

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes - October 5, 2015
City Council Workroom, 2nd Floor, City Hall 7:00 pm

Members Present: Ray Detter, Hugh Sonk

Visitors Present: Christine Crockett, Ethel Potts, Mary Hathaway, Bethany Grzesiak.

Members Absent: Marsha Chamberlin, John Chamberlin, Jim Kern, Sue Kern, Joan French, Kathleen Nolan

Two Items: First, the Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program would like to encourage everyone to attend a very special dedication on North University and State on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. We will gather at 5:00 pm. around the exhibits on the sidewalk planters of North University to dedicate our final four historical street exhibit displays on the theme of Town and Gown in Ann Arbor: A Book Lovers Town; Music! Music! Music!; Remembering Drake's; The University Musical Society and the May Festival. (Eleanor Tibbals, daughter of Truman and Mildred Tibbals, former owners of Drakes will precede a line of distinguished speakers with flute renditions of popular 20th Century music. Eleanor, accomplished flutist, is flying in from San Francisco for the occasion.)

Donors and invited guests (including members and staff of the DDA) will then walk across State Street to a festive celebration, with Hors D'oeuvres and drink, music and dance in the historic Nickels Arcade. (Party-only second time in history.)

While these will be the last exhibits to be installed, the 28-year-old Program will continue and develop with more student and weekend public tours, new and innovative ways of reaching out to all local citizens and visitors, and future inter-active exhibits.

Second: In July I reported to you on City Council approved changes to earlier zoning mistakes in the D1 Character areas of East Huron and E. Ann. In September I reported to you on contemplated changes of the Planning Commission's Ordinance Revision Committee on future granting of premiums and possible strengthening of the effectiveness of the City's Design Review Board.

I want to report that these changes are already having a positive effect on future downtown development. For the last two weeks, 2 members of the CAC, 4 residents of the Old Fourth Ward Historic neighborhood and 3 residents of the Sloan Plaza Condos on Huron, have been meeting with the architect and new Core Group owners of the parking lot between Campus Inn (now owned by A.J. Capital—graduate hotels) and Sloan Plaza. Our object is to work out a design for the new apartment building on that site. We will meet again next week.

Eric Grimm, the Senior V.P. of Core Spaces and its architect John Myefski are setting a high cooperative standard for the way new development should take place in Ann Arbor. They sought us out to join them in helping design a new building that would meet the requirements of our new zoning.

We, in turn, gave them a list of our neighborhood committee's goals for the project.

Together, we are going to work to have the best building possible, no higher than 120 feet, a diagonal of 130 feet, and with appropriate setbacks and offsets. We want to set a standard for others to follow in the Ann Arbor development process.