

**From:** [alan haber](#)  
**To:** [Thomson, Maura](#); [DDA](#); [Williams, Debra](#)  
**Cc:** [Odile Hugonot Haber](#); [VBs737@icloud.com](#); [Michael Woon](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Hello Jada, Michael Woon forwarded your letter in response to our Earth Day Week Application  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 5:08:30 PM

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Hello Maura,

Yes, I would like to speak at the next DDA Board Meeting in the Council Chambers on March 25 at Noon. Perhaps others of our group would also like to speak..

As I wrote, I hope you all will take the time to reflect further on the benefits of this Earth Day Week program and re-consider your preliminary response.

Drawing together the environmental community and having opportunities for interactions and sharing is much needed and will be an important stimulant to the community as a whole. We have a beautiful program in planning, of dialogue, teach-in, exhibits and reports...and music and art too. You should all come and enjoy it and contribute.

When I send a message to "[dda@a2dda.org](mailto:dda@a2dda.org)". does it go to all the DDA Board Members. If the matter is to be discussed? I want all Board Members, and Staff also, to know what we are planning and our desires for your participation.

All good wishes

Alan

734 657 8083

for the Earth week Planning Group.

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On Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 3:44 PM Thomson, Maura <[MThomson@a2dda.org](mailto:MThomson@a2dda.org)> wrote:

Hi Alan - The DDA would support a one-day event on the Library Lot to celebrate Earth Day. The DDA does not support the closure of the Library Lane surface parking lot for a weeklong event.

The DDA Board meets next Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at noon in Council Chambers. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the list for public comment, sign up is welcome but not necessary, fyi.

Thank you. Maura

Maura K. Thomson

Executive Director

Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority

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**From:** alan haber <[megiddo@umich.edu](mailto:megiddo@umich.edu)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 3:58 PM

**To:** Hahlbrock, Jada <[JHahlbrock@a2dda.org](mailto:JHahlbrock@a2dda.org)>; Thomson, Maura <[MThomson@a2dda.org](mailto:MThomson@a2dda.org)>; Williams, Debra <[DeWilliams@a2gov.org](mailto:DeWilliams@a2gov.org)>

**Cc:** [VBs737@icloud.com](mailto:VBs737@icloud.com); Odile Hugonot Haber <[odilehh@gmail.com](mailto:odilehh@gmail.com)>; Michael Woon <[michael.woon@gmail.com](mailto:michael.woon@gmail.com)>; alan Haber <[megiddo@umich.edu](mailto:megiddo@umich.edu)>

**Subject:** Hello Jada, Michael Woon forwarded your letter in response to our Earth Day Week Application

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Hello Jada, and DDA

Michael Woon forwarded your letter in response to our Earth Day Week Application. I hope you also will consider this a "preliminary response" and give the application more consideration.

From a parking point of view, keeping the parking going as much as possible is proper service, though almost always there is available parking space on the underground floors..

From a larger point of view, however, closing the parking for a week to consider the Earth is a good idea.

The life system crisis is visible on all front, Policy is not doing enough, red lines are being crossed, no turning back signs are behind us, A hundred efforts are reaching forward. A place is needed to meet and find one another.

That is the Center of the City, and this Lot, for the moment.

As you know we have been doing some Earth Day, Days, Week on the Library Lane Lot "Commons" area since 2014, This is our 13th year.

The City, in the last August Election, repurposed this lot, to "library expansion and housing," rather than "park and civic center commons," Since, parking on this to be developed lot a temporary, intermediate use, not fixed and permanent, suspending parking for an alternative is not violating any long term plan and commitment. And of course, it would be a nice gesture of good will if a last Earth Day Week full scale program is permitted, before development begins. While Liberty Plaza, a complementary and possible alternative site, is closed for construction during our Earth Day Week time, The friendly old Library Lane Lot is our only Center of the City public place. And most importantly, we have a beautiful, conscious, inclusive and diverse program in planning. (No alcohol, cords all well covered and coiled, power supplies in consultation with Building Engineers, and all other best practices learned from past experiences).

We begin Sunday i highlighlig the regular Leslie Science Center - Hands On Museum Earth Day Sunday afternoon program with a Bike-a-thon from the commons to to Trevor Road. We will be giving all organizations, as many as possible as we can reach, an opportunity to "show and tell" their good works. We will video all the reports and exhibits over the week and produce a video film of Ann Arbor Area Actions, A4 for the Earth. We plan to have a Teach-in (for which Ann Arbor is known) in the Afternoons, exploring the crises of our life system: water, fire/energy, earth, air, and the spirit. The morning is planned to continue "Conscious Cafe" discussions of most difficult and exciting questions. Artistically, all the great musicians who have played before, and dancers, artists, singers, all for the earth. are being invited again, and more, and maybe a Headliner.

DDA should want to make this Earth Day Week as great a show as can be, to touch Ann Arbor from the Center of the City. to help the many levels of changes and deeper understandings that are needed in engaging the times ahead.

If DDA should insist, for some reason, that we should pay the full cost of the parking place meters, whose space we are wasting with idle, non-remunerative talk, we would put that amount in a budget and "business plan" for our overall program, and attempt to raise it.

Almost everything in the program is volunteer and contributed as good will offerings to the earth from the heart.

For what Money we need, we will go to local civic minded Banks, the Ann Arbor Community Foundation, and individual donors... and of course the DDA could be on our sponsors list.

Our working group would be glad to meet with you and DDA staff to discuss the program and explore, positively, how you could help and participate.

Look at your work and mission through "earth friendly eyes", and give a presentation, and have an exhibit.

We have extended a preliminary invitation to the City Office of Sustainability and innovation to have exhibits on the Supplemental Energy Utility and other projects.

Similarly we are inviting the University School of Environment and Sustainability to move gown to town and help with a community Teach-in,

Beyond the Bike-a-thon, we have other Special Events in planning, Tree Planting for Arbor Day and and a Memorial Ceremony for people lost in the struggles , not to be forgotten.

On the question of Insurance. Our insurance will be arranged, as always, before the event, with our then on-going policy. After the August Election 2025, repurposing the land to the Library and Private housing, , the Ann Arbor Community Commons Initiating Committee saw that our commons space was essentially privatized and would no longer be available for our regular programs or others programs covered by our policy, and so, after our last

Peace Day, in September 2025, we cancelled the policy, or declined to renew it, explaining the circumstances. With this occasion and no building being done to close or preempt the space, we have applied back to our company for a one event policy quote, which I have not yet received. This will be paid with the DDA? listed as before.

So, all this said, I encourage you and DDA to reconsider your "preliminary response" to our Earth Day Week Application, Re-Consider and Approve.

I also request an opportunity at the next DDA Board Meeting to make the case for approval, if you have not already done so, and to describe where we are in our program development and intentions..

Many thanks, hoping for a favorable response

Alan Haber

for the Ann Arbor Community Commons Initiating Committee and the Earth Day Week Program Group.

734 657 8083