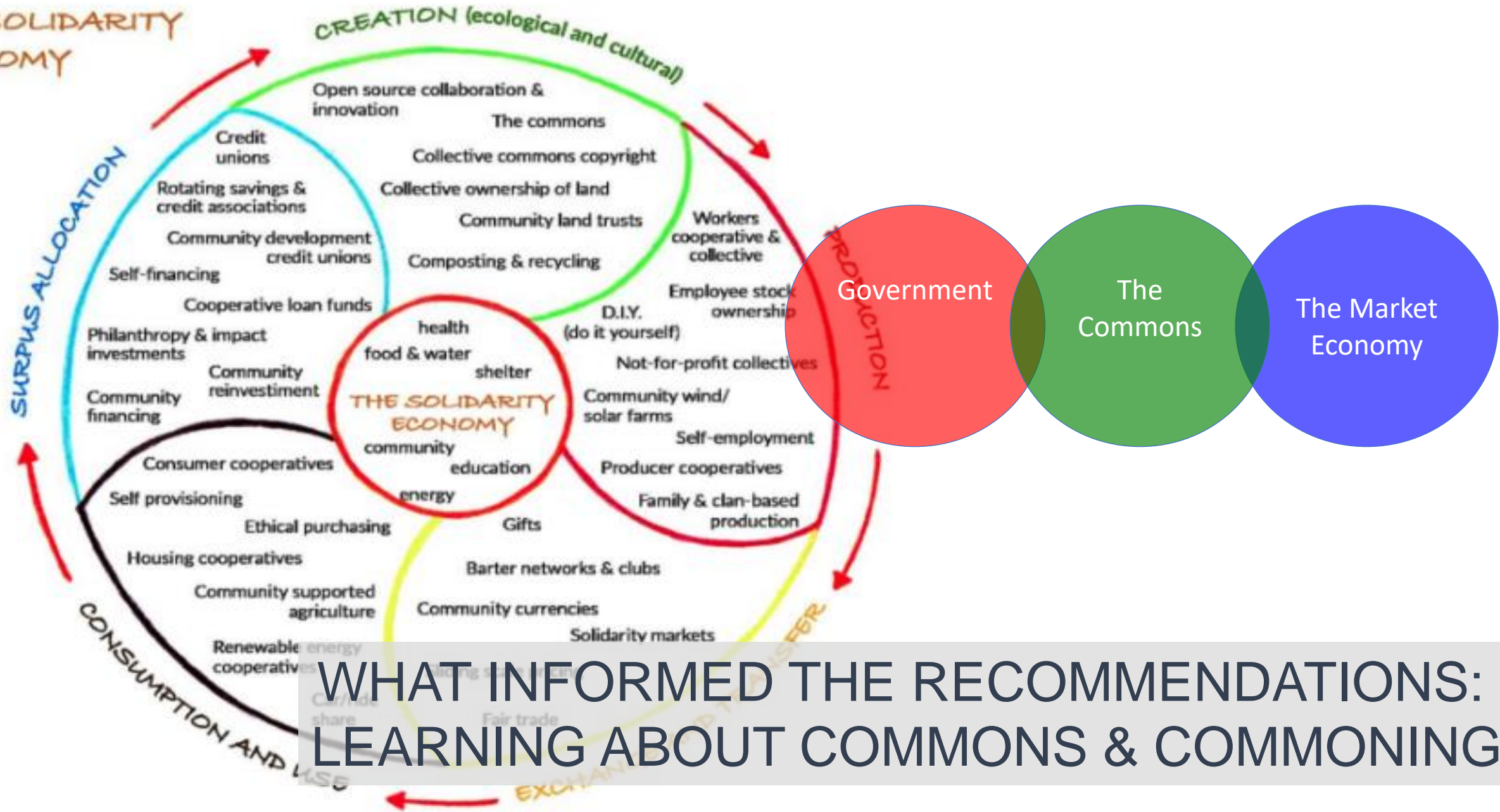
City Council adopted a charge to the Library Lot Task Force on May 2, 1988. On June 20, 1988, the Mayor and City Council appointed the members to the Task Force (see Council Resolutions). The Task Force held its first meeting on July 11, 1988. During the past six months, the Task Force met ten times. A public input meeting was held on November 10, 1988 at which several comments and suggestions were received.

During the review process, the Task Force learned of the plans of several major land owners in and around the City-owned surface parking lot. The Library addition should begin construction in the spring of 1989 with the Ann Arbor Y housing addition project starting in the summer or fall of 1989. The University of Michigan Credit Union located on William Street needs more office space and is willing to cooperate with the City if an underground parking facility were to need some of the Credit Union property. First Martin Corporation, who owns the property west of the Kempf House, is working with the Committee on Senior University Housing for a 60 to 100-unit condominium project and would also like to coordinate that development with the construction of public underground parking. Other public uses discussed as possibilities for this block include a public park or plaza, a senior citizens center, and Ann Arbor Board of Education administrative offices.

- ### **FINDINGS**
- I. **GIVENS** - There are no significant disagreements on the task Force concerning the following:
 - a. The present use of the Library lot as a surface parking facility is not the best use to which the parcel can be put.
 - b. For various reasons, the following structures will be assumed to remain in any plans for the Library parking lot and Library block:

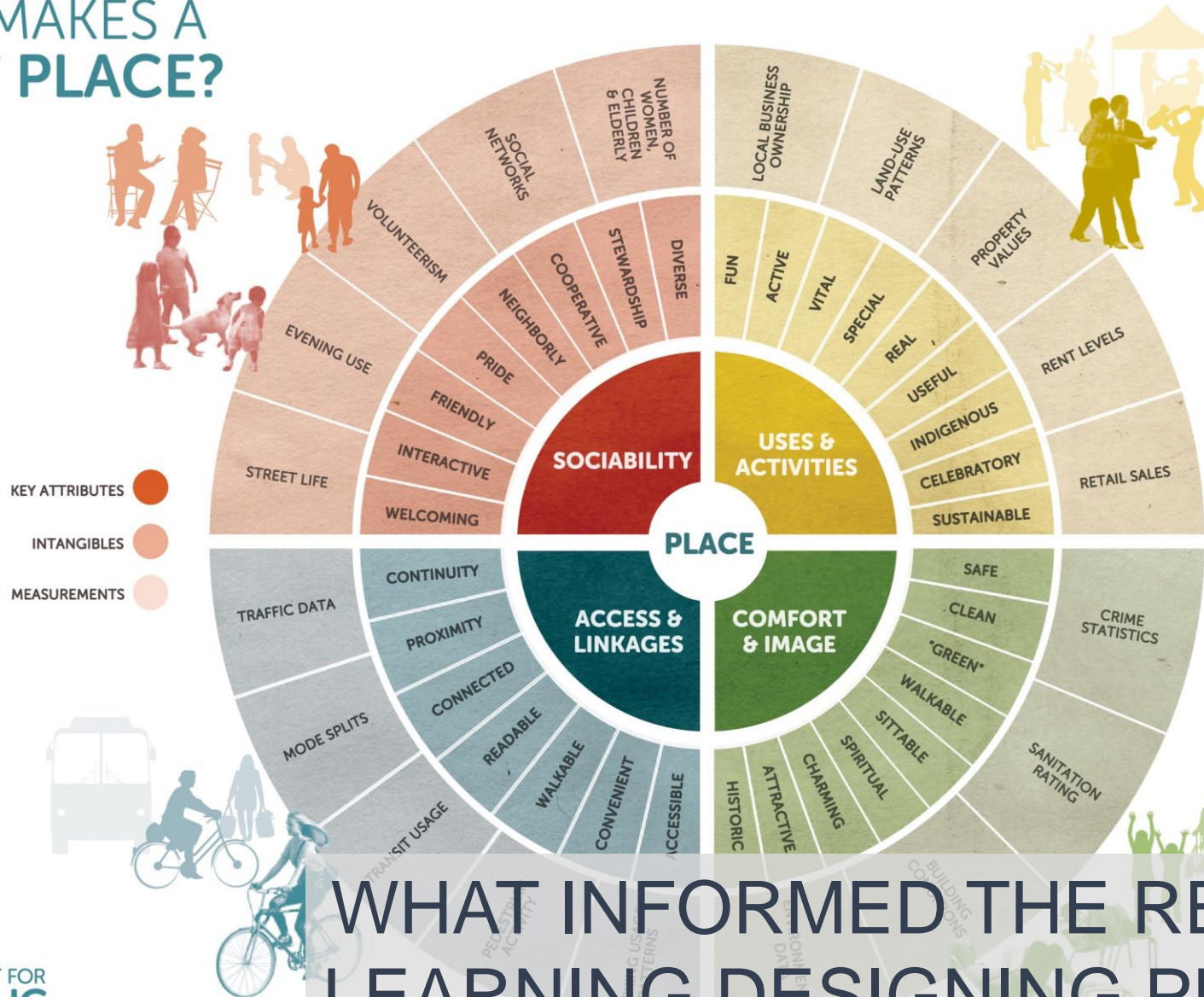
**WHAT INFORMED THE RECOMMENDATIONS:
BUILDING ON PAST WORK**

THE SOLIDARITY ECONOMY



WHAT INFORMED THE RECOMMENDATIONS:
LEARNING ABOUT COMMONS & COMMONING

WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?



WHAT INFORMED THE RECOMMENDATIONS: LEARNING DESIGNING PUBLIC SPACES

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: HOUSING

Ann Arbor WE DEMAND

- 37,000 people eligible for "affordable" housing.
- Only 50 units have been built since 2015, despite 420 having been promised by the city by this year, and money being allocated specifically for development
- 170+ new bars & restaurants opened; 469 luxury rental units built in 2018.
- \$622,000 was spent on deer management, \$35,000 to study train noise (wtf??)
- U of M owns 10% of the land (and growing), pays NO property tax.
- A2 privatized ALL public housing in 2013. Now the average waitlist for housing vouchers is 25 months.
- Voucher system is broken - Landlords make it purposefully hard to use voucher by charging extra costs and other redlining measures to keep recipients out of their buildings.
- 3,008 empty rental units in A2, while shelters are at over capacity. Deloris Center has become long term housing without having the resources to sustain a permanent population.
- HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

HOUSING NOW!

SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE!
General Defense Committee - Washtenaw

<https://www.facebook.com/washtenawGDC/>

(734)-249-8051



MARCH FOR HOUSING NOW!

When: November 17th 1pm
Where: Liberty Park, Ann Arbor
Social Housing for all our People!

General Defense Committee Washtenaw

<https://www.facebook.com/washtenawGDC/> 734-249-8051



the kind th
erty Plaza

Lunch s

BR

g
nvironment,

affordable
for all!

playground AFFO
for people & support
HOUSING

11 AM - 2 PM
affordable
distribution to
by build
so



a fact that th
stopped for 3 h
out/underscore
the infrastructure
parks

ideas

OPEN FOR

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVENESS

What is your race?

